

TyneMet Basketball Leagues

CODE OF CONDUCT

2024-25 Season

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1 FIBA issue a set of rules by which the game of Basketball is to be played. These rules establish a framework for the game between two teams, and officials are required to ensure that this framework is not exceeded.
- 1.2 The Code of Conduct used by the TyneMet Basketball League and all subsidiary leagues organised by them and run under their control has been developed over many years and provides redress against individuals and teams should the framework rules be ignored or broken. It provides guidelines as to how a game should be conducted within our area of authority, and outcomes including various sanctions should any transgressions occur.
- 1.3 Basketball England have also developed a Disciplinary Code which both supplements and where necessary overrides the disciplinary process established within all our League games across all divisions and competitions. This imposes another level of control over the discipline within the game, as well as specific requirements on match officials.
- 1.4 Matters considered a Serious Offence by Basketball England and those involving match officials will be considered under the Basketball England Disciplinary Code. Disciplinary matters related to misconduct by Participants, occurring during or immediately prior to, or following a Match will be considered by the League, or referred to Basketball England if appropriate.
- 1.5 Serious cases include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a) Abusive or offensive language or behaviour that makes reference to a protected characteristic, whether in person, in writing, or on social media. These are referred to as 'Aggravated Breaches'.
 - b) Any act of victimisation or discrimination.
 - c) Violent or threatening language and/or behaviour towards a Match Official.
 - d) Any other matter deemed appropriate by Basketball England at their sole discretion.

2. ROLES

2.1 Teams – Teams are required to ensure that all individuals registered to them observe and follow the requirements of this Code of Conduct and the BE Disciplinary Code. Expected levels of behaviour for teams include:

- a) The fact that the Coach of each team is ultimately responsible for the conduct of the team.
- b) Home teams should always endeavour to make the away team and their supporters welcome.
- c) Home teams should not intimidate or discriminate against away teams and their supporters by not providing seating or warm-up areas.
- d) That non-playing supporters of either team do not make negative, derogatory or offensive comments directed at the opposition.

2.2 Coaches

Coaches should motivate their own players to perform better whilst at the same time ensuring that they and their players behave in a sportsmanlike manner. They must:

- a) Address Officials in the correct manner when authorised to do so and accept the decisions they make.
- b) Not encourage abusive conduct or uncontrolled aggression from their players.

2.3 Players

Players should respect their fellow team players and the opposition at all times. They must:

- a) Meet the standards of behaviour they would expect to be provided to them as individuals and must not be offensive to any participant.
- b) Must not interfere with the decisions of the officials.
- c) Ensure that they follow the requirements of FIBA, BE, and the TyneMet League, in terms of registration, respect and sportsmanship. Verbally abusive language should not occur on the court or within the immediate area of the venue, including the shouting of offensive language not specifically directed at another participant or team follower.
- d) Whilst on the bench players should encourage their team without direct or indirect reference to the opposition.
- e) Note that only the Captain of a team has the right to speak to the Officials during a game, and then may only do so to seek clarification of a decision.

2.4 Match Officials

Match Officials are appointed by the competition organisers to ensure the framework of rules is followed by all participants. They have unquestionable authority before and during the game and are required to submit reports about any transgressions to either the TyneMet League or BE if required about any events before, during or after the game. They should:

- a) Always attend the game to which they are appointed unless contact has been made with the Refereeing Coordinator about an alternative appointment.
- b) Officiate games within the framework of the FIBA rules as agreed by the League.
- c) Wear the correct uniform.
- d) Submit a report to the League or if required to BE about any incident that meets the directions as issued by the League and BE. This is a mandatory requirement especially for any events that relate to disqualifications to enable either the League or BE to decide on actions to be taken. These reports must be submitted within a maximum of 24 hours. Failure to do so may result in action against the Official by BE or the League. Any game which is abandoned should be reported to the Disciplinary Secretary immediately.
- e) Be subject to continued assessment and training as directed by the League.
- f) The following text is published by Basketball England and is to be drawn to the attention of all match officials:

Referees and other match officials have a crucial role to play in identifying and reporting any discipline matters and in particular any serious incidents. It is vital that anyone taking on an officiating role at a basketball game understands the responsibilities that come with it. The BE Disciplinary Code also offers greater protection to match officials, classing any threats or physical actions towards match officials as serious incidents, with significant sanctions to be imposed on any participant who has such a charge found proven. This should act as a deterrent, with the intention of improving the behaviour towards match officials and subsequently creating a more positive environment for officials

within basketball. The Guidance for Match Officials can be shared with officials in your league to help them understand their role and the impact of the Disciplinary Code. It also includes flowcharts explaining how they can handle incidents reported to them.

2.5 Table Officials

It is appreciated that at local league level, table officials may often support or belong to the home team. Nevertheless, they should:

- a) Be impartial and record the game accurately.
- b) Be provided with appropriate equipment and facilities by the home team to complete the task competently and efficiently.
- c) Not enter into discussions with players from either team during the game.
- d) Accept that the opposition team has the right to nominate an observer to the table.

3. PENALTIES

- 3.1 Penalties are applicable when events before, during or after a game contravene the framework rules of the game and/or specific local or national regulations.
- 3.2 These penalties comprise two forms, automatic and discretionary.
 - a) Automatic penalties – sanctions are applied without further consideration and no appeals are allowed. They are based upon match reports and any additional reports submitted by match officials.
 - b) Discretionary penalties – these are applied after consideration of match or subsequent reports, after due review by the Disciplinary Committee. Procedures for review are set out in the appendices to the Code of Conduct and may be subject to appeal.
- 3.3 The various sanctions that can be applied under either category are set out in the sanctions grid attached at appendix 1.
- 3.4 Note that certain penalties may be applied by BE in addition to any local league sanctions.

4. OTHER DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

- 4.1 The League has established a series of guidelines relating to different aspects of team and individual behaviour. These are set out in the appendices that are attached as follows:
 - a) Appendix 1 – Sanctions grid including BE grid and tariff table (see 4.2.2 below)
 - b) Appendix 2 – Guidance Regarding Dissent.
 - c) Appendix 3 – Expectations of the Standards of Behaviour and Actions by all Participants.
 - d) Appendix 4 – Guidelines and Policy on the use of social media in relation to activities held under jurisdiction of the TyneMet League.
 - e) Appendix 5 – Expectations of the Standards of Behaviour and Actions by all non-participants (spectators and visitors).
 - f) Appendix 6 – Guidelines for match officials regarding the behaviour of spectators.
 - g) Appendix 7 – Reminders for all game participants about 'tactical fouling' near game end.
 - h) Appendix 8 – Appeal procedure against decisions of the Disciplinary Committee.
 - i) Appendix 9 – Guidance regarding safety, abuse, discrimination, safeguarding and similar issues.

4.2 Violent Conduct

- 4.2.1 For the avoidance of doubt, the League has adopted a definition of 'violent conduct' – it is any action that is judged to be an act of aggression that causes, or attempts to cause, physical contact with another player or official or spectator. Such action being beyond normal in-game fouling and will have normally resulted in a disqualification by match officials.
- 4.2.2 There are different levels of violent conduct ranging from 'low' (pushing) through to 'high' (a punch), accompanied by consideration of other issues such as duration and premeditation. The sanctions imposed, after consideration of reports, will be scaled according to the severity of the act. The Disciplinary Committee maintain a tariff table so that consistency of punishment is maintained for similar levels of offence.
- 4.3 A bench technical foul (recorded on the scoresheet as a 'B') will be recorded against the individual in the League's disciplinary system if the individual can be clearly identified. The sanctions applied to an individual will be similar to those imposed upon a Coach. If this is not possible, then the bench technical will be charged against the Coach. Please note this is a local rule and is not included in the FIBA Official Basketball Rules.
- 4.4 In respect of **player/coaches**: where a player/coach acts as a coach for their own team or for another team, any *individual* penalties noted above will be applied to the individual under the team where they are registered as a player. The *team* penalties will apply to the team that was being coached by the individual at the time of the infraction. This ensures that all *individual* penalty points will be cumulative.
- 4.5 For the avoidance of doubt, an individual's tally of technical fouls returns to zero at the start of each season, but fines will be carried forward indefinitely until paid. Disciplinary point totals are carried across to any competitions run at the same time or forward to any post-season competition (e.g. play-offs and the Handicap Cup), details are shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.6 No player, team or club will be permitted to take part in any games until all fines have been paid. Fines should be sent direct to the Treasurer immediately following notification to arrive within 5 calendar days. Fines must be paid by electronic transfer to the League's bank account. Details are freely available from the League's Treasurer. Fines must be paid before the next game that either the team or individual is due to take part. A fine may be paid by bank transfer no later than 12 noon on the day of the individual, team, or club's next game or by Friday of the weekend or Bank Holiday preceding the next game. It is the responsibility of the individual, team, or club to ensure the fine payment has been received in accordance with this requirement. No responsibility will be attached to the Treasurer to ensure that the fine has been received (e.g. if they are unavailable for whatever reason).
- 4.7 In the event of an abandoned game, the Disciplinary Committee will consider fully the reason for the abandonment. The Committee will have the power to impose reasonable penalties which reflect the seriousness of the offence(s) with due consideration being given to precedent. Penalties may take any or a combination of the following forms:
- a) financial (the minimum penalty for an individual being £50, for a team being £100).
 - b) award of individual disciplinary points.
 - c) award of team disciplinary points.
 - d) deduction of League points (the minimum being 6 League points).

- e) a playing ban (the minimum penalty for an individual being 10 games – the Club Secretary will inform the Disciplinary and Fixtures Secretaries of the dates of the games to be sat out by the player).
 - f) a lifetime playing ban – the League will be required to ratify this decision at the next appropriate AGM. If this decision is ratified by the members of the League then the League Secretary will inform neighbouring Associations and Basketball England of the decision.
- 4.8 Teams or Clubs that accumulate a high level of penalty points with continuing disciplinary issues will be required to attend a meeting with the Disciplinary Secretary and/or other members of the Disciplinary or Executive Committee. The purpose of the meeting will be to identify causes, and to clarify those team actions and procedures that can be put in place to address the issues involved. Failure to attend such a request will be classed as a disciplinary offence and may lead to suspension from the League of the team or Club and all registered members.
- 4.9 The Club bond must be maintained at the set amount at all times. The Executive Committee reserve the right upon the recommendation of the Disciplinary Secretary to review individual Club bond amounts should this not be the case and apply a higher level as deemed appropriate.
- 4.10 All match bans are to take **immediate** effect as soon as the Club Secretary is notified of the sanction, i.e. it will apply to the next game(s) in any competition under the control of the Tynemet League in which the individual would have been eligible to play. The Disciplinary Secretary will advise match officials and the match officials will confirm that the individual has not attended the game in **any** capacity in the match report. All match bans must be served to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Secretary. Bans will carry forward into future seasons – including if the individual has a “rest” season or seasons – until the ban is served in full. Bans imposed upon players who are also match officials will also apply to their ability to officiate, which will be prohibited until the match ban is served.
- 4.11 Games that count towards match bans will be those for which a score is entered on the match report and the result entered in the league table. Bans will not be counted in respect of games that do not take place whether cancelled or postponed. Games that are forfeited will not count towards the ban if the forfeit arises as a result of actions of the banned players team; if the forfeit arises as a result of the opposition team, the game will count towards the ban.
- 4.12 Individuals subject to possible bans by the Disciplinary Committee may continue to play until they and their team secretary has been notified of the ban. Any games individuals have missed before that formal notification will NOT count as games to be missed under the ban.
- 4.13 If an individual is subject to a match ban then the individual may not attend the stipulated games in **any** form, including as a spectator. This means no attendance at any game played by the team for which the individual is registered, but other games that are played by other teams of the same club are not included. Once a ban has been served but the fine not paid then the individual can attend as a spectator.
- 4.14 When a player receives a match ban, they will be shown on the league web site as ‘banned’. If the ban is served but the fine not paid they will be shown as ‘suspended’. The designation will only be changed to ‘approved’ once the Treasurer has confirmed receipt or such other proof of payment notified to either the Treasurer or Disciplinary Secretary.

- 4.15 In all cases above involving Disqualification or Abandonment the Match Officials will supply a written report to the Disciplinary Secretary within 24 hours. The reports will be sent by the Disciplinary Secretary to the appropriate team secretaries within 3 calendar days of receiving the match reports. The team secretaries will then have 3 calendar days (from receipt of the reports) in which to make representation to the Disciplinary Secretary. Following this, the Disciplinary Committee will consider all reports and representations, and then communicate their decision to all parties within 3 calendar days of the receipt of all representations regarding the incident(s).
- 4.16 Any penalised party will have 5 calendar days to appeal against the Disciplinary Committee findings to the League Secretary. Further details of the Appeal process may be found in the APPEALS section of the League's Constitution and at Appendix 9 of this Code of Conduct. All penalties awarded by the Disciplinary Committee will be suspended pending the outcome of any appeal process (unless they fall into the serious category as per BE immediate sanctions see paragraph 4.22 below regarding Interim Suspensions).
- 4.17 Any other event reported in writing to the Disciplinary Secretary by a Match Official or other person not covered explicitly in this section (including but not restricted to events that occur after the signing of the scoresheet) will be referred to the secretary of the team(s) concerned within 3 calendar days of receipt of the report by the Disciplinary Secretary, and then handled in the same fashion as above.
- 4.18 At the end of the game a clearly readable photograph or scan must be taken of the completed scoresheet and must be sent to the Fixtures Coordinator via email to the appropriate address as soon as possible and no later than 3 calendar days of the date of the fixture. Failure to meet this 3 day deadline will incur the automatic penalty outlined in the Constitutional document (para 50). All white scoresheets can be emailed to scoresheets@tynemetbasketball.co.uk The original white copy of the scoresheet must be saved and presented to the Fixtures Coordinator at the next league meeting.
- 4.19.1 An important part of playing any sport and in particular basketball is the respect of everyone to all other participants, be it players, coaches, officials or spectators. To that end it is important that no one brings the game into disrepute by taking any action that publicly abuses anyone else by word or deed to such an extent that the good reputation of the sport and/or its organisers and officials are unreasonably damaged.
- 4.19.2 During the game duration, the floor officials interpret and follow the FIBA Rules and also have the ability to impose consequential penalties that can be applied instantly. Stemming from such game penalties may come additional secondary penalties handed down by controlling bodies such as local leagues, area committees and Basketball England. However, outside of the specific control of a game, actions can occur which are not under the clear control of any authorised body. Pre-game, postgame, social media and electronic messaging in all its forms, written media, etc. are also opportunities for actions/comments to be made in public that may bring into disrepute the sport, individuals or organisations.
- 4.19.3 "Bringing into disrepute" is typically defined as *"to dishonour or discredit someone or something"* or *"to cause defamation, degradation, disgrace, disparagement, slander, smear, vilification of any group or individual"* to an extent that any average independent person would believe that harm had been done to the reputation of that group/individual.

- 4.19.4 When such a situation is reported and found proven then the following penalties may be applied by the league's Disciplinary Committee: 3 Match Ban + £20 Fine + 5 Individual Disciplinary Points + 4 Team Disciplinary Points, as set out in the sanctions grid, subject to review and consideration of the facts.
- 4.19.5 If it considers it appropriate, due to the serious nature of an offence, the Disciplinary Committee can refer the matter to the full League Executive for application of further proportionate penalties. In addition, BE may require reports to be submitted for consideration under the terms of their 'Integrity' process.
- 4.20 Note that at all times, BE as the overall controlling organisation are able to take action about any matter that is referred to them either directly or indirectly. The TyneMet League are unable to take any part in that process, but the Disciplinary Secretary may be able to offer guidance and support. There is a list of sanctions that BE have adopted as from September 2023 included at Appendix 1 attached for information.
- 4.21 All members of TyneMet Basketball League and competitions under their control are required to co-operate in any disciplinary investigation, and where requested are to
- a) participate in interviews
 - b) to provide information and/or statements or any other evidence believed to be in their possession or knowledge
 - c) attend hearings to give evidence
- Members and participants who fail to comply with these requirements may themselves be subject to Disciplinary action. Please note that this requirement is mirrored in the Disciplinary Code published by Basketball England and applies to all cases referred to them for consideration.
- 4.22 Basketball England include the following provisions relating to an Interim Suspension:
- a) If the BE Integrity Team considers that an allegation, complaint or matter which has been drawn to their attention falls within the scope of The Association's disciplinary or safeguarding regime and is of sufficient seriousness to warrant the suspension of a person or body from any aspect of involvement in Basketball (including, where relevant, the suspension of a license or accreditation) until such time as the Disciplinary Commission or Safeguarding Case Management Group has reached its decision (an "Interim Suspension"), they shall write to such person or body informing them of the terms of the interim suspension.
 - b) The decision in this matter, shall only be subject to review by an Independent Chair and will be considered on correspondence only.
 - c) A review in such a circumstance must be submitted by the Respondent within 14 days of the imposition of the Interim Suspension or any application for a review will be declared void.
 - d) If at any time the facts or circumstances surrounding a case change, the Integrity Team may consider, either of its own motion or by an application brought by a person or body subject to an interim suspension, whether such interim suspension should continue.
 - e) In their absolute discretion the Integrity Team may lift such interim suspension or may impose such conditions as they think fit in default of which the person or body will remain subject to suspension.
 - f) The fact of an interim suspension being imposed may be published by The Association.
- 4.22.1 Basketball England seek the standardisation of disciplinary codes across all levels of play, and as such the TyneMet League will adopt similar provisions in respect of the sanction of an 'Interim Suspension' as set out above. The use of Interim Suspensions by Basketball England relates to Serious Cases (see the definition in paragraph 1.5 above) and such cases are therefore unlikely to fall within the remit of the TyneMet League. However, occasions may arise when the availability of an Interim Sanction would be of benefit to all parties concerned, and as such the following provisions are to be applied:
- a) If the Disciplinary Committee considers that an allegation, complaint or matter which has been drawn to their attention falls within the scope of the TyneMet League's disciplinary regime and is of sufficient seriousness to warrant the suspension of a person or body from any aspect of involvement in Basketball until

such time as the Disciplinary Committee has reached its decision (an "Interim Suspension"), they shall write to such person or body informing them of the terms of the Interim Suspension.

- b) The decision in this matter shall only be subject to review by an Independent Chair appointed by the League and will be considered on correspondence only.
- c) A review in such a circumstance must be submitted by the Respondent within 14 calendar days of the imposition of the Interim Suspension or any application for a review will be declared void.
- d) If at any time the facts or circumstances surrounding a case change, the Disciplinary Committee may consider, either of its own motion or by an application brought by a person or body subject to an interim suspension, whether such interim suspension should continue.
- e) In their absolute discretion the Disciplinary Committee may lift such interim suspension or may impose such conditions as they think fit in default of which the person or body will remain subject to suspension.

4.22.2 Interim Sanctions are to be considered as Discretionary Sanctions and subject to review as per 4.22.1 b) above and not by appeal, pending the decision relating to the primary case.

4.23 In arriving at their decisions, the TML Disciplinary Committee will adopt the Basketball England guidance as to the standard of proof required. The decision, based upon the evidence available to them, will be whether it is more likely than not that the incident occurred. This is expressed by the term 'Balance of Probability' and is the normal threshold for most civil situations which is lower than that used in criminal cases.

APPENDIX 1

TyneMet Basketball League 2024-25 Schedule of Disciplinary Sanctions						
Reference	Description	Personal points	Team Points	Match Ban	Fine	Comments
Automatic Sanctions – Individuals						
1	First player technical foul	4	3			
2	Second player technical foul	5	3		20	
3	Third player technical foul	6	3		20	At this point the first threshold could be reached – see below
4	Fourth and onward player technical foul	6	3	1	20	
5	<i>Left blank</i>					
6	First coach C or B foul	5	4			
7	Second coach B or C foul	6	4		20	
8	Third coach B or C foul	7	4		20	At this point the first threshold could be reached – see below
9	Fourth and onward coach B or C foul	7	4	1	20	At this point the second threshold could be reached – see below
10	<i>Left blank</i>					
11	GD for 2 x T, or 2 x U, or combination	4	3	1	10	Fine conditional – if higher fine charged for T/U/B/C £10 not added. MB conditional unless PP total passes threshold for a greater number of games banned.
12	<i>Left blank</i>					
13	Reaching first threshold of 15 personal points			2	10	Added to any other fine or match ban
14	Reaching second threshold of 25 personal points			4	20	Added to any other fine or match ban
15	Refusal to submit report at request of Disciplinary Cttee	5		3	20	
16	DQ for low level non-violent conduct	5	(See below)	2	20	Maximum automatic sanctions shown, tariff gives details – additional sanctions discretionary
17	<i>Left blank</i>					
18	Sanctions imposed on officials as players/coaches/administrators					To be banned from officiating/game involvement for same period as match ban lasts, with same provisions regarding non-involvement or attendance.

APPENDIX 1

Automatic Sanctions – Teams						
19	Failure to turn up to a game		10		50	Plus expenses as per rules 35d) & e) and 36 of Constitution. Sanctions charged even if game rearranged.
20	Playing an unregistered player		10		25	Plus loss of league points as per rule 25 of Constitution. Fine per player per game played. Needs BOTH BE and TML affiliation.
21	Playing an ineligible player		10		25	Plus loss of league points as per rule 25 of Constitution. Fine per player per game played. (E.G. outstanding fines, unauthorised transfer.
22	<i>Left blank</i>					
23	DQ of team member for violent conduct		6			Tariff gives details of categories
24	DQ of team member for non-violent conduct		4			Tariff gives details of categories
25	Substantiated written complaint from others		3			
26	Passing first threshold of 20 team points				10	PLUS 1 league point deducted
27	Passing second threshold of 28 team points				20	PLUS 3 league points deducted
28	HANDICAP CUP – reaching first threshold of 10 team points				10	PLUS the deduction of 10 handicap cup points
29	HANDICAP CUP – reaching first threshold of 22 team points				20	PLUS the deduction of 15 handicap cup points
30	Refusal to submit report at request of Disciplinary Cttee		5		50	PLUS 3 league points deducted
31	PLAY OFF GAMES - passing the first and second team penalty point thresholds				1st = £20 2nd = £40	Fines doubled from those of the regular league season for passing the equivalent first and second thresholds, with in addition a deduction of handicap points equivalent to 5 times the league point deduction (minus 5 then minus 15) should the team take part.
32	Postponement of game within 48 hours of tip				25	Fines and costs charged (table officials, ref fees etc), clause 35d) of Constitution even if game rearranged
33	Non-attendance at fixture		10		50	PLUS referee and table officials fees, clause 36 of Constitution
34	Failing to attend AGM, EGM or business meetings				50	Clause 20 of the Constitution refers
35	Equipment required under clause 41 of the Constitution				5	Fine is per missing item per game as notified by the match officials. Clause 42 Constitution
36	Missing electronic copy of score sheet				25	Fine is per sheet, clause 50a) Of Constitution, section 4.18 CoC
37	Missing white copy of score sheet				25	Fine is per sheet, clause 50b) of Constitution, section 4.18 CoC

APPENDIX 1

Discretionary Sanctions – Individuals						
38	Reaching third threshold of 32 penalty points			6	30	Plus potential additional written undertakings as to future behaviour
39	<i>Left blank</i>					
40	Abusive language or behaviour			1 TO 6	£20 TO £100	In addition to any in game sanction
41	DQ for non-violent conduct	5		2+	20+	If sanctions in excess of automatic maximums (see above). See tariff sheet
42	Threatening words and behaviour			2 TO 6	£30 TO £100	If severe and realistic, sanctions to be increased
43	DQ for violent conduct	12		6	50	See tariff sheet.
44	Violent conduct			2 TO 8	£30 TO £150	Continuous, incurring injury, sanctions to be increased
45	Bringing the game into disrepute	5	4	3	20	See section 19.1 of CoC. Minimum levels
46	Improper conduct/bringing the game into disrepute			0 TO 4	£0 TO £70	If significant or multiple aggravating factors present then higher sanctions to apply
47	Any additional circumstances within hired facility	5	4	3	20	Circumstances to be reviewed by Disciplinary Committee
48	<i>Left blank</i>					
49	Causing game abandonment	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	Minimum fine £50, minimum match ban 10, clause 38) of Constitution, and section 4.7 CoC
Specific discretionary sanctions for match officials (See 65 to 68 below) as per BE schedule						
50	Bringing the game into disrepute			1 to 4 weeks	£20 to £75	Unless referred to BE
51	Late or non-submission of misconduct report			0 to 3 weeks	£0 to £50	Unless referred to BE
52	Late arrival for fixture			0 to 3 weeks	£0 to £50	Unless referred to BE
53	Failure to attend a fixture without good reason			1 to 4 weeks	£15 to £75	Unless referred to BE
54	<i>Left blank</i>					

APPENDIX 1

Discretionary Sanctions – Teams						
55	Mid or end of season review of team disciplinary standards					Undertaking as to future behaviour, increased bond, provisional loss of league points, provisional fines, 50% increase in fines
56	Reaching third threshold of 37 points				30	PLUS 6 league points deducted and undertaking as to future behaviour including the possibility of increasing the bond and additional registration fee
57	HANDICAP CUP – reaching third threshold of 37 points				30	PLUS the deduction of 20 handicap cup points
58	PLAY OFF GAMES - passing the third team penalty point threshold				60	Fine doubled from those of the regular league season with a deduction of handicap points equivalent to 5 times the league point deduction (30) should teams take part.
59	Causing game abandonment	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	Min fine £100, min loss of 6 league points clause 38) of Constitution, clause 4.7 of CoC. To be reviewed by Disciplinary Committee.
60	<i>Left blank</i>					
61	Causing game abandonment (handicap cup)				100	Removal from competition, min £100 fine
62	Player poaching				£25 TO £150	Removal of player registration, possible suspension, review effect on player
63	Failure to control spectators				£0 TO £150	Plus any additional sanctions deemed appropriate by Disciplinary Committee
64	<i>Left blank</i>					
Discretionary Sanctions – Match Officials						
65	Bringing the game into disrepute			1 TO 4 WEEKS	£20 TO £75	Circumstances to be reviewed by Disciplinary Committee
66	Late submission of misconduct report			0 TO 3 WEEKS	£0 TO £50	Circumstances to be reviewed by Disciplinary Committee
67	Late arrival for a fixture			0 TO 3 WEEKS	£0 TO £50	Circumstances to be reviewed by Disciplinary Committee
68	Failure to attend a fixture without good reason			1 TO 4 WEEKS	£15 TO £75	Circumstances to be reviewed by Disciplinary Committee

APPENDIX 1

THE FOLLOWING SANCTIONS RELATE TO OFFENCES THAT ARE ALL TO BE REFERRED TO BASKETBALL ENGLAND DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES BY ANY PARTICIPANT AS DEFINED BY BE BUT WHICH MAY ALSO BE REFERRED BACK TO TYNEMET				
69	Aggravated breach - reference to a protected characteristic	6 TO 14 MATCHES	£75 TO £300	Equality education session
70	Victimisation or Discrimination		£100 TO £500	Equality education session
71	Club charge - making reference to protected characteristic		£100 to £300	Team/club equality education session
72	Violent conduct towards a match official	6 MONTHS TO 5+YEARS	£100 TO £500	Higher tariffs considered
73	Threatening words and/or behaviour towards a match official	3 MONTHS TO 12 MONTHS	£75 TO £300	
74	Club charge - allowing a suspended or unlicensed participant to participate (see also TyneMet provision in automatic sanctions above)		£25 TO £500	
75	Individual charge - participating while suspended or unlicensed	0 TO 6 MATCHES	£0 TO £100	In addition to any other sanction
76	Player poaching (outside local league)	1 TO 3 MONTHS	£50 TO £250	
77	Improper conduct or bringing the game into disrepute	0 TO 1 YEAR	£25 TO £300	
OFFENCES COMMITTED BY A MATCH OFFICIAL (Unless dealt with by BE)				
78	Violent Conduct	6 MTHS TO 5 YRS	£100 TO £500	Removal of licence, potentially higher tariff
79	Threatening words and/or behaviour	3 TO 12 MONTHS	£75 TO £300	Removal of licence, retake course, aggravating factors
80	Abusive language or behaviour	2 TO 8 WEEKS	£30 TO £150	
81	Failure to report misconduct	1 TO 6 WEEKS	£15 TO £100	This is regarded as an aggravated factor
82	Improper conduct or bringing the game into disrepute	2 TO 8 WEEKS	£30 TO £150	Potential for higher tariffs

Tariff for DQ Foul "Discretionary Penalties" :-

Non Violent (Mainly verbal crimes)

<i>For entering the court at an incident but NOT participating</i>	1 Match Ban +£10 + 4 personal disciplinary points
<i>For continued verbal misbehaviour after DQ</i>	1 Match Ban addition
<i>For persistent Dissent /Ref abuse</i>	2 Match Ban + £10 + 4 points
<i>For a Threat to a Ref</i>	3 Match Ban + £10 + 4 Points

In addition to the above there is also Team Disc points value of 4 points per DQ (non-violent)

Violent (All player to player contact is "violent ")

<i>For pushing , or squaring up with contact (" serious handbags ")</i>	2 match ban + £20 + 6 points
<i>For an Intentional Trip (player pushed to floor)</i>	3 match ban + £20 + 6 points
<i>For a swinging elbow (connecting with defender)</i>	3 match ban + £20 + 6 points
<i>For two handed pushing player to floor (third man in)</i>	3 match ban + £20 + 6 points
<i>For Fighting as part of a general melee (normally after an incident)</i>	3 match ban + £20 + 6 points
<i>For a kick (following contact)</i>	4 match Ban + £25 + 6 points
<i>For a punch (following contact)</i>	5 match ban + £25 + 8 points
<i>For entering the court off the Bench and starting a fight</i>	6 Match ban + £30 + 8 points

In addition to the above there is also Team Disc points value of 6 points per DQ (Violent)

TyneMet Basketball Leagues

APPENDIX 2

Guidance Regarding Dissent

The TyneMet Disciplinary Code of Conduct was first adopted in June 2005 and provides the framework within which players, coaches, team-followers and officials should behave towards one another. The purpose of this guidance document is not to restate this framework, but rather to be very clear about what is and is not acceptable with regard to how all officials (floor and table) are treated.

The first guiding principle is that all officials deserve respect and should be treated accordingly.

It must be stated that referees have a duty to communicate effectively with players and coaches. However, this should not interfere with the flow of the game. It should also be remembered that the only people permitted to talk with referees to seek clarification over a particular call are the coach and the court captain. In practice many referees will be more than willing to talk with other individual players with regard to a call they have made, provided it does not interfere with the flow of the game. This is good practice and often avoids players' and coaches' frustration that "the referees won't talk to me". Opportunities during time-outs, between periods of play and during free-throws may often be used to communicate effectively. It is not acceptable to question every single call the referees make. Neither is it acceptable to persistently argue over a call that has been made; once an official has explained a call that should be an end to the matter irrespective of whether a player or coach agrees with the explanation or not.

The former Technical Director of Basketball England – our Governing Body – has been very clear that he thinks that many referees have become too tolerant of dissent that is shown to them during games, including at the most senior level of English basketball, the BBL. There is a useful DISSENT mnemonic:

- D = Disrespect
- I = In your face
- S = Shouting
- S = Screaming
- E = Exhibition
- N = Not acceptable
- T = Technical foul

It is the last letter above that is the most important. Referees have always had the ability to call a technical foul for abuse, but many referees fail to use this 'management tool'. Some referees say that they do not issue technical fouls because it costs people money. This is not always correct and as an argument is counterproductive that can lead to inconsistency in officiating. Everyone who plays in a TyneMet League knows that there is a Disciplinary Code of Conduct and is aware of its penalty sections. The financial penalty associated with technical fouls must not be used as a reason for withholding a deserved technical foul.

Of course, during a game, emotions run high and players and coaches may well become frustrated with themselves and each other. A good referee will learn the difference between frustration and dissent; referees will not tolerate dissent and will penalise it accordingly.

Expectations of the Standards of Behaviour and Actions by all Participants

All Players, Coaches, Officials and Table Officials must cooperate with each other to create a fair competition within the Rules and the Spirit of the game.

This means that everyone must play their OWN part, and not try to perform the role of another i.e.

- Coaches must only direct and encourage their own players.
- Referees must apply the Rules fairly and consistently.
- Players must compete within the Rules - or expect to be penalised; -
- Table Officials must administer the game impartially.

No-one should act disrespectfully to others, either verbally, by gesture or in any written media.

In particular, dissent towards the decisions of Officials will not be tolerated. You should treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself before, during and after fixtures.

Disagreements regarding decisions and interpretations made by Officials must not become arguments

Captains/Coaches can occasionally ask for clarification, but only when the ball is dead and in a respectful manner. This will not become a debate.

All participants should acknowledge good performance and fair play by anyone; learn to accept victory and defeat with humility and dignity; take part without undue emotional displays.

By adhering to the above principles it is expected that everyone will ENJOY the game more.

TyneMet Basketball Leagues

APPENDIX 4

Guidelines and Policy on the Use of Social Media in Relation to Activities held under the Jurisdiction of the League

Scope

The League believes in free speech, however when posting on any (personal or group) social media account (for example Facebook, Twitter) there is a responsibility on all officials, clubs and individual members of the League to act within a certain set of guidelines when referring to activities held under the jurisdiction of that League.

Guidelines

As a general rule users can post content freely on any social media account except when that content could be considered illegal, obscene, defamatory, disparaging, threatening, infringing upon intellectual property rights, invasive of privacy, referencing a protected characteristic or otherwise injurious or objectionable. Honestly held beliefs can be expressed but should always be done in a respectful way.

Examples

- a) "The referees were rubbish and cost us the game." is a personal belief but how it is expressed is NOT considered to be acceptable.
- b) "The referees were not very consistent." is a personal belief expressed without abuse.

Penalties

Where likely breaches of the above guidelines occur (and are brought to the League's attention) then the Disciplinary Committee will judge if such a breach has occurred. If found to be so then the owner of the offending posting will be contacted to request immediate removal of that posting (and as many subsequent re-postings as can be identified). In addition the issue of "Bringing the game into disrepute" will be considered under the appropriate section of the Code of Conduct.

Enforcement

Failure to comply with any requested actions will result in the Disciplinary Committee taking further measures under the "Bringing the game into Disrepute" section.

Extract from Basketball England Social Media Policy

16. Content – 'Think Before You Post'

Messages which are defamatory, libellous or obscene are prohibited at all times. Failure to do so may result in significant personal distress, risk to the reputation of the individual, the sport and/or the club, and may require the intervention and/or investigation by Basketball England, the service providers and possibly the police. Basketball England will not tolerate any posting of messages which bring the reputation of basketball in to disrepute and will handle all such instances in line with disciplinary and compliance policies. To report concerns you should contact the Basketball England Compliance Manager.

Clubs wishing to create a social media account should read the Basketball England Integrity and Safeguarding FAQ section:

www.basketballengland.co.uk/integrity/safeguarding/faqs/

Expectations of the Standards of Behaviour and Actions by all Non-Participants (Spectators and Visitors)

Entrance into playing venues is not a right and is by permission of the Hirer, and so the behaviour of visitors must respect the following standards or else that permission will be removed.

No-one should act disrespectfully to others, either verbally, by gesture or in any written media.

In all sport there is intensity of emotion, but that must remain under self-control.

Disagreements regarding decisions and interpretations made by Officials must not become abusive.

Officials are instructed not to enter dialogue with Spectators, so do not try to communicate with them.

Spectators must never enter the playing surface without permission of an Official.

This is considered to be a totally unacceptable action, and will involve serious consequences, possibly game abandonment and fines for the teams.

All spectators should - acknowledge good performance and fair play by anyone; learn to accept victory and defeat with humility and dignity; observe the game without undue emotional displays.

By adhering to the above principles it is expected that everyone will ENJOY the game even more.

Guidelines for Referees regarding the behaviour of Spectators

BE qualified referees have jurisdiction under the FIBA rules over all participants and team followers (those on the team benches) from 20 minutes before the game until the referee signs the scoresheet. Referees do not have jurisdiction over non-participants (spectators).

If spectators become unacceptably abusive or aggressive then the following procedure should be adopted:-

- a)** Call both coaches together and ask if the offender(s) are known to either of them and if so ask that coach to politely request the offender to modify their behaviour or else they will be asked to leave. If the spectator is not known to either one then ask them BOTH to fulfil this task. A copy of the "Expect document for Non-Participants" (Appendix 5) should be shown to the offender so they clearly know what is expected of them.
- b)** If further unacceptable behaviour occurs then ask the Hirer (normally the home coach) to request the offender to leave the court/building, warning that the game is likely to be abandoned if they do not.
- c)** If the offender does not leave (or is assisted to leave by properly accredited Public Order Officials) then abandon the game and submit a report to the Disciplinary Secretary immediately. This action should be considered as a last resort.
- d)** Evidence/witnesses details should have been recorded/collected so that the offender can be positively identified.

The guidelines set out in Appendix 5 have been given to all clubs so that they are aware of the TyneMet League expectations of persons being admitted to their facilities and their responsibilities in doing so.

Reminders for all game participants about 'tactical fouling' near game-end

The use of so-called 'tactical fouling' near the end of close games is an accepted strategy in the modern game. The initial and on-going training and development of coaches, players and officials recognises this, and the FIBA Rules and Interpretations also recognise this within the spirit and intent of the modern game.

For the purposes of this reminder, *tactical fouling* is defined as the deliberate use of personal foul(s) in order to stop the game clock and to arrive at a situation whereby the opposing team has to shoot free throws, thus giving the fouling team the opportunity to 'get the ball back'. **Referees** must understand this as a legitimate tactic that may be deployed and should act accordingly in order to avoid the escalation of physical contact between players.

All **participants** must recognise that an unsportsmanlike foul is clearly defined and these criteria apply during the whole game. For the purposes of clarity, the July 2023 FIBA Rulebook states the following at 37.1.1:

An unsportsmanlike foul is a player contact foul which, in the judgement of an official is:

- *Not a legitimate attempt to directly play the ball within the spirit and intent of the rules.*
- *Excessive, hard contact caused by a player in an effort to play the ball or an opponent.*
- *An unnecessary contact caused by the defensive player in order to stop the progress of the offensive team in transition. This applies until the offensive player begins his/her act of shooting.*
- *An illegal contact caused by a player from behind or laterally on an opponent, who is progressing towards the opponent's basket and with no opponents between the progressing player and the basket, and*
 - *The progressing player is in control of the ball, or*
 - *The progressing player is attempting to gain control of the ball, or*
 - *The ball has been released on a pass to the progressing player.*

This applies until the offensive player begins his/her act of shooting.

Participants should also be mindful of the definition of, and penalty for, a **throw-in foul** as defined under Article 34 of the Official Basketball Rules.

Thus, **players** must recognise that 'fouling' options such as grabbing an opponent's shirt or shorts, bear-hugging, and hard fouls will ALWAYS result in the fouled player shooting free throws AND the opposition getting the ball back.

Coaches should instruct players accordingly, so that if tactical fouling is to be employed then players must not commit an unsportsmanlike foul in order to get the ball back.

Appeal Procedure Against Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee

- 1) An appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Committee is allowed by the TML Code of Conduct and Constitution for all Discretionary Penalties. An appeal is NOT allowed for AUTOMATIC penalties, as defined in the Code of Conduct.
- 2) The Appeal must be sent to the League Secretary as described in the APPEALS section of the League's Constitution. Communications regarding both the original decision by the Disciplinary Committee and the appeal will normally be carried out by e-mail, the agreed chosen method of communication of the League.
- 3) The primary reason for any Appeal must be cited when making one. The appeal procedure is not designed to debate the decision of the match officials in the awarding of any in-game penalty. It is to examine the methodology of the Disciplinary Committee in applying its decision-making procedures fairly and consistently. Consequently the grounds for an appeal are broadly these:
 - a) Failure to observe the communication procedure outlined in the Code of Conduct.
 - b) Acting outside of their powers as defined in the Code of Conduct and Constitution.
 - c) The fundamental facts contained within the reports used by the Disciplinary Committee to arrive at their decision are seriously flawed. For example, the offender is incorrectly identified. However, as all parties will have been given the chance to comment on the reports, any deficiencies should have already been reported before the time that the Committee considered its decision. Simple repetition/amplification of those facts/opinions will carry little or no weight in an appeal. Similarly non-impartial evidence brought later to an appeal will rarely be considered as admissible.
 - d) New impartial evidence, not available to the Committee when making their decision, has been obtained and contains previously unknown and relevant facts.
 - e) Inconsistency in the gravity of awarded penalties.
- 4) The fee for the appeal is defined in the League's Constitution document in the APPEALS section. This fee will be forfeited if the appeal is not upheld.
- 5) The procedure for organising the appeal meeting is as follows:

An appeal will be either written or in person. Written appeals will apply by default to all discretionary sanctions unless the level of sanctions to be applied would be individual or combination of sanctions amounting to fines in excess of £50, match bans in excess of 10 games, or more than loss of 10 league points, when the appellant party will have the right of a personal appeal if so requested. Once notice of the written appeal is received, the League Secretary will, within 5 days, define the timetable for the receipt of written submissions by all parties, or in the case of a personal hearing define the time and place of the appeal hearing (after consultation with all parties). The written submissions will be circulated to the two members of the League Executive nominated by the League Secretary or Chair and will not

include any member involved in the incident or in making the original Disciplinary Committee decision. The appellant can supply two persons, one of whom would normally be the appellant themselves. The Disciplinary Committee Secretary must also attend (to provide the Committee's evidence).

- 6) Written submissions are to be sent to the League Secretary within 7 days of the notification of the timetable as set out in paragraph 5 above. These submissions should contain all the information that the appellant intends to rely upon in making the appeal. Submissions should be in electronic format, and where necessary include the consent from all individuals as to the circulation of the information provided. This document will be sent to the Appeals Committee and Disciplinary Secretary, and any comments made by the Disciplinary Committee to the appellants submissions will be circulated back to the appellant and the Appeals Committee. The decision of the Appeals Committee will be circulated by the League Secretary to all concerned within 5 days of the decision of the Appeals Committee.
- 7) If a personal hearing is to be convened for the Appeal, the meeting will take the following form:
 - a) Appeal panel chair will introduce the case to all persons involved.
 - b) The appellant will outline the ground for the appeal to the Panel and to the Disciplinary Secretary.
 - c) The Disciplinary Secretary will outline the procedures followed by the Disciplinary Committee and the evidence considered to those noted in b) above.
 - d) The Appellant will expand on details of the appeal to those noted in b) above.
 - e) The Appeals Panel will ask questions of the Appellant and the Disciplinary Secretary.
 - f) The Appeal Panel will engage in consideration of the case in private.
 - g) The Appeal Panel Chair will describe and explain the decision of the Appeal panel, and may provide further recommendations, to those persons noted in b) above.
- 8) An Appeal Panel Secretary will record all the salient points of the appeal and these minutes will be retained.
- 9) The decision will be given verbally at the end of the hearing and will be supported by a written confirmation (by email) as soon as possible after the hearing within 5 calendar days.
- 10) A further appeal is possible to the Area Committee and must be notified to the Area Secretary within 5 calendar days of receipt of either the verbal outcome of the personal hearing or the written outcome of a written hearing. The appeal to the Area will be subject to the same provisions of the League relating to costs and arrangements either in writing or by personal hearing and be considered by 2 members of the Area Committee nominated by the Chair or Area Secretary.
- 11) Basketball England have specified that appeals against local league decisions are available under the terms of their Disciplinary Code. Persons or groups so involved are recommended to review the provisions of the BE Disciplinary Code for information.
- 12) As the original specific penalties awarded by the Disciplinary Committee will have been suspended while the appeal procedure is in force, the Appeal Panel Chair must give clear guidance as to when any remaining penalties will apply from, any fees forfeited etc, so that a clear end to the process is made.

Guidance regarding Safety, Abuse, Discrimination, Safeguarding and Similar Issues

Basketball England has an extensive library of downloadable documents relating to issues as listed above, that surround the played game. Some of the issues may occur within the game as well. The fundamental basis of most of these documents is the **protection of all the participants** in basketball. These downloads can be found at the following website

<https://www.basketballengland.co.uk/integrity/>

In order to maintain consistency of purpose, these National Governing Body documents will be used as the primary guidance in the TyneMet League for the topics named, especially in the absence of any specific guidance listed in the League's documentation.

Personal verbal abuse within our sport is not to be accepted. Phrases like "trash talk" and "sledging" are often used to describe such action. This sort of behaviour is seen in many sports but is particularly unacceptable in such a fast moving team game with a large age range.

In this regard, the basic ethics of Basketball England define that participants must ...

- *Treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or political affiliation*
- *Treat your team-mates and opponents, coaches, club officials and match officials with respect and consideration at all times - treat them as you would like to be treated*
- *Not use foul, sexist or racist language or offensive gestures at any time.*

In order to penalise such personal abuse then match officials must always apply on-court sanctions immediately it is heard. Technical fouls and instant disqualification are sanctions.

All examples of such behaviour must be reported by the match officials to the Disciplinary Committee Secretary who can then investigate the matter and deal with the case accordingly.

Please note that the BE regulations that fall under their "Integrity" section are far reaching and can have serious implications for anyone reported under their guidelines. The TyneMet League is unable to resist action by BE if they so determine that a case should be made. All involved in the sport at local league level are recommended to be aware of the situation.