



National Elite Basketball League (NEBL)

League Terms & Bylaws – 2026 Edition



League Terms

League Covers

- Transportation for league games
- Venue Cost
- In-Game Entertainment
- Police for games
- Medics for games
- Marketing of games
- Cash Prizes:
 - BZD \$70,000 for first place
 - BZD \$30,000 for second place

Team Covers

- All cost associated with players
- Registration fee of \$7,500
- \$500 will be earmarked for team fines. If the team did not have to pay any team fines, this money will be reimbursed to the team at the end of the season.

Player Restrictions

- Maximum of 3 non-resident players per team

League Structure

- Each team will play a round robin, consisting of home and away games.
- Teams get 100% of their gate, bar and merchandise revenues.
- Projected Start Date: February 20, 2026

National Elite Basketball League (NEBL)

Official Document Set – 2026 Edition

Adopted by: NEBL Governing Body

Prepared by: NEBL Commissioner's Office, Belize

National Elite Basketball League (NEBL) Bylaws – 2026 Edition

This document outlines the governing framework, competition rules, and operational procedures for the National Elite Basketball League (NEBL) in Belize.

1. Governing Body

1.1 The National Elite Basketball League (NEBL) shall appoint a Commissioner who will oversee the league.

1.2 A Terms of Reference (TOR) document shall govern the responsibilities of the Commissioner.

1.3 These bylaws shall govern all league operations, tournaments, and administrative activities.

2. Logistics

2.1 The registration fee for every team shall be seven thousand Belize Dollars (BZ \$7,500) per season.

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 four (4) teams advancing to the playoffs. Teams advancing to the playoffs will be seeded one (1) through four (4), according to final regular season standings.

2.4 The semi-finals will be a three-game series, and the finals will be a five-game series.

3. Registration of Players

3.1 All players must sign a contract with their team using the official NEBL contract template. Each player must receive a signed copy.

3.2 Teams must retain proof of all payments to players through vouchers, online deposit slips or signed documentation. The league may request these records in the event of a dispute.

3.3 A player is not allowed to sign a contract with two different teams.

3.4 Teams are required to submit contracts to the league office immediately after they are signed. Submission must be made via e-mail. The commissioner's office will provide an updated list for all teams, of all players that have signed a contract.

3.5 The first contract submitted to the league office is the official contract.

3.6 If a player signs two contracts, the contract that is valid is the first contract submitted to the league office. If the player opts to not play with the team that submitted the first contract, the player will be suspended for one (1) season; unless the team that submitted the first contract agrees to declare that contract null and void.

3.7 If a team submits a second contract for a player who already has a contract in the league's file, both the player and the team that submitted the second contract will each pay a \$500 fine.

3.8 Teams must submit player contract and jersey number, by 1 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to their scheduled game, for a player to be eligible to play.

3.9 Each team roster may include 15 players. Teams need to indicate which 12 players will be active and eligible for the game.

3.10 Each team roster must include no more than three (3) non-resident players. A non-resident player is defined as an individual who is not a permanent resident of Belize. Non-resident players include Belizeans who live abroad and non-Belizeans who live in Belize, who do not have Belizean Residency status.

3.11 The NEBL shall provide player injury insurance coverage for all registered players. Coverage shall include injuries sustained during official practices, games, or authorized travel.

4. Salary Cap & Payments

4.1 Managers have agreed to the salary cap below.

4.2 The league does not have the capacity to monitor the salary cap.

5. Appeals & Discipline

5.1 The Commissioner's Office shall review all reports of misconduct and may impose fines, suspensions, or other sanctions.

5.2 The Commissioner's Office shall review all game protests and decide on the outcome of the protest.

5.3 Decisions made by the commissioner's office will be dispatched to all team representatives by 10 p.m. on Monday of every week, where sanctions are to take effect immediately.

5.4 If the appellant or team is dissatisfied with the ruling of the commissioner, they may submit an appeal. Appeal of the commissioner's decision shall be submitted in writing to the commissioner by 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

5.5 A five-member appeals committee will be formed to address:

- game protests ruling by commissioner.
- disciplinary sanctions handed down by the commissioner.

5.6 At least 3 of the 5 members of the Appeals Committee shall convene within one (1) day of receiving a written appeal. The appeal fee shall be BZ\$500, with BZ\$400 refunded if the appeal is successful. The appeal committee will make their ruling by 5 p.m. on Thursday.

5.7 For the Appeal hearing, both teams will be provided with an opportunity to state their position.

5.8 Decisions of this committee are final, and the appellant has no further recourse.

5.9 All sanctions remain in effect until the Appeals Committee issues its final ruling.

6. Playing Rules

6.1 All games will be played using the FIBA rules released on October 1, 2024. These rules will govern the tournament and will be used as the final document, in the event that are inconsistencies in the bylaws.

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 of the same 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 warmups no later than 20 minutes before tip-off time.

6.6 No player-coach is allowed. A member must choose to either be a player or a coach for a given team.

6.7 If video is available, it can be used during the game by the referees.

Appendix A — Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Commissioner

Position Title: Commissioner, National Elite Basketball League (NEBL)

1. Purpose

To oversee the strategic, operational, and disciplinary management of the NEBL, ensuring the league operates in accordance with its bylaws, ethical standards, and Belizean sporting regulations.

2. Key Responsibilities

- Administer and enforce the NEBL Bylaws and all official regulations.
- Oversee league scheduling, officiating, and competitive integrity.
- Approve team registrations, player contracts, and rosters.
- Manage financial compliance (registration fees, fines, sponsorships).
- Serve as the final authority for interpreting league rules.
- Oversee disciplinary procedures and game protests and coordinate with the Appeals Committee.
- Liaise with the Belize Basketball Federation (BBF) and ensure compliance with national regulations.
- Ensure health, safety, and insurance compliance for players.
- Represent the NEBL in media, partnerships, and sponsorship negotiations.
- Submit an annual operational and financial report to the Governing Body.

Appendix B — Disciplinary Guidelines

1. Purpose

To establish a fair, transparent, and consistent disciplinary system governing the conduct of players, coaches, officials, and team management.

2. Disciplinary Authority

The Commissioner's Office has primary disciplinary authority. The Appeals Committee serves as the secondary and final review body.

3. Types of Misconduct

- Game Misconduct: Unsportsmanlike behavior, fighting, or abuse of officials.
- Non-Game Misconduct: Off-court behavior that damages the reputation or integrity of the NEBL.
- Administrative Misconduct: Failure to submit fees, rosters, or required documents on time.
- Ethical Violations: Bribery, match-fixing, betting on league games, or conflict of interest.

4. Sanctions

- Verbal or Written Warning
- Fine (BZ\$50 – BZ\$500)
- Game Suspension (1–5 games)
- Season Suspension or Expulsion (for severe misconduct)
- Forfeiture of salary during suspension

5. Procedure

1. Incident reported to Commissioner in writing.
2. Commissioner investigates and issues a preliminary ruling.
3. Notification sent to the affected party and team representative.
4. Appeal may be filed within 24 hours with a BZ\$500 fee.
5. Appeals Committee convenes within one [1] day and issues final decision.

6. Reporting & Transparency

All disciplinary rulings will be communicated in writing to team managers and recorded in the official NEBL log.

Appendix C — Social Media & Conduct Policy

1. Purpose

To promote professionalism, respect, and integrity in all public communications by players, coaches, and league personnel.

2. Scope

Applies to all NEBL-affiliated individuals, including players, coaches, owners, referees, and officials.

3. Acceptable Conduct

- Use social media to promote team activities and positive league engagement.
- Maintain respect toward teammates, opponents, referees, sponsors, and fans.
- Uphold the image of the NEBL as a premier Belizean sports institution.

4. Prohibited Conduct

- Posting defamatory, discriminatory, or offensive comments.
- Public criticism of referees, league officials, or teams.
- Sharing confidential league information or private communications.
- Displaying alcohol or substance use in NEBL uniform or facilities.
- Any form of harassment, hate speech, or threats.

5. Sanctions

- First Offense: Written warning and/or fine up to BZ\$100.
- Second Offense: Fine up to BZ\$250 and one-game suspension.
- Third Offense: Suspension for multiple games or season expulsion, pending review.

6. Monitoring & Enforcement

The Commissioner's Office monitors league-affiliated media content and may initiate investigations upon reports from the public or other teams.

Appendix D — Important Dates

1. Team Rosters

To ensure that all player data is timely uploaded on the website and that scoresheets are prepared prior to the game, below are the submission dates.

Wednesday, January 21	Submission of Initial Team Rosters with Jersey Numbers [Changes can be made with no penalty. \$25 fine for late submission]
Sunday, February 8	Submission of Revised Rosters [every change after this date will incur a \$25 fee]
Wednesday, March 11	Submission of Final Rosters [prior to 4 th game]

2. Player Photos

The league will be responsible for taking individual photos for all players and coaches. The teams will be responsible for setting a date and venue and informing the league. All individual player photos will be taken in a NEBL shirt, provided by the league.

February 9 - 15	Player Photos [Knight & Day Studios]
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3. Player Contracts

Hard copies can be submitted to the league in one package, or electronical copies can be submitted as a pdf file, via e-mail. All roster changes must be accompanied by a player contract. This must be submitted by 1 p.m. on Wednesday for the player to be eligible.

Monday, February 9	Submission of Player Contracts & SSB/Passport [If a player does not submit a signed contract, he cannot play.]
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4. Registration Fee

Full registration payment of \$7,500 must be deposited to the NEBL account by the date specified below. Please send an e-mail or WhatsApp of the deposit slip when payment is made.

Friday, February 6	Payment of Registration Fee
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Appendix E — List of Fines

1. Home Games

Home teams are responsible for ensuring that all items below are in place.

Infraction	First Offense	Second Offense	Subsequent Offenses
No changing room for visiting team.	\$20	\$40	\$50
No changing room for referees.	\$20	\$40	\$50
Score board was not on 30 minutes before tip-off.	\$20	\$40	\$50
Shot clocks were not on 30 minutes before the game.	\$20	\$40	\$50
No mop boy is available for game.	\$20	\$40	\$50
Anthem, prayer and introduction were not done.	\$20	\$40	\$50
Alcoholic drinks were sold in bottles.	\$25	\$50	\$75
Game did not start on time.	\$20	\$40	\$50
No Molten ball available for game.	\$20	\$40	\$50
Not selling Bowen & Bowen Ltd. products.	\$200	\$300	\$400
Selling non-Bowen & Bowen Ltd. products.	\$500	\$1,000	\$3,000

2. Team Fines

Teams are responsible for adhering to the guidelines listed below.

Infraction	First Offense	Second Offense	Subsequent Offenses
No warmup shirts	\$20	\$50	\$100
No names on warm up shirts.	\$20	\$50	\$100
No surnames on jerseys.	\$20	\$50	\$100
No numbers on front and back of jerseys.	\$20	\$50	\$100
Coach was not properly dressed for the game.	\$20	\$40	\$50
Change in player numbers without prior approval	\$10	\$25	\$50
Each player without proper color socks, shirt or pants	\$20	\$40	\$50
Not submitting ID for each player	\$10	\$20	\$100
Not submitting pictures for website for each player	\$5	\$10	\$20

Appendix F — Home Games

1. Home Games

Home teams are responsible for ensuring that all items below are in place.

1.1 Preparations for home games are the sole responsibility of the home team.

1.2 Home teams are required to ensure that the following are in place for their home games.

- i. Open venue and changing rooms one hour before tip-off time.
- ii. Ensure that there is a changing room for each team.
- iii. Ensure there is a changing room for the referees.
- iv. 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. [League Responsibility]
- v. For a playoff game, home teams must have at least 8 police officers present at the game. [League Responsibility]
- vi. Ensure that there is a functional electronic scoreboard.
- vii. Ensure that the shot clocks are mounted above the rims.
- viii. Ensure that 2 white basketball nets are attached one hour before the start of the game.
- ix. Ensure that there is a bench for both teams, with 16 seats.
- x. Ensure that there is a public announcer for the introduction of players for both teams.
- xi. Ensure that a sound system is available for the games.
- xii. No glass bottles/pints are to be sold during the games. Alcoholic beverages must be sold in plastic cups.
- xiii. Ensure that medical personnel are at the venue and that a stretcher is available at the venue. [League Responsibility]

1.3 Visiting teams should be provided with 20 complimentary passes, which include passes for players, coaches and team followers.

1.4 The NEBL office provides complimentary passes for every game, which are given to corporate Sponsors, NEBL personnel and the media.

1.5 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.

1.6 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.

1.7 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 for this.

1.8 Every team needs to identify a Venue Manger for all their home games. Below are the responsibilities of the Venue Manager.

- i. Be at the venue when it opens, at least one hour before tip-off.
- ii. Remain at the scorer's table 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 are seated behind the scorer's table.
- iv. Ensure that a stretcher is available for the game. [League Responsibility]
- v. Provide 20 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 abide 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 at the venue.
- xvi. 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 behavior.
- xvii. If the fan continues with his or her unruly behavior, the referee will stop the game and ask the venue manager to have the police escort the fan out of the arena.

1.9 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 midday on Monday if the venue is not available for their upcoming home game.

- i. If the game is scheduled for Friday, it will be played Saturday at 8 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 made, then the games in Punta Gorda and Corozal will be played at 2 p.m. and it will be played at 3 p.m. at all other venues.
- ii. 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 made, then the games in Punta Gorda and Corozal will be played at 2 p.m. and it will be played at 3 p.m. at all other venues.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. The two teams can also agree to switch home games to avoid venue conflicts.
- vi. 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.

Appendix G — Fines and Sanctions

1. Fines and Sanctions

To uphold the integrity of the game and promote sportsmanship, below are the fines and sanctions.

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 All subsequent disqualifying fouls will result in the player serving a one-game suspension. This tally will start over for the playoffs.
- 1.3 A player suspended for one game 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.
- 1.4 Game misconduct will be reported by the referee by way of a game report form. Decisions by the commissioner's office about 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 No cash payment will be accepted at the venue.
- 1.8 Any player who does not have his full jersey (pants and shirts) will not be allowed to play.

Appendix H— Uniforms

1. Uniforms

Below are the criteria for team uniforms.

- 1.1 On the front of the jersey, the number should be placed on the upper right section.
- 1.2 On the front of the jersey, the NEBL logo should be placed on the upper left section.
- 1.3 If the 2 teams agree to switch the color of their home and away uniforms for a game, the request must be lodged to the Commissioner's Office by Tuesday and must first get approval from the Commissioner.

Below are the criteria for team uniforms, extracted directly from the FIBA – 2024 Official Basketball Rules.

4.3 Uniforms

- 4.3.1 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.

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- 4.3.2 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.
 - 4.3.3 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.

Appendix I— Salary Cap

1. Salary Cap

1.1 Below is the breakdown of the salary cap, which refers to the maximum salary a player can receive.

1.2 Managers will be responsible to ensure that they adhere to these parameters.

A non-resident player who has been with a team for 3 or more years → \$1,000/game BZD

A non-resident player → \$750/game BZD

A player with 4 or more years in the league → \$500/game BZD

A player with 1 - 3 years in the league → \$300/game BZD

A rookie → \$150/game BZD

Appendix J — Tasks & Personnel

1. Tasks

Below is the list of tasks required to be completed prior to the start of the season.

- 1.1 Purchase bands/tickets/app for home games.
- 1.2 Order team uniforms, warm-up shirts and shirts for coaching staff.
- 1.3 Order tennis (if applicable).
- 1.4 Purchase Molten basketballs.
- 1.5 Identify a furnished house/apartment for non-resident players.
- 1.6 Identify restaurants that can sponsor a meal for the non-resident players.
- 1.7 Secure venue for practice sessions.
- 1.8 Secure a sound system and DJ for home games.
- 1.9 Identify a Venue Manager for home games.
- 1.10 Secure transportation for road games.
- 1.11 Check venue – restrooms, locker room, scoreboard, shot clocks, etc.
- 1.12 Create a management team that is responsible for all the logistics of the team; which includes managing the finances, doing the paperwork, submitting documents to the league, ordering uniforms, selecting players on the team, coaching staff, decision-makers of the team and a team manager.

2. Personnel

Below is the list of personnel recommended to assist team management.

- 2.1 Team Manager (1) – submit contracts and team rosters to the league office. Order teams uniforms, tennis and basketballs.
- 2.2 Venue Manager (1) – in charge to oversee home games. Contact person for visiting team, officials, league personnel, medics and police.
- 2.3 Ticket Managers (2) – presell tickets
- 2.4 Gate (4) – sell and collect tickets for home games
- 2.5 Social Media Personnel (2) – promote team on social media
- 2.6 Treasurer (1) – pay players and complete financial report for team
- 2.7 Sponsorship (2) – seek sponsorship on behalf of team
- 2.8 Transportation (1) – book bus for away games
- 2.9 Food for Away Games (1) – arrange food for away games
- 2.10 Venue Workers (6) – set up and clean up after home games
- 2.11 Label Seats (3) – for court side and VIP sales
- 2.12 Treasurer – pay player salaries and other expenses; while maintaining proper financial records

Appendix K — Estimated Budget

1. Estimated Budget

1.1 Below are 2 projected budgets to field a team in the league.

1.2 One budget account for expenses for 2 non-resident players while the other budget option accounts for 3 non-resident players.

1.3 The difference in the two budgets is approximately \$50,000.

2 Non-Resident Players

Expenses			
Qty.	Item	Cost	Total
1	NEBL Registration	\$7,500	\$7,500
1	Player Salaries	\$73,500	\$73,500
5	Months Apartment Rental	\$800	\$4,000
2	Round Trip Flights	\$1,800	\$3,600
2	Meals for Non-Resident	\$800	\$1,600
1	Practice Expenses	\$500	\$500
7	Road Games - Food	\$250	\$1,750
1	Road Game - Hotel	\$1,500	\$1,500
30	Uniforms	\$65	\$1,950
15	Warm Up Shirts	\$45	\$675
1	Basketballs & Tennis (\$200 each)	\$3,000	\$3,000
1	Miscellaneous	\$3,500	\$3,500
Total			\$103,075

Salaries/Game			
#	Description	Cost	Total
2	Rookies	\$75	\$150
2	1 - 3 years experience	\$100	\$200
2	1 - 3 years experience	\$125	\$250
2	4 or more years experience	\$175	\$350
2	4 or more years experience	\$200	\$400
1	non-resident player	\$1,600	\$1,600
1	non-resident player	\$1,800	\$1,800
	non-resident player	\$2,000	\$0
1	head coach	\$100	\$100
1	assistant coach	\$50	\$50
Total			\$4,900

3 Non-Resident Players

Expenses			
Qty.	Item	Cost	Total
1	NEBL Registration	\$7,500	\$7,500
1	Player Salaries	\$117,600	\$117,600
5	Months Apartment Rental	\$1,200	\$6,000
3	Round Trip Flights	\$2,000	\$6,000
3	Meals for Non-Resident	\$800	\$2,400
1	Practice Expenses	\$500	\$500
7	Road Games - Food	\$250	\$1,750
1	Road Game - Hotel	\$1,500	\$1,500
30	Uniforms	\$65	\$1,950
15	Warm Up Shirts	\$45	\$675
1	Basketballs & Tennis (\$200 each)	\$3,000	\$3,000
1	Miscellaneous	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total			\$153,875

Salaries/Game			
#	Description	Cost	Total
1	Rookies	\$75	\$75
3	1 - 3 years experience	\$100	\$300
3	1 - 3 years experience	\$125	\$375
4	4 or more years experience	\$175	\$700
1	4 or more years experience	\$400	\$400
1	non-resident player	\$1,600	\$1,600
1	non-resident player	\$1,800	\$1,800
1	non-resident player	\$3,000	\$3,000
1	head coach	\$100	\$100
1	assistant coach	\$50	\$50
Total			\$8,400