

DURHAM COUNTY LEAGUE RULES

1.	The league shall be called the Durham County Basketball League.
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AFFILIATIONS and REGISTRATIONS

2.	The league and its clubs must affiliate to Basketball England (BE) and pay the appropriate affiliation fee at the Annual General Meeting.
3a.	Each club must pay the League affiliation fee of £25 and an additional £45 per team at the Annual General Meeting. All clubs are also required to have a £100 bond paid to the league by the start of the season to be used against in season charges. Any outstanding bond value is repayable to the club should they leave the league.
b.	Only teams who are represented at the AGM will be entered into the leagues.
4.	Any team which has unpaid fines from the preceding season must pay them at the AGM or entrance to the League for the coming season may be refused.
5a.	Players must be registered with both Basketball England and The Durham County Basketball League prior to playing in a league sanctioned fixture. Failure to register will result in a referral to the disciplinary committee being made and appropriate sanctions being imposed. Each player must pay an individual affiliation fee of £3.00 Senior or £1.00 Junior
b.	Registrations will only be accepted via the PlayHQ portal, this will involve the completing of an online profile, which will be visible to league officials and purchasing of an appropriate licence. Officials must also affiliate with the league, however there is no additional fee for this at this time.
c.	Registrations may be suspended at any time by the league committee or Basketball England, players and coaches are responsible for ensuring only active registered participants engage in basketball activities. Any queries about registrations should be brought to the registrations official for review. Registrations must be accepted by the League Committee and will be binding for one season only. Any queries about registration can be brought to the committee for review.
d.	Any player registered as a Senior National League player may not play below Division 1. This rule also applies to junior players playing for senior national league sides. If a junior player is used by a senior national league team as emergency cover on a “one-off” basis then please contact the league for guidance.
e.	Junior players under 18 or younger can play “up” into the senior leagues, although under 16s are prohibited from playing in Division 1. To play in the Durham League, a junior player must be registered for either a junior and/or a senior Durham League team. If they are only registered for a junior team, they can play up into senior teams in the league but not in the cups. If they are registered for a senior Durham League team, they can play up a division but not down and not in the same division. They can play in the cup for the senior team they are registered for only.
f	All players must be allocated to the appropriate team on PlayHQ to allow full licence checks to be undertaken by game day officials. Failure to allocate players to match days squads will mean players will be unable to participate in that fixture. Fill In Players should not be used for Durham League and Cup games.

6.	Teams, which field players who are not registered, will forfeit the points for that game and will be subject to a minimum fine of £20 per unregistered player.
7a.	No new player registrations will be accepted after 31 st December The player registration fee is payable via the PlayHQ portal.
8a.	All player transfers must be processed through the appropriate playHQ function. Notification must be received and approved by Current team, League and New team before a transfer is deemed to take place. A player may not participate in a league fixture for 7 calendar days following transfer to a new club.
b.	All transfers must be completed by 31 st December, there will be no transfers after this date. A £10 transfer fee will be deducted from the club bond or transferred to the league bank account following completion of any transfer
c.	All internal transfers or internal reorganisation of teams must be notified and approved by the league committee via email before any changes take place. Failure to do so will result in a referral to the disciplinary committee and an appropriate sanction imposed.
d	The League Committee shall arbitrate in cases of dispute
9.	A team that disbands or resigns from the League must pay all outstanding debts to the County Association and BE. Players from the defaulting team will only be eligible to sign for another team when <u>ALL DEBTS HAVE BEEN PAID</u> , the Association Executive accepted the resignation, and all teams have been informed in writing.
10a	All Clubs with members under 18 years of Age must have a safeguarding officer
b.	All Coaching Staff of over 18 years of Age must have a current Licence, enhanced DBS and Safeguarding Certificate.

FIXTURES

11a.	The duration of each season, and League and Cup programme, shall be arranged at the AGM.
	Men's teams will be divided equally between the divisions.
b.	The composition of the Men's Divisions will be finalised with the following formula: - <i>If the total entry of teams is eleven or less there will be one division.</i> <i>If the total entry is twenty-two or less there should be two divisions.</i> <i>If there are between twenty-three and thirty-three entries the number of divisions should be three.</i> <i>The number of teams in each division should be as even as possible.</i>
12.	Three points are awarded for a league win, one point for a defeat. In an unfulfilled fixture the defaulting team will receive no points.
13.	All League games must be played before the first Cup Final.
14a.	No game on the fixture list can be postponed, or tip-off time altered, but if both teams agree to a date other than that shown in the handbook, then the date and/or time may be altered. This must be done no later than 2 weeks after the postponement has been agreed. Ideally at the same time. The defaulting team must inform the Competitions Secretary and the referees. Any games not re-arranged more than 2 weeks after the postponement will incur a £5 fine to the club that requested the postponement. Additionally, any and all changes to fixtures made after the agreed window to do so will incur a £5 administration fee.

b.	If the game is postponed, the team postponing MUST notify ALL officials, their opponents and the competition's secretary, at least 24 hours before the start of the game. If a game is cancelled less than 24 hours before the scheduled tip-off time, the secretary of the other team must be contacted by phone or text to inform them of the cancellation. If a text is sent, or a voicemail message left, an acknowledgement from the secretary is to be requested to ensure the message has been received. If no acknowledgement is received, then it should be deemed that the message has not been received and alternative attempts should be made to contact the Team. If such confirmation has not been received, and the away team travels without knowing that the fixture has been cancelled, then the defaulting team may be required to reimburse the travelling expenses of the away team. of each season. The team will forfeit the game (unless Rule 14c applies). If a team fails to turn up for a game, or cancel after the 24-hour notice point, the home team MUST pay the officials. The home team may then claim all match expenses, including officials fees and court hire, from the league. The team claiming match expenses must produce an official receipt for court hire. The defaulting team will be fined an appropriate amount to cover all match fees.
c.	Occasionally games may not be played because of 'Act of God' conditions, e.g. adverse weather or accidents. In these circumstances it is presumed that the game will be rearranged.
d.	If a game is not played on the scheduled date, or abandoned, and the teams cannot agree to a new date no later than 2 weeks after the postponement or abandonment, the Competitions Secretary will schedule a date. If that date is not acceptable to either or both teams, the League Committee will decide its outcome. If the game is cancelled within 7 days of the scheduled date, if appropriate, the defaulting team will be fined £10 for the first offence and £20 for every subsequent offence.
e.	When the League Committee decides about the outcome of a game, the defaulting team has the right to appeal to the Executive Committee. This does not include cases of maladministration.
f.	The league recognises that in some cases a forfeit can happen. In the first case a team forfeits a game 20-0, there will be no further action, notwithstanding rules relating to the timing of cancelled games set out in 14.d. If a team then forfeits a second game, there will be a £50 fine per game up to 5 games. If a team forfeits 5 games or more, the fine will be £75 per game and the team will be asked to provide a written explanation to the league committee.
g.	It is mandatory that the home team confirms their fixture with the away team minimally 5 days in advance; this should confirm the tip time, when the court is available for warm-ups, home colour, and the referees. If the referees are not known at that time, then they must be confirmed to the opponents no later than 24 hours before the tip-off time.
h.	Should both teams agree to re-arrange a fixture this must be done using the Change Game Request tool on PlayHQ. All teams are obliged to respond to these requests within 7 days or before the game in question is originally scheduled for (whichever comes sooner). Failure to respond within the 7 days will result in a £10 fine.
15.	CUP COMPETITIONS are subject to League Rules, plus:
a.	A player can only play for the team they are registered with in any cup competition.
b.	A player who transfers teams and has played a cup game for their first team will be cup tied and unable to play in cup games for the new team. This does not include Divisional cups when a player moves between divisions.
c.	For a player to be eligible to play in a cup final they must have played in at least 4 league games that season
16.	The Durham League Executive Committee shall provide officials and decide venues for finals of Cup games.

PLAYING MATCH CONDITIONS

17a.	BE rules apply to games in Durham Junior games in the Durham league will be played as per the BE Junior NBL Regional rules except for all must play element. More information can be found in the document “DCBA Junior rules and guidelines”
b.	All games must be played on a full-size court.
c.	
18.	The home team must pay entrance fees for opposing teams.
19.	Teams must play in correctly numbered vests, which must be the same colour. If teams clash in colour the away team must change to an alternative. This should be agreed as part of the fixture confirmation process.
20a.	The home team must provide: 1. Two table officials (one of which must be qualified to Level 2). 2. Ball. 3. Equipment to facilitate e-scoring (or BE approved score pad where e-scoring is not available). 4. Game clock visible to all participants. 5. An audible signal. 6. Scoreboard visible to all participants. 7. Foul markers and team foul markers. 8. A directional arrow. Each missing item will incur a £2 fine

b.	The visiting team has the right to have a representative at the table.
c.	The scorekeeper must remain for a minimum of one quarter (no substitutions). However, the timekeeper can change at any dead ball situation. If the team anticipates changing either the scorekeeper or the timekeeper during the game, then the referee and away team captain should be informed prior to the commencement of the game.
d.	A team starting the game shall be deemed to have accepted the playing conditions.
21.	All Games should be E-Scored using the BE PlayHQ system. In the unlikely event this is not possible a score sheet can be used with a full explanation given to the committee as to why e-scoring was not used. Multiple occurrences of not using e-scoring could result in suspension from the league.
22.	In the unlikely event that e-scoring was not possible then the home team must enter the game score (including quarter scores) on PLAYHQ within 72hrs. The home team must also send an official scoresheet to the Competition’s Secretary, within 3 days following the game. This can be a scanned copy, or a clear digital image. Failure to do so will result in the game being marked a 20-0 forfeit to the away team £5 fine being imposed. Please also ensure that if the referee makes a note on the reverse that both sides are submitted. Referees should make a note on the front if they are writing a report on the reverse.

MATCH OFFICIALS	
23a.	All clubs must provide the league details of all licensed and qualified referees and table officials at their club. Named referees will be listed on the league website.
24.	All games in the Durham League and cup competitions will be officiated by two qualified and licensed referees, one of whom must be Level 2 and at least one Basketball England Level 2 qualified table official, ideally supported with a second table official. Referees doing the required games to obtain their Level 2 qualification are allowed if accompanied by a recognised senior referee (list to be supplied by league committee). Regardless of qualifications, all referees officiating a senior game must be 18 years old or older. Referees under 18 will be allowed to referee junior Durham League games with the support of a recognised senior referee (list to be supplied by league committee). Young referees will only be permitted to officiate games below the age group they play in.
25.	Officials from the Referees Panel will referee selected games. All other appointments will be organised by the HOME TEAM . If any club fails to provide a referee, the League Committee will enforce officials Rule 29, subject to discussion.
26a.	Referees will be paid at least the following rates: Level 4 and 3 - £32 Level 2 - £30 and Level 1 (Probationer referee) £20
b.	Table Officials will be paid at least the following rates: Level 3- £18, Level 2- £15 and Level 1 £9
c.	The fees for the referees for all games are to be split evenly between the two teams.
27a.	Games will not start until the referees have been paid. If a team chooses to pay the referee by bank transfer, they must advise the referee in advance. It is therefore important that the home team shares

	the details of who will be officiating the game beforehand. If a referee is not paid by the following day of a game, then they may apply to the league, who will pay them and then fine the club responsible double the referee's fee.
b.	Any official refereeing two games in an evening will accept the games as two separate fixtures.
c.	If a game is cancelled less than an hour before the tip-off time non-travelling referees may still claim their fee from the League.
28.	Qualified officials must be suitably dressed.
30a.	If only one neutral referee turns up, the game will only be played if the two teams provide suitably qualified licensed officials to assist. When a team provides an official, that official must complete a full period
b.	If neither official appears the game must be rearranged
31.	
32.	Clubs, or referees representing clubs, who fail to fulfil a commitment will be fined the referee's rates. The league can impose further sanctions on the team including further financial penalties, deduction of league points and/or removal to supply referees for a team's home fixture.
33.	Match officials must delete the names of the players who were not present. The coaches/captains to verify on the PHQ scoring tool.
34.	All Officials are required to have a current Basketball England Licence, Enhanced DBS and Safeguarding Certificate.

DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS PROCEDURE	
35.	Every club is responsible for the actions of its players, officials and spectators.
36a.	Discipline within the Durham League, which will include all matters relating to the behaviour of players, coaches, officials and spectators at league and cup games, shall be administered by the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will comprise of a chairperson and three representatives, elected at the AGM.
b.	All breaches of the Code of Conduct will be dealt with by the League Committee.

SANCTIONS OF PLAYERS AND COACHES	
37a.	Disqualified players and coaches must be reported by both officials, within forty-eight hours of the game, to the Disciplinary Chairperson. The referee should also record the decision, including all relevant information, in writing as either an email, text message or other suitable method (or on the back of the scoresheet where used).
b.	A disqualified player or coach will receive an automatic one match ban, plus a fine of £25, missing the next complete game in which they were entitled to either play or coach. This individual is ineligible to participate in any basketball until this game has been missed and the fine has been paid. A disqualifying foul is defined as per article 38 of FIBA regulations 2024. This rule does not apply to Game Disqualifications that are a combination of receiving 2 Technical/Unsportsmanlike fouls.
c.	During the season, should a player, coach or player/coach receive: 5 Technical Fouls or unsportsmanlike fouls (or a combination of either) - A 1 match ban will be imposed 10 Technical Fouls or unsportsmanlike fouls (or a combination of either)- A 2 match ban will be imposed The number of match bans will increase by 1 for each subsequent 5 technical fouls or unsportsmanlike fouls (e.g. 3 match bans for 15). The player, coach or player/coach in question must miss the required game(s) for any team in which they are entitled to play and/or coach.
38.	Disqualifications will be considered by those members of the Committee not representing the teams involved.

39.	The sanctioned player or coach may receive further punishment decided by the Disciplinary Committee. In this case the individual will be notified orally, to immediate effect, followed by confirmation in writing to a club representative. This notification of extra punishment may come from the Disciplinary Chairperson or a member of the League or Association Committee. Upon being notified the player or coach will miss the next appropriate number of completed games in which they are entitled to play and/or coach.
40a.	The sanctioned person may appeal against the extra punishment, to the Association Executive, but must do so within seven days of being informed.
b.	An appeal must be accompanied by a £25 fee. If the appeal is unsuccessful the £25 will be forfeited to the Association.
c.	Whilst awaiting the appeal decision the player or coach may continue to play or coach in league or cup matches.

OTHER DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

41.	All other disciplinary matters within the jurisdiction of the Durham League will be dealt with by the League Committee
42a.	Any complaint or protest must be made in writing to the League Secretary by an official representative of the club (usually deemed to be the Club Sec.) within one week of the incident. Clubs making a complaint or protest must send a copy to all parties involved.
b.	Any person or group of people reported for any reason whatsoever shall have the right to give verbal or written evidence to the Committee concerned before action is taken.
c.	The League or Disciplinary Committee, excluding those members who are directly involved with the complaint or protest, will consider all reports and the decision will be made known to all parties involved as soon as possible after the Committee has met.

APPEALS

43a.	Any club, which does not accept a decision made either by the League or Disciplinary Committee,
	has the right to appeal to the Association Executive. The appeal must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Durham County Association within seven days of the decision being made known.
b.	The appeal will be heard by the Association Executive Committee, excluding those members involved as complainants or defendant. Members of the Committee who made the decision being appealed against are also excluded from the appeals meeting, apart from the Chairperson who is there to chair the meeting.
c.	Any appeal must be accompanied by a £25 fee, which may be forfeited, to the Association in the event of the appeal being rejected. Costs to cover the cost of the hearing may also be awarded.
d.	Any person or group involved in an appeal shall be given notice of the hearing and shall have the right to appear before the Association Executive Committee for a personal hearing if so requested

FINES

44a.	Fines must be paid within two weeks of notification. If not, teams shall forfeit all games played during the non-payment period, i.e., from the payment date to such times as the fine is deposited into the Association's bank account.
b.	If a team or any of its players has failed to pay fines by the end of the season, they will be banned from playing until the fine has been paid.

TROPHIES

45a.	Individual Trophies for League competitions will only be awarded to a player who has played 75% of his/her teams League games.
b.	Individual trophies will be provided for players who play in a Cup Final. A non-playing coach will also receive a trophy.

JUNIOR DIVISIONS

46a.	In all Durham League Junior Divisions girls are permitted to play down an age group – U12 Boys/U14 Girls U14 Boys/U16 Girls U16 Boys/U18 Girls
b.	The registration fee for teams entering this Division will be £45.
c.	If losing by 40 points or more a team can choose to have the visual scoreboard turned off if they wish. The score would still be correctly recorded in the scorebook. The game clock should still be visible and in use.
47.	A developmental CVL will be run with players eligible to play in under 8, under 10, under 12, under 14 and under 16. This will be run whenever possible by the league where suitable facilities and teams are available.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
48.	Any point not covered by these Rules shall be left to the discretion of the League Committee.