



NATIONAL ELITE BASKETBALL LEAGUE (NEBL)
By-Laws 2020
Affiliate Member of the Belize Basketball Federation (BBF)

1. Governing Body

- 1.1 The National Elite Basketball League (NEBL) body will nominate a Commissioner who will oversee the league.
- 1.2 A Terms of Reference (TOR) will govern the responsibilities of the Commissioner.
- 1.3 The by-laws below will govern the tournament.
- 1.4 Changes to the by-laws, via voting at meetings, must be done by a quorum of half, plus 1, of its members. Each team has one vote, plus 1 vote is awarded to the Commission of the league, one vote to the Belize Association of Basketball Officials (BABO) body and 1 vote is awarded to the Belize Basketball Federation (BBF) President.

2. Logistics

- 2.1 The registration fee for every team is \$7,000. A team who is unable to meet its financial commitments will be asked to enter the tournament the following year.
- 2.2 All fees paid to the league are non-refundable.
- 2.3 The teams will play a home and away series versus each team, with the top 4 teams advancing to the playoffs. Teams advancing to the playoffs will be seeded 1 through 4, according to final regular season classification.
- 2.4 The semi-finals will be a three-game series and the finals will be a five-game series.

- 2.5 Print on jerseys and shorts shall follow NEBL regulations covering number, team name, player names and sponsor names or logos.
- 2.6 Player surnames must be on all jerseys and warm up shirts.
- 2.7 If a team withdraws from the tournament, all records from games played will be kept. All remaining games on the schedule will be recorded as a win for the opposing team.

3. Registration of Players

- 3.1 All players must sign a contract with their team. Teams must ensure that each player gets a copy of said contract. The NEBL will provide an official template for contracts.
- 3.2 All teams are responsible to keep cash vouchers or some other form of signed documentation when players are being paid. This must include amount paid, date and signature of player. The league can request this information whenever there is a dispute with player and team regarding payment of salary.
- 3.3 A player who signs a contract with multiple teams will be suspended for a season.
- 3.4 Teams must submit their final rosters, along with a copy of all player contracts, signed by all players. Even if a player is not getting paid, a contract must be submitted indicating such non-payment. Contracts must be submitted 3 days prior to a game for the player to be eligible for their first game of the season.
- 3.5 All teams must submit digital pictures of their team members, including the players, coach, assistant coach and team manager, along with their team logo.
- 3.6 Only 15 players can be on the roster for the entire season. Only 12 players will be active for all a game. A total of 18 persons are allowed on the team bench.
- 3.7 Rosters may include no more than one (2) “foreign” players.

4. Salary Cap

- 4.1 There is no salary cap for a player or a team.
- 4.2 Every NEBL player must be paid no less than \$50 per game.
- 4.3 A player can sign either a 1-year or 2-year contract with a team.
- 4.4 Teams who are unable to meet the staggered deadlines for payment of registration fees or team and player fines will be charged 5% late fee. This fee will be calculated on a weekly basis until the team is on par with the payment schedule. Payment must be made by the Wednesday prior to the next home game.
- 4.5 Teams have until the next payment is due to clear their old bill. Failure to do so will result in the team forfeiting their next home game.
- 4.6 All teams must pay all their outstanding registration fees, fines and payments before the end of season managers' meeting. These payments are due no later than 3 work days after the season has concluded.
- 4.7 At the end of the season, any team who has outstanding payments for the league or players, based on the figures in the player contracts, will not be allowed to field a team in the following season, until all arrears are paid to the players. The deadline to make these payments will be June 30.

5. Release of Players

- 5.1 A player can be released from a team if at any time, fail, refuse, or neglect to conform his personal conduct to standards of good citizenship, good moral character (defined here to mean not engaging in acts of moral turpitude, whether or not such acts would constitute a crime), and good sportsmanship, to keep himself in first class physical condition, or to obey the Team's training rules, or to attend weekly practices; A player can also be released if at any time commit a significant and inexcusable physical attack against any official or employee of the Team or the League (other than another player), or any person in attendance at any game or event, considering the totality of the circumstances, including (but not limited to) the degree of provocation (if any) that may have led to the attack, the nature and scope of the attack, the Player's state of mind at the time of the attack, and the extent of any injury resulting from the attack.

- 5.2 Once a contract is signed, if the player gets injured before or during the season, the team is obligated to meet all contractual agreements and still pay the player.
- 5.3 If a team and a player mutually agrees to part ways, both parties are released from all contractual obligations and the player can sign a contract with another team.
- 5.4 If the team decides to keep the rights of that player, then the player must be paid for all games based on the contract signed, even if the player does not play.
- 5.5 If a team and player cannot mutually agree to part ways, then the situation will be referred to an arbitrator who will decide the amount of money to be paid to the player for the breach in contract.

6. Playing Rules/Bye Laws

- 6.1 All games will be played using the **FIBA rules released in October 1, 2018.**
- 6.2 All players are required to wear the same color socks for a game.
- 6.3 Players are allowed to wear sleeves and leggings. Sleeves and leggings must be the same color of the dominant uniform color.
- 6.4 Teams are required to be in their changing rooms at least 45 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- 6.5 Teams will start warm ups no later than 20 minutes before tip-off time.
- 6.6 All coaches and assistant coaches must wear long pants, enclosed shoes and a button down shirt.
- 6.7 No player coach is allowed. A member must choose to either be a player or a coach for a given team.
- 6.8 Coaches are not allowed to wear hats during the games.
- 6.9 All players must have on their warm-up shirts and a tennis when entering the arena.
- 6.10 If video is available, it can be used during the game by the referees, as stipulated by FIBA rules.

7. Home Games

- 7.1** The defending champions will host opening night versus the #5 seeded team from the previous season.
- 7.2** Preparations for home games are the sole responsibility of the home team. Home teams are required to ensure that the following are in place for their home games.
- 7.2.1** Open venue and changing rooms one hour before tip-off time.
- 7.2.2** Ensure that there is a changing room for each team.
- 7.2.3** Ensure that at least 4 police officers are present at the game, at least 30 minutes prior to tip-off and at least up 30 minutes after the game.
- 7.2.4** For a playoff game, home teams must have at least 8 police officers present at the game.
- 7.2.5** Ensure that there is a functional electronic scoreboard.
- 7.2.6** Ensure that the shot clocks are mounted above the rims.
- 7.2.7** Ensure that 2 basketball nets are attached one hour before the start of the game.
- 7.2.8** Ensure that there is a bench for both teams, with 15 seats.
- 7.2.9** Ensure that there is a public announcer for the introduction of players for both teams.
- 7.2.10** Ensure that a sound system is available for the games.
- 7.2.11** No glass bottles/pints are to be sold during the games. Alcoholic beverages must be sold in plastic cups.
- 7.2.12** Ensure that a medical personnel is at the venue and that a stretcher is available at the venue.
- 7.3** Games will not be played without the presence of security officers. Any unreasonable delay in ensuring the presence of security officers will result in the cancellation of the game.
- 7.4** Any game cancelled as in by-law 6.1.3 will result in a fine for the home team. This fine will be the total of reasonable expenses incurred by the away team, plus the expenses incurred by the league in providing game officials.
- 7.5** Visiting teams should be provided with 25 complimentary passes, which includes passes for players, coaches and team followers.
- 7.6** The NEBL office provides complimentary passes for every game, which are given to corporate sponsors and TNC for promotional prizes.

- 7.7** Each referee enters the game free and should be provided with one complimentary pass when they are working. When they are not working, only the referee enters free.
- 7.8** All players receiving a season award should be given a free pass to enter the game where the award ceremonies will take place.
- 7.9** Visiting teams are responsible for the locker rooms that they are using. Any damage to the room, or its contents, will be the sole responsibility of the team. Payments for any damage to a locker room or the facility must be paid prior to the team's next game.
- 7.10** Teams are not allowed to use the microphone for more than 15 seconds to start a chant. Teams cannot use the sound system to distract the opposing players when they are shooting a free throw or playing offense. The sound system can be used to chant "Defense", and there is no time limit on this.
- 7.11** Every team needs to identify a Venue Manager for all their home games. Below are the responsibilities of the Venue Manager.
- i. The venue manager is required to be at the venue when it opens.
 - ii. The venue manager will be responsible to sit at the scorer's table 30 minutes before tip-off and during the entire game to render assistance to the table officials, referees, commissioner or police when required.
 - iii. Ensure that the medical personnel for the game is seated behind the scorer's table.
 - iv. Ensure that a stretcher is available for the game.
 - v. Provide the 25 passes for the visiting team.
 - vi. Ensure that the locker room is accessible for the visiting team.
 - vii. Escort visiting team to locker room.
 - viii. Ensure that there is a changing room for the referees.
 - ix. Escort referees to changing room.
 - x. Ensure that the score board and shot clocks are working and turned on 30 minutes before tip-off time.
 - xi. Ensure that an outlet with a power strip is available by the scorer's table for the laptop, shot clock and scoreboard.
 - xii. Ensure that the opening ceremonies commence 20 minutes before tip-off time.
 - xiii. Ensure that someone is present to mop the floor.
 - xiv. Ensure that the Public Announcer and DJ abides by all the regulations in the by-laws. If not, it is the venue manager's responsibility to remind them of the rules, via a warning. On the second infraction the home team will

need to out the sound system. On the third infraction the police will escort the DJ or/and Public Announcer out of the arena.

- xv. Liaise with police officers to deploy officers where the Security Protocol stipulates.
 - i. If a fan is being unruly, the referee will stop the game and inform the venue manager. The venue manager will inform the police to warn the fan of his or her behaviour.
 - ii. If the fan continues with his or her unruly behaviour, the referee will stop the game and ask the venue manager to have the police escort the fan out of the arena.

7.12 If a game cannot be played due to the venue not being available, the following criteria will be used for the rescheduled game. A team must inform the league by Monday if the venue is not available for their upcoming home game.

- a) If the game is scheduled on a Friday, it will be played Saturday at 9 p.m. If Saturday is unavailable, the game will be played Sunday afternoon/evening, and the 2 teams will agree on the time for the game. If an agreement cannot be met then the game in Punta Gorda or San Pedro will be played at 1 p.m. and it will be played at 5 p.m. at all other venues.
- b) If the game is scheduled on a Saturday, the game will be played Sunday afternoon/evening, and the 2 teams will agree on the time for the game. If an agreement cannot be met then the game in Punta Gorda or San Pedro will be played at 1 p.m. and it will be played at 5 p.m. at all other venues.
- c) If Saturday and Sunday are unavailable for the rescheduling of the game, the game will be played the Thursday night of the same week at 9 p.m.
- d) If the venue is unavailable for the entire weekend, including Thursday night, the home team will play the game at the visitor's venue and the home team will receive all gate revenues.
- e) The two teams can also agree to switch home games to avoid venue conflicts.
- f) If both teams are unable to agree on a playing date and time, then the commissioner's office will decide on the rescheduled date, time and venue for the game.
- g) For playoff games, the home team decides on the playing date, with options ranging from Thursday – Sunday.

8. All Star Night

- 8.1 All Star Night will be hosted after the first round games have been completed.
- 8.2 All teams will have a vote for all the positions. Teams can vote for their own players, to encourage the voting from all teams.
- 8.3 Any player or coach who does not show up to play in the All-Star game will be suspended their first game following the All-Star Break. If a player got injured in the game prior to the All-Star Break, he will be exempted from this rule. The player will still be expected to be present for the All-Star game.

9. Conduct of Team Personnel

- 9.1 Players, coaches, team owners or managers are not allowed to articulate any negative comments geared toward the referees, statisticians, commissioner, opponents or the league during any post-game interviews on radio or television appearances.
- 9.2 Players, coaches, owners or managers are not allowed to post or make any negative comments geared toward the referees, statisticians, commissioner, opponents or the league on Facebook or any other social media.
- 9.3 Players will be fined or suspended, depending of the severity of the comments or posts.
- 9.4 No player, manager or coach is allowed to send an e-mail to the NEBL media list, or to the managers' mailing list, to voice their dissatisfaction with an occurrence, before submitting their concerns to their team manager, who will then forward the concern to the commissioner, via e-mail. Failure to comply will result in a fine or suspension.
- 9.5 No e-mails sent to team managers with confidential information can be posted on Facebook or other social media.
- 9.6 Players are not allowed to drink any alcoholic beverage in their team uniform.

10.Fines/Sanctions

- 10.1** A player or coach shall be fined \$50 after his first charged disqualifying foul. For the next disqualifying foul charged to that player or coach, he shall be suspended for one game. The player's salary for a home game will then be paid to the league, which will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of the season.
- 10.2** All subsequent disqualifying fouls will result in the player serving a one-game suspension, which will be carried over into the playoffs.
- 10.3** A player suspended for one game outlined in 9.2 above, shall miss his next scheduled game. If his next scheduled game is postponed, his suspension will be served in the next game his team plays.
- 10.4** When a player is suspended, his salary will be paid to the league, and the money will be given to a charitable organization at the end of the season.
- 10.5** All misconduct, not covered by 9.1 to 9.3, by any team member/agent, including management, must be reported to the commissioner. The commissioner's office will review all reports of misconduct and may decide sanctions to be enforced immediately.
- 10.6** Game misconduct must be reported by the referee by way of a game report form. Decisions by the commissioner's office for game misconduct will be dispatched to all team representatives by 10 p.m. on Tuesday. The referee's reports for games are due no later than the first Monday following the game.
- 10.7** Non-game misconduct may be reported by any team member/agent or league member/agent. Decisions by the commissioner's office for other non-game misconduct will be dispatched to all team representatives by 10 p.m. on Tuesday.
- 10.8** The named offender(s) has the right to appeal the decision of the commissioner's office. This appeal will be heard by the appeals committee. The decision of the appeals committee is final.
- 10.9** Every player or team who is fined MUST pay their fine 24 hours BEFORE the start of their next game, or that player or team will not be allowed to play the game. All fines will be paid to the commissioner's office or deposited in the league's bank account. The deposit slip should then be e-mailed to the commissioner's office and all the managers, as proof of deposit.

- 10.10** No cash payment will be allowed at the venue.
- 10.11** Any player who does not have his uniform will not be allowed to play.
- 10.12** Any team that forfeits a game will be fined \$250. This fine will also include the total of reasonable expenses incurred by the opposing team, plus the expenses incurred by the league in providing game officials.

11. Disciplinary Procedures

- 11.1** The NEBL Disciplinary Guidelines (Appendix E) will govern this tournament.
- 11.2** The commissioner's office will address reports of misconduct.
- 11.3** All reports submitted to the commissioner's office will entail:
- 11.3.1 A written report by the referee for game related misconduct
- 11.3.2 And/or a written report by a league or team member for other misconduct
- 11.4** Decisions made by the commissioner's office will be dispatched to all team representatives by 10 p.m. on Tuesday of every week, where sanctions are to take effect immediately.
- 11.5** If the person sanctioned is dissatisfied with the ruling of the commissioner's office, he may submit an appeal, using the guidelines below.

12. Protest Procedures

- 12.1** A team may protest a game if it believes its interest was adversely affected by a decision of an official [Referee or Umpire(s)] or by an event that took place during the game.
- 12.2** The captain (CAP) of that team shall, immediately at the end of the game, inform the referee that his team is protesting against the result of the game and sign the score sheet in the space marked 'Captain's signature in case of protest'.

- 12.3** To validate the protest, the official team representative must confirm the protest in writing to the commissioner of the league within 24 hours following the end of the game. This written confirmation to the league must be accompanied by \$300 security deposit.
- 12.4** The referee shall, within one hour of the end of the game report the incident which leads to the protest to the league.
- 12.5** The commissioner's office, upon receipt of the written protest and deposit, shall review the circumstances surrounding the protest, and make a ruling.
- 12.6** If the protest is accepted, \$200 from the security deposit shall be refunded.
- 12.7** If video is available, it can be used to resolve a protest that is filed by a team, to determine if a shot was released on time.
- 12.8** If the appellant or team is dissatisfied with the ruling of the commissioner, they may submit an appeal, using the guidelines below.

13. Appeal Procedures –Disciplinary Sanctions & Game Protests

- 13.1** A three-member committee will be formed to address:
- 13.1.1 - game protests ruling by commissioner.
- 13.1.2 - disciplinary sanctions handed down by the commissioner.
- ~~**13.2**~~ Decisions of this committee are final, and the appellant has no further recourse.
- 13.3** Appeals of the commissioner's decisions shall be submitted in writing to the commissioner and appeals committee within 24 hours of receipt of the sanction.
- 13.4** Appeals of the commissioner's decisions will be heard by the appeals committee at their next scheduled session.
- 13.5** The appellant has the option to physically attend this session, or they can sit in on an online session.
- 13.6** All appeals must be accompanied by a \$500 fee. If the appellant is successful, the player/team will be reimbursed \$400.

13.7 If the appeals committee is unable to meet on the specified date, any sanction of named offenders shall stand until the committee can meet, before the next game.

13.8 If video is available, it can also be used by the appeals committee.

14. Penalties

14.1 All fines are detailed on the List of Fines sheet (Appendix C)

Appendix A

Terms of Reference for Commissioner of the National Elite Basketball League

Appendix B

FIBA Official Basketball Rules 2018 & FIBA Basketball Rules 2018

Appendix C

List of Fines

Appendix D

Important Dates

Appendix E

NEBL Disciplinary Guidelines

Appendix F

Player Contract

Appendix G

Team Roster Template

Appendix H

Game Schedule

Appendix I

Player Release Form

Appendix J

Referee Protocol