

# MALTA BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION



Amended and Approved on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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## General Rules

## 01 Title and Scope of these Rules

A The title of these rules is the Malta Basketball Association (MBA) General Rules.B  
The Scope of these rules is to regulate the General Rules regarding the Competitions organised by the Malta Basketball Association.

C These Rules should be read in conjunction with the Statute of the MBA, the Registration and Licensing Policy and the Competition Rules.

### DEFINITIONS:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Associations</b>                                     | Associations and/or Organized Bodies who organize basketball outside the MBA framework.  |
| <b>Clubs</b>  | Constituted Bodies and teams not connected with any political Party and/or organization and properly affiliated with the MBA   |
| <b>Administrators<br/>Officials</b>                     | The following are considered as club administrators and/or club officials:<br>Club President – Deputy President - Vice President – Secretary – Treasurer – Club Delegate – Substitute Delegate - Committee member. |
| <b>Coaches<br/>Assistant Coaches</b>                    | Technical persons. Qualified or not.   |
| <i>Fédération Internationale de Basketball</i>          | The International Governing body of World Basketball, also referred to as FIBA.  |
| <b>Malta Basketball Association</b>                     | The Governing body of Maltese Basketball, also referred to as the MBA.   |
| <b>National Leagues &amp; Cup Competitions</b>          | Competitions organized by the MBA for those Clubs lawfully affiliated with the MBA.  |
| <b>Team Followers<br/>Statisticians<br/>Scouts etc.</b> | All other persons authorized to sit on the bench during a game.  |
| <b>Medical<br/>Para Medical</b>                         | Qualified Medical or Para Medical individuals.   |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Players</b> | Male and female individuals who play the game of basketball as per the rules and regulations established by FIBA and the MBA. |
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## 02 CLUBS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE

A Participation in the national leagues and competitions is open to those clubs affiliated to the Malta Basketball Association and whose application for participation has been accepted by the President's Council.

B ONLY those clubs that participate in any one of the Competitions of the Youth categories i.e. Junior men/women or Cadets/Cadettes may participate in the senior's first division national league men/women.

Provided that, the junior team must be the same gender as the team participating in the national league.

Provided that when a club has no junior team or nursery, the club will only be allowed to participate for two (2) consecutive seasons, which time period commences from the first season where no Junior team participates in the National League or Cup Competitions.

Provided, further, that such club will be in a position to regularize their position within these two (2) seasons, or such number of seasons so agreed during the Annual General Meeting.

## 03 PLAYERS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE

Players eligible to participate shall be those registered with the Malta Basketball Association as per the REGISTRATION AND LICENCING POLICY.

## 04 PENALTIES AND FINES FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

A Clubs making use of a player/s who is/are ineligible to play are liable to:

(i) SENIORS:

- a) A fine of €500 for each ineligible player and/or
- b) Deduction of all points gained when player was utilized and/or
- c) Suspension of the ineligible player/s who played for a period of six (6) months.

(ii) ANY OTHER CATEGORY:

- a) A fine of €150 for each ineligible player and/or
- b) Deduction of all points gained when player was utilized and/or
- c) Suspension of the ineligible player/s who played for a period of thirty (30) days.

In any case a protest must be made in writing to the Protests Board by any club participating in the same competition.

B If any member of the MBA Council becomes aware of an infraction of the rule listed in Section 5 of these Rules, he is duly bound to report the issue to the Protests Board.

C Straightforward cases of ineligibility of player/s will be dealt with by the Secretary General.

Provided however that the Club / Player in question may request an appeal from the decision of the Secretary General. Said Appeal shall be heard by the Appeals Board as duly constituted and functioning under Chapter X of the Malta Basketball Association's Statute.

D In cases of ineligibility of player, the player involved may be called to appear before the competent body.

## 05 FIBA RULES

A The latest edition of the FIBA Official Basketball Rules (2017) shall apply to all the national leagues and competitions organized by the Malta Basketball Association.

## 06 AWARDS OF POINTS

Two (2) points will be awarded to the team winning the game and one (1) point to the team losing a game. No points (0) will be awarded to a team conceding a walkover. The result of a walkover will be 20 – 0.

## 07 COMPETITIONS SECRETARY

A The President's Council shall appoint a competitions secretary to consider and decide:

- (i) Request for postponement.
- (ii) Walk-overs
- (iii) Matters arising out of the organization of any competition not specifically covered in these rules.

## 08 PROTESTS

A Unless otherwise stated protests from clubs arising from National League and Cup Competitions shall be dealt with by the PROTESTS BOARD appointed by the Competitions Secretary.

B If a club wishes to protest against the result of a match, the captain must sign the official score sheet – "Under Protest" at the end of the game, briefly indicating grounds. This must be followed by:

- (i) A formal written protest on an official club's letterhead signed by an official of the club
- (ii) For National League and Cup Competitions in the SENIOR CATEGORIES – A deposit of €100

(iii) ANY OTHER CATEGORY – A deposit of €50

C) As stipulated in the Statute, so approved by the AGM.

D) If the protest is not upheld, the deposit will be forfeited. The protest board reserves the right to charge 50% of the deposit for administrative expenses.

E) If following the act of signing of the Official Score Sheet this is not followed up in writing (as per clause B(i) of these rules, a fine of €25 will be imposed on the club. Provided that the written protest must be based on the grounds indicated by the captain on the score sheet.

F) In cases referring to ineligibility of players, the score sheet needs not to be signed.

## 09 POSTPONEMENT OF A GAME

A Games shall start at the time appointed on the fixture list. When the start of a game is delayed by not less than forty-five (45) minutes its postponement may be requested by either of the two teams.

B Only those players who were eligible to play on the date of the first date will be eligible to play in a postponed fixture.

C A postponed fixture shall be played before the next competitive game whenever is possible. The new date and time will be decided by the Secretary General.

D Requests for a postponement made in writing to the MBA and specifying the reason shall be considered only in cases of **"FORCE MAJEURE"**. Such requests shall be accompanied by a fee of €50 and received at least 30 clear days before the fixture's date.

E Requests for postponements will not be accepted if the club concerned has six players or more who can actually play at the scheduled day and time of the match.

## 10 WALK-OVERS

A Fifteen (15) minutes grace period, which will be controlled by one of the match referees, will be conceded for the start of every game. If one (1) team arrives after the lapse of this grace period the other team shall have the right to a walkover, which shall be confirmed in writing by the Secretary General.

B If five (5) players from each of the two teams are present such grace period shall not be conceded. When a team arrives within the fifteen minutes grace period a fine of €25 will be imposed and the game shall start with a technical foul against that team.

C A fine of €250 in case of senior categories and a fine of €100 in all other categories will be imposed on the club conceding a walkover. Expenses not exceeding €50 may also be claimed by the team, which honoured the fixture; Provided that such a claim is supported by a fiscal receipt. Such claim, however, will not be valid when the team, which is unable to honour the fixture, informs the

Secretary General of the **MBA** and the **opposing club**, in writing and stating the reasons why it is not honouring said fixture, at least 48 hours before the start of the scheduled time.

D In any case a walkover shall be confirmed by the Secretary General of the MBA. The Secretary General can make recommendations as he / she may deem fit to the President's Council for disciplinary action to be taken against that team which fails to honour any fixture.

E A team which concedes its third walk-over, not necessarily consecutive, shall, besides the fines contemplated above immediately forfeit its eligibility to continue participating in the league/competition/tournament in which it will be participating at the time it concedes its third walk-over.

If such forfeiture to participate shall be applicable to any league/competition which, in terms of Section 3B is mandatory for eligibility of the same club in the seniors national league men/women then the club shall, as a consequence, and unless it has otherwise satisfied the provision of Section 3B, also forfeit its eligibility to participate in the seniors national league men/women.

F Games played in all the categories men/women by the team forfeiting its eligibility will be considered as never been played.

## 11 CHOICE OF BASKETS AND BENCHES

For all games the first named team on the OFFICIAL FIXTURE LIST (home team) shall sit on the left hand side of the officials table.

## 12 OFFICIAL TEAM LIST

The official team list, which shall include all details is to be presented (15) minutes before the scheduled time of the game. A fine of €5 will be imposed to the defaulting club/s. A fine of €1 will be meted out to clubs who omit the ID Card number of their players on the team list. This applies to all competitions/categories organized by the MBA.

## 13 TEAM COLOURS AND UNIFORMS

### **The uniform of all team members shall consist of:**

- Shirts of the same dominant colour front and back as the shorts. If shirts have sleeves they must end above the elbow. Long sleeved shirts are not permitted.  
All players must tuck their shirts into their playing shorts. 'All-in-ones' are permitted.
- Shorts of the same dominant colour front and back as the shirts. The shorts must end above the knee.
- Socks of the same dominant colour for all team members. Socks need to be visible.

**Each team member shall wear a shirt numbered on the front and back with plain numbers, of a colour contrasting with the colour of the shirt.**

The numbers shall be clearly visible and:

- Those on the back shall be at least 16 cm high.
- Those on the front shall be at least 8 cm high.
- The numbers shall be at least 2 cm wide.
- Teams may only use numbers 0 and 00 and from 1 to 99.
- Players on the same team shall not wear the same number.
- Any advertising or logo shall be at least 4 cm away from the numbers.

**Teams must have a minimum of 2 sets of shirts and:**

- The first team named in the schedule (home team) shall wear light-coloured shirts (preferably white).
- The second team named in the schedule (visiting team) shall wear dark-coloured shirts.
- However, if the 2 teams agree, they may interchange the colours of the shirts.

**Other equipment**

All equipment used by players must be appropriate for the game. Any equipment that is designed to increase a player's height or reach or in any other way give an unfair advantage is not permitted.

Players shall not wear equipment (objects) that may cause injury to other players.

- The following are not permitted:
  - Finger, hand, wrist, elbow or forearm guards, helmets, casts or braces made of leather, plastic, pliable (soft) plastic, metal or any other hard substance, even if covered with soft padding.
  - Objects that could cut or cause abrasions (fingernails must be closely cut).
  - Hair accessories and jewellery.
- The following are permitted:
  - Shoulder, upper arm, thigh or lower leg protective equipment if sufficiently padded.
  - Arm and leg garments, including undershirts and undershorts, made of compression material.
  - Headgear. It shall not cover any part of the face entirely or partially (eyes, nose, lips etc.) and shall not be dangerous to the player wearing it and/or to other players. The headgear shall not have opening/closing elements around the face and/or neck and shall not have any parts extruding from its surface.
  - Knee braces.
  - Protector for an injured nose, even if made of a hard material.
  - Non-coloured transparent mouth guard.

- Spectacles, if they do not pose a danger to other players.
- Wristbands and headbands, maximum of 10 cm wide textile material.
- Taping of arms, shoulders, legs etc.
- Ankle braces.

All players on the team must have all their arm and leg compression garments, including undershirts and undershorts, headgear, wristbands, headbands and tapings of the same solid colour.

During the game a player may wear shoes of any colour combination. No flashing lights, reflective material or other adornments are permitted.

During the game a player may not display any commercial, promotional or charitable name, mark, logo or other identification including, but not limited to, on his/her body, in his/her hair or otherwise.

Any other equipment not specifically mentioned in this article must be approved by the MBA Technical Commission

## 14 OFFICIALS ON TEAM BENCH

A Licenced coach, assistant coach, team follower and medical/para medical officer will be allowed to sit on the bench during any game. The officials sitting on the team's bench shall be licensed. This does not apply to medical/para medical officer.

B The referee may, where conditions warrant it:

- (i) Reduce the number of team followers/officials that can sit on the bench
- (ii) Permit any team follower/official to sit as a representative of his team at or near the scorer's table.

C Disqualified coaches must go and remain in the team's dressing room for the rest of the game or shall leave the premises.

## 15 BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The Malta Basketball Association will at the end of the season present the best player of the year award in all categories except for mini basket.

## 16 TROPHIES TO BE AWARDED AND OTHERS

A The eventual winners of all National Leagues and Competitions will be presented with a trophy and a miniature.



B Clubs will be responsible for the custody and upkeep of all trophies in their possession. The clubs are to return the Trophies won before the start of the new Season.

## 17 STOPPED GAME FOR TECHNICAL REASONS

If a game is stopped for technical reasons during the first half it will be replayed in "TOTO " but if the abandonment occurs during the second half, the game will be continued at a later date with the remaining time with the score at the time of the abandonment.

## 18 PARTICIPATION IN MBA NATIONAL LEAGUES AND CUP COMPETITIONS

Clubs are to send the participation form – mba 03 by not later than the 8<sup>th</sup> August of each year.

## 19 LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Clubs are to send the list of committee members form – mba 02 by not later than the 8<sup>th</sup> August of each year.

## 20 MBA NATIONAL LEAGUES AND CUP COMPETITIONS

| Men                          | Women           | Div. One        |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Seniors Competitions:</b> |                 |                 |
| National League              | National League | National League |
| MBA Shield                   | MBA Shield      | MBA Shield      |
| KO                           | KO              | KO              |
| Super Cup                    | Super Cup       |                 |
| Louis Borg Cup               | Louis Borg Cup  |                 |
| Under 23 Under 23            |                 |                 |
| Young Men                    | Young Women     |                 |
| (Under 19)                   | (Under 19)      |                 |
| <b>Juniors Competitions:</b> |                 |                 |
| Junior Men                   | Junior Women    |                 |
| (Under 16)                   |                 |                 |
| Cadets                       | Cadettes        |                 |
| (Under 14)                   |                 |                 |
| <b>Minibasket</b>            |                 |                 |
| Under 12                     | Under 12        |                 |
| Under 10                     | Under 10        |                 |
| Under 8 (mixed)              |                 |                 |

## 21 DISBANDED TEAMS / CLUBS

When a team/club is disbanded the following procedure must be followed in cases where said disbanded team/s/club/s owes money to the MBA and or other club/s and or player/s and or coaches:

- (i) All players will be declared as MBA Players.
- (ii) Before a player can register and play for a new club, the new club must pay the established fee to the MBA as per Registration and Licence Policy.
- (iii) The money raised from the sale of players will be distributed as follows:
  - i. MBA
  - ii. Clubs/teams
  - iii. Players
  - iv. Coaches
  - v. If the disbandment is of the club the remaining funds will be kept by the Association for future possible club from the same locality
  - vi. Clubs/Teams disbanded after the issue of the fixtures will be fined €1000 in case of senior team and €500 for any other category/league

## 22 COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

The MBA will issue 4 Complimentary tickets every season.

## 23 PARTICIPATION FEES

|              | Men  | Women |
|--------------|------|-------|
| Division One | €450 | €450  |
| Division Two | €350 |       |
| U23          | €220 | €220  |
| U16/U19      | €150 | €150  |
| U14          | €100 | €100  |
| Minibasket   | Free |       |

## 24 PROTEST BOARD - APPEALS BOARD DEPOSIT FEES

A deposit of €100 must be made to the MBA when a club is lodging an appeal or protest for a National League or Cup Competition for Seniors and a deposit of €50 must be made to the MBA for other categories.

Provided that where such a deposit is made via cheque and it later transpires that such a cheque is not redeemable than that Club which availed itself of such a payment shall be liable to a sanction of up to Five (5) times the initial amount (i.e. €100 or €50, depending on which category) as well as other disciplinary measures including suspensions, loss of points or banning from competitions.

Provided further that if a Club which is lodging a Protest or filing an Appeal application is not up to date with its payments to the MBA then it loses its right to lodge a Protest or File an Appeal.

## 25 OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE – CONTACT INFORMATION

MALTA BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION  
BASKETBALL COMPLEX  
TA' QALI – ATD 4000

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