

November 20, 2020

Church Leaders & Coaches,

It's been a long and prayerful process to consider, plan and implement a 2021 Church League Basketball Season considering all factors. Though it's not a perfect situation, we are please to be able to offer a shorter season to churches and families to help teach the game of basketball and minister to children and teenagers during this very crazy season in their lives. Below are bullet point details of what you need to know to participate in this year's basketball league. Please call us if you have any questions.



- * The League has been reduced to 8U, 10U, 13U and 17U and all are considered co-ed. Read the attached League Guidelines for full rules and game play details. **Team Rosters, Church Certificate of Liability as well as League Fees are due by Thursday, December 17.**
- * Teams will be “guaranteed” at least four games.
- * Tournaments for older teams will be considered at a later date
- * We do not guarantee make up games, but will do what we can to make sure all teams get four games.
- * No church will be allowed more than two teams in any league unless space allows and we may need to limit to one team depending on the age group.
- * We suggest that teams try to limit teams to 10 players to aid in social distance of fans and total people at games. You can have additional players, but please be mindful of your numbers.
- * Fans will be limited to two per player and must enter with the player. Fans can include friends if parents don't attend the game, but must enter with player. If a player has no fans attend, other payers can have addition spots, but the total fans must not equal more than twice the size of the team.
- * Doors to the facility will be locked during the games and no additional fans will be allowed in once play begins. Teams will be able to enter the gym 15min prior to game time.
- * All players, fans, officials and staff must enter with and wear a mask at all times. Additionally, temperature checks will be taken at the doors. Players may remove masks during game play - but we encourage them to wear during huddles and other close contact. Buffs will work best for players.
- * Games will be spaced out from each other. Weeknight games will be held on Mon, Tues, Thurs, at 6pm and 8pm. Weekend games will be held on Saturdays at 9am, 11am, 1pm and 3pm.
- * Each team must provide a few parent or coach volunteers to help sanitize team benches and bleachers after the game. Supplies will be provided.
- * The cost for each team is \$250. Though this cost is about \$15 per game more than a typical season, this money will be used to help cover cleaning costs and provide a professional cleaning service to sanitize well at the end of each day/night of games.
- * There will be no concessions sold this season and no team photos taken. Fans and players can bring snacks, but must be cleaned up following the game.
- * If a league has too many teams to play each team once in this four game season, leagues will be divided into divisions. We will host a random drawing for league divisions online at our **Zoom Coach's Meeting on Monday, December 21 at 6:30pm.** Mandatory Zoom Coach Mtg Details: Join Zoom Meeting at this link - <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71258254512?pwd=MUZLSnNrVFdZeHFSMTh3ZGdEN3hpdz09> or on the Zoom App - **Meeting ID: 712 5825 4512**
Passcode: ebc

Faithfully,

Nathan Neighbors & Keith Pettigrew
843-687-4667 843-616-6388

Ebenezer Church Basketball League

GUIDELINES & OBJECTIVES

The Ebenezer Church Basketball League exists to:

1. Honor Christ in all of our actions and words and develop a Christian environment where fellowship, recreation, and ministry can occur.
2. Use the league as a tool to spread the Gospel of Jesus and reach people for Christ.
3. Develop within each participant patience, self-control, courage, good sportsmanship, team work and a Christian outlook toward competition.

I. Membership Requirements

The participating church is to be of the Florence area and must agree to the rules and guidelines below.

II. Organizational Structure

A. The league will be governed by the League Committee, consisting of the League Director(s), Coach/Representatives, and the Recreation Committee of EBC.

B. Duties of this committee will be to perform the following tasks:

1. Enforcement of rules and guidelines.
2. Review of protests and/or violations with determining action.

III. League Fees

A. The total cost of each team will be **\$250.00**. This fee is \$100 less than a typical season because of the length, but it does include funds to help properly clean the facility. Checks may be made payable to "Ebenezer Baptist Church."

B. The fee deadline is **Thursday, December 17, 2020**.

IV. Player Eligibility

A. Each team member must be a member in the sponsoring church or a member (regularly involved) in Sunday School (small group Bible study). (EBC holds each individual church accountable for implementing this rule. The League Director and Recreation Committee will not ask to check each Church's Member Roster unless an issue arises).

B. **Four non-church members** are allowed per team with the following criteria:

1. They are actively attending the sponsoring church for which they play.
2. They are members of a church that does not have a team or teams in their age bracket in the Ebenezer Baptist Church League.

C. If a church does not have enough players to complete a reasonable roster, the church may combine with another church under the following stipulations:

1. Each church must submit a roster signed by their pastor.
2. Each combination team MUST be approved by the League Committee before admission to the league.

D. Age requirements are effective as of September 1, 2020.

1. To play in the 8 and Under League, the player be 8 years old or UNDER on Sept. 1, 2020.
2. To play in the 10 and Under League, the player be 10 years old or UNDER on Sept. 1, 2020.
3. To play in the 13 and Under League, the player be 13 years old or UNDER on Sept. 1, 2020.
4. To play in the 17 and Under League, the player be 17 years old or UNDER on Sept. 1, 2020 OR may appeal to the League Committee if 18 years old and still in high school.

**** Note we have split the tradition 14U league between the new 13U and 17U this season in order to maximize the number of games teams can play given the circumstances of this season. Additionally, we have canceled a girls only league, but girls are always welcome to play in any league - they are co-ed.**

E. No player who plays on a MIDDLE SCHOOL team OR HIGH SCHOOL Junior Varsity OR Varsity team will be eligible for a church league team (This rule will be enforced and no exceptions of any kind will be permitted).

V. Official Rosters and Roster Forms

- A. All official rosters and forms are due by the first game.
- B. This year we suggest limiting teams to 10 player per team on the roster.
- C. No additions to the roster will be accepted after your first game.

VI. League Structure

A. Game play will follow this schedule:

Age Group	Type of Period	Length of Period
8 and Under	Quarter	6 minutes
10 and Under	Quarter	6 minutes
13 and Under	Half	14 minutes
17 and Under	Half	14 minutes

- B. Games must begin on time.
- C. Five minute break between halves.
- D. Less than five players constitute a forfeit. A five minute grace period will be allowed for the first game of the day only. After the first game no grace period is allowed.

VII. Officiating and Scorekeeping

A. Officials and scorekeepers will be hired by the League Committee. Each church is asked to submit names for these potential officials and scorekeepers.

B. Pay Schedule:

1. Timekeeper/Score \$7.50 per game
2. Officials \$15.00 per game

C. High School basketball rules will be followed except where noted within these rules.

*** The League Director and Recreation Committee do the best they can to get Qualified, Responsible, and Dependable Time/Scorekeepers and Officials. PLEASE submit names if you know of someone that could be an asset to this league.***

VIII Equipment (THESE RULES WILL BE ENFORCED, NO EXCEPTIONS!!!)

- A. All players must have Jerseys with Numbers. Reversible jerseys are recommended.
- B. Regular court shoes are required.
- C. Shorts or Pants must be worn at the waist at all times
- D. No player may play with cast or splint.
- E. No two players on the same team may have the same number.
- F. No two teams may have like jerseys. However, Team A and Team B may have jersey and number color reversible. Team colors must be submitted at the league meeting. Ebenezer Baptist Church supplies no jerseys.
- G. T-shirts worn under jerseys must be the same color as the jersey or white.
- H. Jewelry must be removed prior to playing.

IX. Protests

- A. Protests must be in written form and submitted to the League Committee within 48 hours of the protested event.
- B. The League Committee will rule on the protest as soon as possible.

X. Prayer

- A. A prayer will be said at center court before each game led by the home team (as indicated on the schedule).
- B. A prayer will be said at center court after each game led by the visiting team.

XI. Championships

- A. This year, we hope to hold a playoff tournament for 13U and 17U, but that will depend on regular season and how we do with COVID. TBA

XIII. League Play in the Ebenezer Baptist Gym

A. Rules for League Play:

- 1. NEW for this COVID SEASON - Two fans will be allowed per player and must enter the facility with the player. All participants and fans will wear masks and have temperature checks upon entering. Fans must wear masks at all times while in the building. Players can remove masks during game play, but wear them for huddles (such as the use of buffs). Following games each team must provide a few volunteers to help sanitize benches and stands (supplies will be provided)**
2. All coaches, players, and parents are expected to treat the Ebenezer Baptist Church gym and equipment with respect and care.
3. A coach or responsible adult is required to be with the team before they are allowed to enter the facilities and begin practice.
4. Areas other than the gym and restrooms are off limits.
5. No balls are to be thrown or kicked against walls or lights.
6. No street shoes allowed on the gym floor.
7. Ebenezer Baptist Church will not be responsible for valuables
8. No smoking is allowed inside the Family Life Center.
9. No one is allowed on stands when folded shut.
10. Hanging or slam dunking on goals is prohibited.
11. Each coach is responsible for making sure all players have rides and have safely

left the premises when practice is over AND each coach is responsible.

for enforcing seeing that these guidelines are enforced. Failure will result in loss of practice time.

12. Equipment damage caused by misuse, unnecessary roughness, and thrown balls (i.e. broken lights, signs, lockers, etc.) will be billed to the church involved.

13. No balls are to be brought to the EBC Gym. EBC supplies all game balls. Any other balls brought or found in the EBC Gym during game play will be confiscated by the League Director.

B. No dunking will be allowed at anytime. Dunking can break church property. Players grabbing the rim will receive a technical foul and those who dunk will get a double technical and be ejected from the game. (Ejections result in having to sit out the next game)

XIV. League Guidelines

A. Technical fouls will be given for unsportsmanlike conduct.

1. When a player receives two technical fouls for unsportsmanlike conduct, he/she is immediately dismissed from the game and must leave the Family Life Center immediately, and becomes automatically disqualified from the next scheduled game and must be reinstated after meeting with the League Committee before playing again (NOTE: Reinstatement is not an automatic act of the committee and will be at the committee's discretion).
2. When a team has a lead of 20 or more points no full court press is allowed. If a team presses at 20 points or more, the first offense is a warning. The second and subsequent times will result in the team receiving a technical foul.
3. If the player plays in more than one league, he/she is disqualified from the other league until after the suspension is fulfilled in the league where he/ she received the technical fouls.
4. If the player receives three unsportsmanlike technicals in one season, he/ she is automatically suspended for the remainder of the season. If he/she plays in more than one league, he/she is suspended in both leagues.
5. If a team receives four unsportsmanlike technicals in one game, the game is automatically forfeited.
6. If a team receives eight unsportsmanlike technicals in one season, the team will be automatically dropped from the league for the season and possibly for an extended period of time at the discretion of the League Committee.
7. THERE ARE NO EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND THERE WILL BE NO APPEAL OF RULES XIV.A.1,2,3,4,5.

B. FIGHTING: Any player who throws a punch or is involved in starting a fight OR returns a punch and is actively involved in a fight will be automatically disqualified from the next

scheduled game and must be reinstated after meeting with the League Committee before playing again (NOTE: Reinstatement is not an automatic act of the committee and will be at the committee's discretion).

C. Each team must have a team captain who will identify himself to the officials at the opening prayer.

1. Only the captain and coach may address the referees.
2. Any other player addressing the referees will receive an unsportsmanlike technical foul.
3. The captain / coach may address the referees concerning clarification of a call (understanding what was called), NOT TO ARGUE A RULE INTERPRETATION. THIS TYPE OF COMPLAINT SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH A PROTEST. THIS RULE DOES NOT GIVE THE COACH OR CAPTAIN THE RIGHT TO BADGER, TAUNT, OR DEGRADE A REFEREE. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT BY A CAPTAIN OR COACH WILL RESULT IN A TECHNICAL FOUL.

D. No basketballs are allowed in the Family Life Center or the gym during games and will be confiscated if brought. Ebenezer Baptist provides balls for the games.

E. Only players, coaches, officials, timekeepers and scorers are allowed on playing floor during and after the game.

F. Each church as well as each coach, is responsible for its fans. Only sportsmanlike conduct and Christian attitudes are acceptable. We are a Church League.

G. The League Director or the officials have the right to eject anyone (player or spectator) from the building if necessary. If a player is ejected during a game - that player must sit out the next game as well.

Coaches, players, and/or fans who show any type of misbehavior (including unsportsmanlike comments to players, coaches, or referees) will be immediately ejected from the Family Life Center and will be required to meet with the Recreation Committee of Ebenezer Baptist Church before they will be allowed to return to the league.

J. The League Committee has the right to suspend any player or team from the league for failure to adhere to these guidelines, or for any misconduct (conduct which is in direct conflict with the league objectives).

H. Ebenezer Baptist Church is not responsible for any injury which may occur during practice or league play. This rule also applies to sickness. Any player, fan or official participates in this league at their own risk. Though we will work to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, participation in any activity like this has inherent risks and families must take that into consideration before participation.

I. Coaches need to inform league directors as soon as possible prior to games if any players or coaches test positive for COVID-19 or are quarantined so that we can confirm with our health officials about whether a particular game can be played based on player health status.

XV. League Play Begins January 2, 2021.

INSURANCE LIABILITY FORM - All participating churches must provide a "Certificate of Liability Coverage" from your Church's insurance company that shows liability coverage for all of your teams, players and coaches for the season that will run from Jan 1 - Mar 15. Please turn in a copy of this Insurance Certificate along with your Church's registration information.

2021 - Ebenezer Church Basketball League

PLAYER PERMISSION FORM

LEAGUE OBJECTIVES

1. To honor Christ in all of our actions and words and develop a Christian environment where fellowship, recreation, and ministry can occur.
2. To use the league as a tool to spread the Gospel of Jesus and reach people for Christ.
3. To develop within each participant patience, self-control, courage, good sportsmanship, teamwork, and a Christian outlook toward competition.

Select Team (circle one): 8 & Under 10 & Under 13 & Under 17 & Under

Church Name: _____ Date: _____

Player Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____

(Players must be the age or younger of the league you are playing in - on or before September 1, 2020 - you can play up, but not back in leagues.)

Coach's Signature: _____

RELEASE

I, _____ (Parent/Guardian Names), in making application for my child to participate in the Church Basketball League sponsored by Ebenezer Baptist Church of Florence, SC, do hereby release and discharge Ebenezer Baptist Church and its authorized representatives and staff from all liability of any kind and character upon any claim, demand, or cause of action which might be asserted in behalf of myself against said church, representatives, or staff. **Additionally, I understand the potential risk of being exposed to COVID-19 by our participation as player, coach, family and/or fans.** I also understand the rules of the league and agree to abide by them, understanding that failure to abide by these guidelines will result in my expulsion from the league.

** For a list of league guidelines, game schedules and information - contact your church, coaches or find information on the Ebenezer website at www.ebcsc.com/ministries/basketball

Player's Signature

Parent's Signature
