# WARWICKSHIRE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

## SENIOR LEAGUE RULES

## 2026-27

### Rule 1 – Administration

a) The League is administered by the Warwickshire Basketball Association (hereinafter referred to as the WBA) League committee.
b) All teams applying to enter the Warwickshire Basketball league must be represented at the AGM prior to the season they are applying for, unless previously agreed with the League secretary in writing.
c) Any protests, complaints and appeals against decisions by the League committee shall be dealt with by the WBA Appeals Committee.
d) In the event of the outcome of the protest or complaint is not accepted, further reference may be made to the Basketball England Appeals system.

### Rule 2 – League Fees

a) The League Sub-committee will decide league fees by 31 March each year for the following season. (For season 2026-2027, the fee is £90 per team).
b) All league fees must be paid by bank transfer to Warwickshire Basketball, Account No 01858586, Sort code 30-92-33 by the AGM and a league application form submitted electronically at the same time, unless otherwise directed by the League Committee. Failure to do as instructed will incur a late payment charge of **£10**.
c) The final date for acceptance into the League will normally be 31 July. The committee reserve the right to refuse any club participation in the League.
d) Any team incurring more than £50 in fines in any one season may be required to pay a £100 guarantee for the following season, which may be returned at the end of the season minus any outstanding fines and expenses.

### Rule 3 – Competition Format

a) The League Sub-committee will decide the size and composition of divisions.
b) Each team will play a minimum of 2 games against every other team in its division on a home and away basis, unless otherwise decided by the League committee.
c) 3pts shall be awarded for a win, 1pt for a loss and 0pts for a default.
d) The team with the most points in Division One will be the League Champions.
e) The two teams with the most points in each lower division may be promoted and the two teams with the least points in each division (other than the lowest) may be relegated, unless otherwise decided by the League Executive committee.
f) In the event of a tie between two or more teams for the championship, promotion or relegation, the results of the games between only those two teams will determine

positions in the first instance, and if there is still a tie positions will be determined by overall points' difference.

g) In the event of a team withdrawing or not completing 75% of its fixtures, then the record of that team will be deleted from the league tables.
h) The league programme will normally be played between the last full week of September and the end of April the following year.
i) All games shall be played according to current Basketball England (hereinafter referred to as BE) rules, except where these rules replace or enhance the BE rules.
j) The half-time interval will be 5 minutes unless otherwise agreed by both teams and the match officials.
k) Clubs are instructed that until further notice a full court press will not be allowed once a team is 25 points or more ahead. However, half court man to man or zone defence is acceptable.
   If a team contravenes this instruction, they shall be penalised by the awarding of possession to the opposition at the side line nearest the point where the offence occurred.
l) The League may also organise and run additional competitions or tournaments, the rules of which will be posted separately at the time.

**Rule 4 –Registrations & Restrictions**

a) Club registration MUST be completed and Public Liability insurance premiums paid via BE before the start of the season.
b) Any club NOT taking up the BE option MUST provide proof that they have adequate Public Liability insurance cover (£5m) and written proof of this must be submitted to the League Secretary.
c) All participants (players, coaches, team managers, table officials, referees and club welfare officers) must be registered with BE and hold the correct licence prior to participating in Warwickshire Basketball League fixtures. No Licence – No Play
d) Before a player or coach participates in any game, they must be registered for their team on PlayHQ, Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20 per player and may forfeit the game.
e) For Clubs with multiple teams, a list of at least **5** players must be nominated for the higher team and submitted to the League Secretary by email to info@warwickshirebasketball.co.uk at the start of the season, these players can only play for the higher team unless agreed on an exceptional basis, in writing by the league secretary in advance. If a list is not provided, the best 5 players will be selected by the league committee. Any player in the club **except those named 5** can play for all teams within the club without restriction **in the league**. However, players moving up will not be permitted to play for the lower division team after they have played 2 games in the higher division without written confirmation from the League committee.
   Players playing down from a higher division are limited to a maximum of 2 per game and should only play when the lower division team cannot raise a team of 5 players from their regular squad.
   Players are NOT permitted to play for other teams within the Club in the same division.
f) Players aged Under 18 and Over 45, not listed in the starting 5 can play for all teams within a club without restriction **in the league** provided they have been added to the relevant team on PlayHQ.
g) Under no circumstances will any of the players covered in rule 4e be allowed to transfer to or play for the lower division team(s) in that season.

h) No player will be allowed to switch between teams in any **Cup, Shield, or other Handicap competition**, without the express permission of the League or Competition Secretary in writing, and if applicable this must be produced at each game in which the player participates. It must be shown to the referees and opposition coach or team manager prior to competing.
i) To be eligible to play in Handicap or Play Off fixtures, a Player must have played in 3 regular league games for that team.
j) Restrictions on Senior players:
SBL/NBL Division 1 and 2 players are restricted to 2 per team per game in Division One.
National League level players who are NOT playing in SBL/NBL Divisions 1 and 2 MUST seek permission from the Warwickshire Basketball League secretary before playing in the Warwickshire Basketball League.
National League players in the current season will NOT be permitted to take part in any games for clubs/teams in Division Two of the Warwickshire League unless express permission is given by the League Secretary.
k) Teams with players under 18 must have a Level 2 licenced Coach present at the game.
l) A junior team is defined as one with a maximum of 3 senior members (e.g. over 18 yrs. of age) registered to play.
m) Should any dispute between a club member or affiliate and the club not be resolved either during or at the end of any season, those persons in dispute will not be allowed to register for any other club until such matter is resolved, and the matter will be lodged with BE.
n) All rules included in this section will be reviewed annually.

**Rule 5 – Player Transfers**

a) Players will NOT be permitted to play for multiple Clubs within the Warwickshire Basketball League without express permission from the League secretary and only in exceptional circumstances for development reasons.
b) If a player wishes to change clubs within the Warwickshire League during the season, a request to transfer must be submitted in writing to the League Secretary for approval by the Committee and copied to the club holding the player's registration [NB: a club cannot prevent the transfer of an amateur player unless the Player has outstanding debts]. The transfer will not become effective until the League Secretary has confirmed it in writing and under no circumstances should the player play for the new club until this has taken place.
c) Should any player, whilst being a regular member of a Warwickshire Basketball League Club, be, or become, a student at a University or College where he/she may be selected to play for their college or university in another Division of Warwickshire Basketball, they may apply to the League Secretary for permission to also play for their 'parent' club in that division.

**Rule 6 – Court Details**

a) All games must be played on a full-size court.
b) All courts MUST conform to Health & Safety standards which allow players and officials to compete without undue risk. A risk assessment may be requested by the league for new clubs, or new venues.

c) All League and Cup games shall be played between Monday and Friday evenings starting no earlier than 7pm and should aim to finish by 10pm unless agreed by the League committee.
d) When booking courts, all clubs MUST allow sufficient time to complete a game including overtime where necessary.

**Rule 7 – Team Responsibilities**

a) Teams must register their main and alternate playing colours on their League application form.
b) A team can only change its registered colours during the season with the prior approval of the League Secretary.
c) In the event of a colour clash, it is the responsibility of the HOME team to change.
d) Home teams must provide suitable table equipment, to include TWO different sounding devices, TWO timing devices, visual minute indicator, approved/official scorebook (preferably the traditional version), or device suitable for e-scoring, individual and team foul indicators running score and 2 table officials [see also rule 10(h)]
e) Match balls (Wilson EVO NXT) have been provided to all teams, these balls are expected to last for 2026/27 season. Home teams should provide this ball for each game. Any match where the home team fails to provide the approved ball will incur a £25 fine for that team. Any loss of the ball requires the team to purchase a new ball of the same spec. new teams entering the league will be provided with a new match ball. Any teams leaving the league must return the ball in good condition.

**Rule 8 – Fixture Obligations**

a) All games must be played according to the latest schedule circulated by the League Secretary.
b) Clubs will have 7 days from the posting of the draft fixture list in which to request changes to any specific dates and must have a valid reason for requesting the change. This should be confirmed in writing, and the League Secretary will attempt to rearrange the game(s) in consultation with the clubs concerned.
c) After 14 days a final fixture list will be published and circulated, and no further changes will be considered except in extenuating circumstances. Evidence to support such a change must be supplied by the club requesting the change, the following will not normally be considered as extenuating; lack of players OR venue unavailability due to exams that could not be reasonably foreseen at the start of the season (clubs using school / college venues should check this carefully prior to the start of the season).
d) Any club who needs to postpone or rearrange a fixture after that date or during the course of the season (even with the consent of the League Secretary and their opponents) will incur a fine of £10 per game provided that at least 7 days notice is given. The postponing club's secretary must confirm the postponement in writing to the League Secretary.
e) If less than 7 days' notice is given a fine of £15 will be payable to Warwickshire Basketball by the postponing club.
f) In the event of late cancellation - (less than 48 hours before the scheduled tip-off time or on the day of the game by either team, a fine of £25 will be imposed and that team may forfeit the game. Further, the home side may claim court hire costs from the

visitors provided they cannot cancel their booking (Proof will be required to substantiate any claims)

If the home team cancel and the visiting team have travelled, then the latter may claim travelling expenses from the League, based on mileage from their home court to the venue and return x 2 cars, which will be charged on to the home team.

In the event of late cancellation or non-arrival of the visiting team, then the home team may claim 100% of the court hire cost from the League, which will be charged on to the away team together with any officials' costs which may have been incurred.

g) If the visiting team fails to arrive by 15 minutes after the scheduled tip-off time, then the referee may award the game to the home team 20-0. The home team should pay both officials and a claim sent to the Treasurer within 5 days providing bank details.
h) If the home team fail to have 5 players ready to play within 15 minutes of the scheduled tip-off time without notification, then the referee may award the game to the away team 20-0. The away team should pay both officials and a claim sent to the Treasurer within 5 days providing bank details.
i) In the event that technical problems prevent the game from taking place or being completed, Rule 8f (above) shall not apply.
j) Should either team decide they cannot play a rearranged game; after being instructed by the League Secretary they shall be deemed to have defaulted the fixture. The game shall be awarded 20-0 to the non-defaulting team and the defaulting team shall forfeit any match points that may have accrued from the fixture. A fine of not less than £25 may also be levied against the offending team.
k) Should any team refuse to play fixtures against any particular club after being instructed to do so by The League Secretary, they shall be deemed to be in breach of Rule 8j but any fine previously levied will be doubled.
l) Should either team fail to have five players dressed and ready to play at the scheduled start time of any game, the team may be subject to a fine. The match officials are requested to inscribe the actual start time on the scoresheet along with any reason for a delay in commencing the game.
m) In the event that an away fixture involving a junior club means that the junior club would have to travel in excess of 20 miles from their home court, the junior club may request that the game be played at their home court instead.

**Rule 9 – Results**

a) If the game is not e-scored, The home team must provide a clear and legible photograph of the white copy of the scoresheet **immediately** after the game to info@warwickshirebasketball.co.uk Failure to do so will incur a fine of **£10**.
b) If the score sheet is not received within 48 hours, the game may be awarded by default to the away team and points may be deducted from the home team at the discretion of the League Committee.
c) The match number must be written in the appropriate place at the top of the scoresheet. If for any reason the game does not take place, then the home team secretary must inform the League immediately by e-mail to info@warwickshirebasketball.co.uk .
d) Teams submitting a scoresheet that is incomplete or has significant errors may incur a fine of **£10** per sheet.

**Rule 10 – Officials**

a) Each TEAM is required to provide 2 Referees, of which at least One is Level 2 qualified, who will be available to officiate at least 2 games per month if required. The second can be Level 1 qualified working towards Level 2.

In addition, two table officials must be listed on the Entry form, one of whom must be at least BE level 2 qualified, the second can be level 1.
All Officials must be Bona fide club members and registered via the Club PlayHQ link.

b) Officials shall request their match fee and travelling expenses either before the game commences or at half time.
For season 2026-2027, floor Officials fees are: **TBC**
Level 4 - £25,
Level 3 - £23,
Level 2 - £22
Level 1 (under supervision - £21.
Travelling is reimbursed at 35p per mile up to a maximum of £35.00 total fee per official.
Table Officials fees are:
Level 3 – £12
Level 2 – £10
Level 1 – £6
Travel costs as above but optional.
**If anyone officiates an entire game on their own (referee or table official) they may charge 150% of the appropriate fee and the maximum claim rises accordingly.*
The aggregate cost of the match officials shall be divided equally between the two teams.

c) In the event that the fixture is the victim of a late cancellation, and the officials have travelled they should claim their full mileage and match fee from the home side, and this will be re-claimed from the offending team by the league.

d) Officials should travel together whenever possible. It is reasonable to expect officials who live or are likely to pass within 5 miles of each other to travel in one car, unless the venue is so close as to make this impractical.

e) All officials must confirm their appointments with the WBA Officiating Officer within 7 days of receiving them, either in writing or by a personal telephone call.

f) Match officials must be present at the scorer's table and ready to start at least 10 minutes before the scheduled tip-off time.

g) The names of the match officials must be written clearly on the scoresheet.

h) It is the responsibility of the home team to provide 2 competent table officials for every game, one of whom must be BE Level 2 qualified and licenced. They should be registered with BE and prepared to attend a Table Officiating course organised or approved by WBA if unqualified. Match officials will be requested to report on the scoresheet should TWO TABLE OFFICIALS not be in place at the start of the game. Failure to adhere to this Rule may result in a fine being levied against the offending club.

i) If only one graded official arrives, the game may still take place. That official may appoint a suitable co-official if one is available.

j) If no officials arrive, every effort should still be made to play the game, with two suitable referees acceptable to both teams.

**Rule 11 – Protests & Appeals**

a) All matters of eligibility and interpretation of League rules shall be referred to the League Committee at info@warwickshirebasketball.co.uk .

b) All protests and appeals must be submitted to info@warwickshirebasketball.co.uk within 48 hours of their occurrence and transfer of **£10** fee to the Warwickshire Basketball, Account No 01858586, Sort code 30-92-33. When the appeal is being

dealt with by WBA no further fee is payable. If, however, the appeal is referred to another area or BE, their own fee structure may apply.

c) Appeals will be heard in the first instance by the League Committee. If the decision of the League Committee is unacceptable to the person/club who has lodged the appeal, the Warwickshire Basketball Appeals Committee, elected at the AGM, will subsequently deal with the appeal. In the event of an appeal against a player or coach suspension, that individual can continue to play/coach until the appeal is heard.
d) No protest regarding the court or game equipment will be considered unless it is lodged with one of the match officials before the start of the game.
e) If, during a game, a team considers its interests to have been harmed, the team captain should inform the referees, sign the scoresheet "under protest" within 10 minutes of the end of the game and before leaving the court. A written report setting out the grounds for protest must then be sent to info@warwickshirebasketball.co.uk, and a fee of **£10** transferred to the league account, within 48 hours of the game end time. All or part of the fee may be returned, at the discretion of the League Committee or Appeals Committee.

**Rule 12 – Misconduct**

a) In the event of a player or coach being charged with a "Disqualifying" foul, that person will receive an automatic two match ban. This ban will commence immediately. Match officials are required to submit a written report within 24 hours by email to info@warwickshirebasketball.co.uk, (a standard form for this submission is available on the WBA website).
b) Each club or individual may appeal against the suspension by the submission of reports if they so choose, by email to at info@warwickshirebasketball.co.uk All reports must be received within 3 days of the incident.
c) If a person is guilty of misconduct not involving disqualification (eg: post-game misconduct, or incidents involving persons not participating in the game), which the match officials consider to be of sufficient gravity to warrant consideration by the WBA, a report should be submitted by them within 24 hours be email to info@warwickshirebasketball.co.uk This offence also invokes an immediate two match ban as per Rule 12a. Names of persons guilty of misconduct who are not recorded on the scoresheet must be provided by the team coach or team manager.
d) If a Player or Coach accumulates Four Technical, Unsportsmanlike or Disqualifying fouls, they will receive an automatic One match ban. All "T" and "U" fouls count regardless whether GD is awarded. The League secretary will notify the Club secretary of the date of this ban.
e) After consideration of reports, the WBA will consider whether any additional suspensions will be applied. The League Secretary will confirm any additional suspension in writing to the club secretary. It is the responsibility of the club secretary to ensure that the correct period of suspension is served.
f) At the end of the season, any suspensions which have not been completed in the season WILL be carried over until the start of the following season.
g) Disciplinary penalties at team level. A warning will be given to clubs after any referee report, or 5 "T" s have been recorded. At ten "T" s or additional reports 3 points will be deducted from the team. Any reoccurrence report or 10 more "T" s will result in 5 points deducted.
h) The BE Disciplinary Code on Affiliated Leagues requires WBA to pass serious and complex cases to Basketball England to be investigated and charged centrally. Cases that do not fall into the serious category will remain at local level. BE define serious cases as:

(i) Discriminatory language or behaviour towards any person (including any charge under 5.4 or 5.5 of the Code)
(ii) Discriminatory language or behaviour expressed in any written form or on social media (including any charge under 5.4 or 5.5 of the Code)
(iii) Violence or threats in any form towards match officials
(iv) Any action online or offline by members in positions of trust and authority which brings the game of Basketball into disrepute
(v) Any Safeguarding concerns about a child or about a person working with children or adults at risk; and/or
(vi) Any other matter deemed appropriate by the Association at their sole discretion.

Any Player on a match ban will not be permitted to attend the game, even as a spectator.

**Rule 13 – Fees Fines & Expenses**

a) All fines and charged expenses/costs as per these rules must be paid to the WBA within 21 days of notification. If fines are not received within that period they may be doubled.
b) Claims for expenses/costs by clubs or officials must be made in writing within 5 days of the event, otherwise any such claim may be considered invalid.
c) Fees/fines for 2026-2027

* 2a - League Fee £90 per team per season
* 2b - Late entry:£10 per team
* 4d - Playing ineligible/unregistered player:£20 + may forfeit game
*7e - Not using the provided match ball: £25 per game
* 8d - Changes to fixture list after start of season:£10 per game
* 8e - Postponement less than 7 days:£15 per game
* 8f - Cancellation within 48 hours of game:£25 + may forfeit game
* 8j - Cancelled/defaulted game:£25 + league points
*8k - Refusal to play a game:£50 + league points
* 9a - Late scoresheet after 24 hours: £10 (see also Rule 9b)
* 9b - No scoresheet after 48 hours: as 9a + penalty points
* 9d - Incomplete scoresheet: £10
*10a - Failure to fulfil Refereeing appointment by Club official: £15 to Club
*10h - Insufficient or unqualified Table officials: £15 per game
* 11b, 11d - Protests and Appeals:£10 per issue
* Failure to attend WBA AGM or EGM:£25 per team

d) Other fines/penalties may be applied at the discretion of the committee.
e) Claimable expenses are detailed in rule 8.

All payments are to be transferred to the Warwickshire Basketball Account No 01858586, Sort code 30-92-33.

**Rule 14 – Obligations**

a) Participation in the League signifies acceptance of these regulations and an agreement to abide by them.
b) All Clubs MUST have a Club Welfare Officer (CWO).
c) All Teams must have a Team Manager or Coach with access to and familiar with HoopsHQ

d) Any change of club contact, venue, team colours, tip-off time, etc. must be notified in writing to the League Secretary as a matter of urgency.
e) All clubs holding trophies are responsible for their safety, maintenance and return to the League by 31 March each year. Should a trophy be lost or damaged whilst in the care or custody of a club, that club may be required to pay the cost of an equivalent replacement trophy.
f) Trophies at all times remain the property of the WBA.

g) Safeguarding - All individuals involved with WBA (players, officials, spectators etc.) must abide by the Basketball England code of ethics (which can be found here).
    - For any individual involved with WBA who is coaching, teaching, training, caring, supervising, advising, treating or transporting young people under the age of 18, the appropriate DBS checks must be in place as per Basketball England safeguarding requirements (found here)
    - Any concerns relating to safeguarding or welfare of individuals involved in WBA can be reported to the local Welfare officer.

**Rule 15 – Contact**

All contact relating to these rules should be via the League Chairman in the first instance or other officially appointed officer of Warwickshire Basketball. Details of points of contact can be found on the Warwickshire Basketball website – www.warwickshirebasketball.co.uk