



ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOYS BASKETBALL



Rockaway Township Boys Basketball League

BY-LAWS

The Rockaway Township Boys Basketball League (RTBB), is an association with Rockaway Township (the Township), is governed by the by-laws stipulated herein and as stipulated on documentation, properly approved and attached, specifying new or changed provisions. These by-laws are divided into the following sessions:

1. Organization
2. Operation
3. Policy
4. Disputes
5. Rules

ORGANIZATION

- 1). RTBB is comprised of an In-House Township Division, a Traveling Division and a Referee Corps. The In-House Township Division is comprised of the following leagues:
 - a). Seventh and Eighth grade;
 - b). Fifth and Sixth grade;
 - c). Third and Fourth Grade; and
 - e). First and Second Grade Clinic (boys and girls)
- 2) The Traveling Division participates in the Lakeland Midget Basketball League, inc. (hereafter referred to LMBL).
- 3) The Seventh and Eighth Grade League will be compromised of members (herein to be considered the players and their parents or legal guardians) in the seventh and eighth Township school grades. The number of members and coaches will determine the number of teams in this league.
- 4) The Fifth and Sixth Grade league will be compromised of members in the fifth and sixth Township school grades. The number of members and coaches will determine the number of teams in this league.



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- 5) The Third and Fourth Grade league will be comprised of members in the fourth Township school grades. The number of members and coaches will determine the number of teams in this league.
- 6) The First and Second Grade Clinic will be comprised of members in the first and second Township school grades. The number of members and coaches will determine the number of teams in this league. This league is open to both boys and girls players.
- 7) Each team will be assigned a minimum of one certified coach. If only one coach is assigned then it is the coach's responsibility to find an assistant coach once the teams are put together. All coaches must be properly certified by Rutgers. The league director must approve the coaches at their league level. The names of the coaches will be presented to the board by the league director. The board must approve the coaches at every league level.
- 8) It is a RTBB objective to limit membership on a In-House Township Division team to ten players based on the number of eligible players and the availability of the coaches.
- 9) The Traveling Division will be divided into a Varsity team (eight grade), a Junior Varsity (seventh grade), and one (1) or two (2) other Pee Wee (fifth and/or sixth grade) teams as may be determined desirable by the ruling body and acceptable to LMBL.
- 10) The by-laws herein shall govern operations of the Traveling Division to the extent that they do not prohibit adherence to LMBL.
- 11) The number of referees will be determined by the schedule.

OPERATION

- 1). RTBB shall be governed by an Executive Board (the Board). The Board shall be responsible for establishing, modifying and documenting the policies, by-laws and rules of RTBB. The Board shall resolve difficulties, disputes and protests brought to its attention through the proper channels described in the Disputes section. The Board shall examine the service and equipment needs of RTBB and approve proposed acquisitions. The Board shall adjudicate other matters as may properly fall within their jurisdiction.
- 2). RTBB's chief operating officer is the RTBB President (the President).
- 3). The Seventh/Eighth Grade, Fifth/sixth Grade, Third/Fourth Grade, and Second Grade Clinic will be managed by a Director. If deemed appropriately the Board, a league may be separated into two divisions. If this is done, each division will be managed by a separate director.
- 4). The different teams of the Traveling Division will be managed by their respective coaches and directed by the Head Traveling Coach.



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- 5). The Referee Corps will be managed by the Head Referee.
- 6). The Board will be composed of the following members:
- a. President The President shall:
1. Be responsible for the overall operation of the RTBB.
 2. Chair and be responsible for the operations of the Board.
 3. Provide interface between RTBB, the LBML, the In-House Township, and the Boosters Association as necessary.
 4. Provide guidance to other members of the Board, coaches, and referees as necessary.
 5. Be responsible for acquisition and distribution of facilities, services and equipment needed for RTBB as determined by the Board.
 6. By signature, authenticate Board documents, approvals and decisions.
 7. Be responsible for establishing practices that adhere to the policies in the Policy section.
 8. Be responsible for organizing any function that impacts RTBB as a unit.
- b. League Directors Each League Director shall:
1. Be responsible for the operation of their respective League.
 2. Solicit membership of the League.
 3. Solicit coaches for the league.
 4. Organize teams and schedules.
 5. Provide guidance to members and coaches on rules, policies and laws.
 6. Interface between RTBB and the members and coaches.
 7. Recommend service and equipment needs to the President.



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8. Be responsible for establishing practices that adhere to the policies in the Policy section.
 9. Collection and reconciliation of all equipment at the end of season.
- c. Head Referee The Head Referee shall:
1. Be responsible for operation of the Referee Corps.
 2. Interface between the RTBB and the referees.
 3. Solicit referees to meet the RTBB needs.
 4. Recommend service and equipment needs to President.
 5. Maintain a record of “on the court” resolutions for future reference on interpretation of rules and practices.
 6. Keep the Board informed of and recommend changes to the by-laws as indicated by significant dispute resolutions.
 7. Be responsible for establishing practices that adhere to the policies in the Policy section.
 8. Be responsible for training and evaluation of referees.
- d. Treasurer The Treasurer shall:
1. Be responsible for all fund raising activities.
 2. Report information regarding the financial condition of the RTBB to the Board on a regular basis.
 3. Maintain appropriate records of receipts and disbursements.
 4. Liaison to the Boosters organization
- e. Travel Division Director The Travel Division Director shall:
1. Interface between RTBB and the coaches of the participating teams.
 2. Recommend service and equipment needs to the President.



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3. Be responsible for establishing practices that adhere to the policies in the Policy section.
 4. Coordination of gym time availability for each Travel Division team.
 5. Represent the Traveling Division at LMBL meetings.
 6. Train and evaluate both In-House and Travel coaches.
 7. Develop criteria to be used in selection in the In-House and Travel members.
 8. Make recommendations to Board regarding selection of Travel Coaches.
- f. Members at Large: (No more than 2)
1. Shall be nominated by the President and approved by Board.
 2. It shall be the responsibility of the Members at Large to pursue any and all activities delegated by the President.

Terms for every position on the Board are considered open each year.

Terms for all Board Officers will begin April 1st and end March 31st.

Solicitation for all positions will be posted on the RTBB website no later than February 1st.

If an officer of the Board wishes to continue their position, they must submit, in writing to the current Board President, their intent to do so.

If the position is unopposed,

- all current members will maintain their current position on the Board and their new term will begin April 1st.

If there is more than one candidate,

- current Board members will vote to fill the position.
- This vote will take place by placing the name of the person for which each member is voting, in a bin. The votes will be read aloud by the President.
- In the event of a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote.

If there are no applicants for the open position,

- The Board will post the opening(s) on the RTBB website asking for volunteers.
- The Board may appoint volunteers after discussion and opportunity to voice any concerns by Board members. Approval will be in the form of a show of hands by the Board.



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7. The coaches of the Travel Division are responsible for selection of and interface with their respective members. They are responsible for assuring compliance with LMBL rules maintaining good relations with the LMBL.
8. Coaches in the In-House Division are responsible for adherence to the by-laws, the rules stipulated in the Rules section and for establishing practices that adhere to the policies in the Policy section.
9. In general, the RTBB will seek members on or about the beginning of September. Applications received on or about the beginning of October will be considered for admittance. Auditions for the Travel Division will be accomplished prior to the end of October. In-House Township League teams will be found on or about the beginning of November. Regular season games and /or practices will commence after Thanksgiving and will continue until on or about the beginning of March. Any playoff games will occur after the regular season is completed. All of the above is just a subject to the discretion of the Board.
10. For In-House, the home team shall be responsible to assign an individual parent to participate in keeping score and time. The coach of the winning team shall be responsible for communicating the game score to their respective League Director.
11. All Board members may serve as coaches or referees.

POLICY

1. RTBB is formed to provide members from Rockaway In-House Township the opportunity to learn, play and compete in the sport of basketball.
2. The In-House Township Division is formed to provide the above opportunities to those who are not selected for the Travel Division.
 - a. The Third/Fourth Grade Leagues, and First/Second Grade Clinic are to provide learning opportunities for its members with less emphasis of competitiveness.
 - b. The Seventh/Eighth Grade and Fifth/Sixth Grade Leagues, will provide more strict enforcement of the rules as well as an increase in competitiveness.
3. Referees are the extension of the Board on the basketball court. “On the court,” they have the final say on the interpretation of the rules and the progress of any game.
4. Unresolved difficulties arising “on the court” may be brought to the attention of the Board for resolution through channels outlined by in the Disputes section.



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5. Unresolved difficulties arising off the court (or when a referee is not present “on the court”) may be brought to the attention of the Board for resolution through channels outlined in the Disputes section.
6. Fund raising activities are not to be accomplished by any part of RTBB described in the Organization section. RTBB parts may assist or facilitate the efforts of fund raising groups (the Boosters).
7. Activities and practices counter to the by-laws shall not be tolerated. Any participant in the RTBB activities not adhering to these by-laws, is subject to punitive measures as decided by the Board; which may result in suspension or expulsion.
8. **All players, coaches, officials and parents are obligated to participate in the Leagues in a sportsmanlike manner. The conduct of all players, coaches, officials, and parents is governed by the provisions of the Youth Sports Code of Conduct, Township of Rockaway Ordinance, Chapter II, Article VIII, Section 2-38, et. seq. The Youth Sports Code of Conduct is incorporated into, and made a part of these by-laws as set forth at length. Every player, coach and parent of the players must sign a Code of Conduct from prior to the first practice, pursuant to coded section 2-38.4. In the event of an alleged violation of the Youth Code of Conduct, the process outlined in code section 2-38.5 will be followed by the Board.**
9. It is the policy of RTBB to use positive incentive and reinforcement for purposes of teaching the sport of basketball and providing an enjoyable experience for its member.
10. RTBB believes that members join to participate in the sport of basketball and that participation in the sport is a more primary source of player enjoyment than winning.
11. Coaches are required to ensure that team members are properly prepared for the activities of participation in the sport of basketball. The health and safety of the members is to be the coach’s highest priority.
12. It is desirable to play all games as scheduled. When this is not possible it is desirable to reschedule the games. Forfeiture of a game is undesirable and all efforts to prevent forfeiture are desirable. It is also not desirable to encourage a relaxed attitude among members and coaches relative to their responsibility to adhere to schedule. To this end, the rules of participation in the Rules section are stipulated.



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13. While aggressive play is considered indicative of an enthusiastic attitude, extremes of this nature of play are detrimental to the sport. The referees are encouraged to prevent excessive aggressiveness that can escalate, create a hazard or provide an unfair advantage for one team member over another.

14. Standings at the end of the season are not to be stressed as the end goal of playing in the In-House Township Division. As stated previously, the goal of the RTBB is the education in and enjoyment of the sport of basketball. Standings however, encourage enthusiasm and a desire to improve as well as provide a source of pride and enjoyment. Therefore, standings will be established and announced.
 - a. Play-offs will be conducted in the seventh/eighth grade, and fifth/sixth grade leagues barring extraordinary circumstances. The Board reserves the discretion to cancel or prohibit play-offs if it deems to do so is in the best interest of the League.
 - b. Each League Director will be responsible for determining the playoff format for their particular League. Annually, each League Director must submit their proposed playoff format to the Board for review and approval.

DISPUTES

1. Examples of disputes are:

- a. Difference of opinion on the interpretation of the by-laws.
- b. Differences of opinion on the progress of a game.
- c. Protests lodged on and during the progress of a game.
- d. Inconsistencies between RTBB by-laws and the laws governing the Association.
- e. Inconsistencies between RTBB by-laws and the actual operation of any part or all of RTBB.
- f. Practices occurring within RTBB deemed by some parties as being unfair or biased.

2. Disputes occurring “on the court” in the In-House Township Division, are to be brought to the attention of the referee. The referee has the final decision on resolution “on the Court”. Any disputes resolved on the court shall be brought to the attention of the Head Referee. The Head Referee shall review all resolutions for consistency with these by-laws and decide if such resolutions need to be brought to the attention of the board.



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3. In the In-House Township Division disputes with “on the court” resolutions concerning the progress of the game must be lodged protests.
 - a. Protests must deal with the progress of the game during which the protest is lodged. It can deal with a call made by the referee, and interpretation of a rule, or other matter directly related to the progress of the game.
 - b. Protests must be lodged prior to the continuation of the game as indicated by the referee’s signal.
 - c. Once lodged, a protest may not be withdrawn.
 - d. The attending referee must bring the protest to the attention of the Head Referee who must then refer it to the Board.
4. In the In-House Township Division, disputes with “on the court” resolutions not concerning the progress of the game, and all other disputes, will be handled as general disputes.
5. If a protest is upheld, at the discretion of the Board, the game will be considered to have been suspended at the point of the protest and the remainder of the game will be replayed under the conditions of resolution adjusted by the Board.
6. General disputes will be handled as follows:
 - a. Any or all of the parties in the dispute shall notify Board participants.
 1. If a referee is involved, the referee is obligated to notify the Head Referee
 2. In-House Township Division coaches shall notify their respective League Director.
 3. Members may bring protests to a Member at Large.
 4. In all cases, when the respective Board participant is unavailable, the President will be the alternate.
 5. All disputes must be in writing and filed with the appropriate League Director within 24 hours.
 - b. The Board participant shall refer the dispute to the attention of the Board.
7. If required, a dispute hearing will be scheduled by the Board for all parties to relate their positions on the dispute. The Board will then meet, in private, to decide on the resolution. A majority vote of a quorum is required to adjudicate a dispute.



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8. Any alleged violation of the Youth Sports Code of Conduct will be processed and handled in accordance with the provisions of the Youth Sports Code of Conduct, Township of Rockaway, Ordinance Chapter II, Article VII, Section 2-38, et. seq. See Policy subsection (8) of the Rockaway Township Basketball League By-laws.

RULES

1. Rules of Participation

- a. All players must play. Each player must play at least two quarters per game. Where practical each player must rest for a quarter. Substitutions should be made at the half-way point of each quarter or at the end of the quarter.
- b. At the scheduled time of a game, a team may not play another team with two less players on the court than the other team; i.e., 3 vs. 5 or 2 vs. 4. The team with the lesser number of players must forfeit.
- c. Notifications of a desire to reschedule shall be made to the opposing coach(s) no later than two hours prior to the scheduled game time to provide time for the opposing coach(s) to notify team members. The coach initiating the request to reschedule shall also subsequently notify the referee and the League Manager. Rescheduling is the responsibility of the initiating coach. **The arriving at the court up to a half hour after the scheduled game time are notified of the postponement.**
- d. Each team must have at least one (1) certified coach present at the scheduled game time.
- e. If a referee fails to arrive within 15 minutes after the scheduled game time, the coaches of the two small teams shall;
 1. Take turns performing as referee, or
 2. Obtain volunteer(s) from spectators to perform as referee. Referees so appointed shall have full “on the court” power of the referee as described by-laws, but are not obligated to comply with reporting requirements. The coaches shall be responsible for referee reporting requirements. The coaches shall be responsible for referee reporting requirements in these by-laws to include reporting protests and scores



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- f. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their members. Any abusive or unsafe conduct by a member or coach is first subject to a warning. Continued similar conduct shall result in ejection of the offending party. The final penalty for continued similar behavior is forfeiture. These actions are executed but the attendant referee. These infractions may result in additional sanctions if same are deemed violations of Youth Sports Code of Conduct. See Policy, subsection (8), and Dispute, subsection (8), of the Rockaway Township Basketball League By-Laws.
- g. Games are to begin promptly at their scheduled time. Since referees are responsible for assuring that games are completed in a manner that prevents interference with other scheduled events, they have complete jurisdiction in exercising flexibility in this manner. Coaches are responsible for assuring that their teams are prepared to play at the scheduled times.

2. Rules of Play

- a. Play will follow established high school basketball rules with the exceptions specified as necessary for each division.
- b. Each League Director shall annually submit to the Board any proposed rules of play changes for their respective division. Annually the Board will approve the rules of play for each League.

3. Travel Player Replacement

From time to time it may become necessary to add players to a Rockaway Township Traveling Team. In such cases, the following procedure will be followed.

- a. The Traveling Team coach that wishes to add players to his roster shall notify the Travel Division Director.
- b. The Travel Division Director shall notify the President and appropriate In-House Division League Director.
- c. A Tryout(s) will be conducted for the additional roster position(s). All Players who participate in the tryout will be notified within forty-eight (48) hours of the results.
- d. The President, Travel Division Director and respective In-House Division League Director shall determine if the situation dictates that the In-House Division Team losing a player(s) to the Travel Division should be compensated for this.



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No player may participate in both the Rockaway Township In-House Division and Traveling Division during the same season.

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