

SECTION ONE League Membership

1.00 Individual

1.01 Eligibility:

- a) Membership in the League will be open to any person who, in good faith, wishes to participate with an established team and submits their annual non-refundable membership dues prior to the first scheduled game.
- b) Each player will be required to sign a Conduct Statement and Waiver and Release of Liability prior to playing or practicing with any League team.

1.02 All League members shall be entitled to the following.

- a) One (1) vote at all general membership meetings.
- b) All benefits, rights and privileges as defined in these By-Laws.

1.03 Suspension/Expulsion

- a) See Section 6.01 of these By-Laws.

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1.10 Teams

1.11 Eligibility

- a) Each team roster **will consist of up to 10 playing members. More than 10 members on a team are allowed upon coach's discretion with Executive Committee approval.**

1.12 Rights and Privileges:

- a) Each team may be sponsored by a person, business, association or other organization without limitation.
- b) Each team shall organize its own internal affairs without League interference, as deemed reasonable and consistent with these By-Laws. This also includes how each team selects their representative to the Executive Committee.
- c) Upon acceptance into the League a team shall automatically have the right to have a representative on the Executive Committee.
- d) Each team shall be represented by one (1) officially team sanctioned representative.

1.13 Organization:

- a) **Each team will have one coach. Each team will be represented by its coach at the time of the League draft. The coach may delegate coaching responsibilities.**
- b) Teams are under no obligation to have a **specific** percentage of male/female members.

1.14 Responsibilities:

a) During each year of membership, a team may be required to sponsor a League fundraising event as determined by the Executive Committee. All teams will be required to participate in fund-raising activities as instructed by the Executive Committee.

b) Each team is responsible for knowing and adhering to League rules.

c) The League must be informed as to the identity of an Executive Committee representative upon acceptance into the League.

d) It is the responsibility of the team representative to notify the League Secretary, in writing, of voting alternates or any changes in representation. If prior notification is not received of such changes no representation shall be allowed.

1.20 League Draft

1.21 Annual Draft. The BGBL will conduct a draft each year. Players registering prior to a designated registration date, as determined by the Executive Committee, up to a predetermined limit, will be included in the draft. As a result, new teams will be formed annually.

1.21.1 An attempt will be made to form “competitive” and “recreational” divisions each season. Formation of two divisions is contingent on enough players signing up for each division.

1.21.2 As noted in Organization (Section 1.13 a), each team will have one coach. Each team will be represented by its coach at the time of the league draft.

1.22 Supplemental Draft. The BGBL will conduct a supplemental draft each year for the purpose of selection of players who are interested in playing in the League but who register after the designated registration date. Players who are entered into the supplemental draft are not guaranteed a spot in the League. Procedures for the supplemental draft (i.e. order of selection) will be decided each year by the Executive Committee.

1.23 Players selected in the League’s annual draft are not eligible for the League’s supplemental draft.

1.24 It is anticipated that coaches will, in choosing their teams attempt to accommodate as much as possible known wishes and interests of players. However it is recognized that such accommodation is not always possible.

1.30 Uniforms

1.31 The composition of uniforms is at the discretion of the team and its sponsor. The only uniform requirement is that all players on a team wear uniform shirts that are alike in color and style, possessing unique and visible numbers (SEE 1.33). Outer garments required due to medical reason will be allowed over regulation uniforms with notification to the opposing coach.

1.32 Colors of the uniforms will be coordinated by the League Commissioner, to avoid two teams with identical or similar color schemes.

1.33 Numbering. Uniforms must display a number.

1.33.1 Up to two numbers are allowed

1.33.2 No individual number will exceed 5 (e.g. 55 is acceptable, 56 is not) to facilitate the hand signaling of fouls by referees.

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SECTION TWO

League Operations/Officers

2.00 Executive Committee/Operation of League

2.01 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Secretary and Treasurer, along with one representative from each team chosen through any manner that team deems appropriate.

2.02 Executive Committee meetings shall be chaired by the Commissioner using Robert' S Rules of Order or other rules of order as established by the Executive Committee.

2.03 Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except the Commissioner, who shall vote only in case of a tie.

2.04 In addition to the powers and duties delegated to the Executive Committee by or under these By-Laws, the Executive Committee shall have those powers necessary and proper for the efficient conduct of League business.

2.05 The Executive Committee shall bear all appeals made from rulings of the Commissioner and may uphold or reverse him/her pursuant to these By-laws and the rules made hereunder.

2.06 The Executive Committee shall approve all expenditures of league funds only in accordance with Section Four of these By-Laws.

2.07 The Executive Committee shall establish new committees.

2.08 The Executive Committee shall establish rules or order for all General Membership meetings.

2.09 The Executive Committee may from time to time amend the By-Laws, under the procedure established by Section Seven of these By-Laws.

2.10 In the event that the Assistant Commissioner assumes the duties of the Commissioner in his/her absence, the Assistant Commissioner no longer retains a vote, voting only in the event of a tie.

2.11 The Commissioner can appoint an acting Secretary at an Executive Committee meeting if necessary. The acting Secretary will not inherit the Secretary's vote.

2.12 Any elected officer may be impeached and removed from office only at a General Membership meeting called for this specific purpose.

2.13 In case of vacancy of a League official other than the Commissioner, the Executive Committee will elect another League member to complete the term by at least a two-thirds majority of those present at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

2.14 Quorum and approval requirements shall be as follows:

a) Executive Committee Meetings:

1. A two-thirds quorum shall be required to vote on major expenditures of League funds, to rule on appeals of Commissioner's rulings, to call for General Membership meetings, or to propose an amendment to these By-Laws.

2. A majority of those voting shall rule in any case except as noted in these By-Laws.

b) General Membership Meetings:

1. Proper notice, containing the date, time, place, and proposed agenda shall be given to all League members.

2. At least one League officer must be present at any General Membership meeting.

3. There shall be no quorum requirement.

4. A majority vote of those league members in attendance shall rule, except as noted in these By-Laws.

2.15 Appeals from rulings of the Executive Committee, impeachment proceedings, amendments to the Constitution, and special financial levies shall be voted on by General Membership.

2.16 A General Membership meeting for the purpose of impeachment of any officer may be called by a three-fourths majority of the General Membership. Any officer so impeached shall be removed from office only upon a two-thirds majority vote in favor of such removal by those members present at such a meeting.

2.17 Except for impeachment proceedings, any matter may be acted upon by the General Membership or may be the subject of a referendum. Any referendum shall become binding upon the affirmative vote of an absolute majority of the General Membership.

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2.20 Officers

2.21 Commissioner:

a) Shall preside at all General Membership meetings and all Executive Committee meetings, but shall have no vote in either except in the case of a tie vote.

b) Shall set agendas for the Executive Committee meetings at least one (1) week in advance.

c) Shall organize the annual end of year Awards Banquet.

d) Shall be responsible for appointing committees.

e) Shall be responsible, along with the League Secretary, for compiling League balloting.

f) Shall be chief administrator, representative, and spokesperson for the League, and as such, shall be responsible for the efficient conduct of all League business.

g) Shall settle disputes concerning these By-Laws and the rules made hereunder subject to the review of the Executive Committee.

h) Shall be Chairperson of the Rules Committee.

i) Shall co-sign all League checks and withdrawal orders on League accounts.

j) Shall appoint an acting secretary for any meeting at which the secretary is absent. Such acting secretary shall not vote, however, unless authorized to do so.

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2.22 Assistant Commissioner:

- a) Shall assume the duties of the Commissioner in the event of the Commissioner's resignation, impeachment, or other absence or disability.
- b) Shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.
- c) Shall be Chairperson of the Operations Committee.
- d) Shall obtain court space and permits
- e) Shall be responsible for court conditions and maintenance.
- f) Shall be responsible for obtaining referees for all League games.
- g) Shall draft a potential schedule for League play.
 - 1. Such schedule shall be done using numbers and not team names
 - 2. Once a schedule has been accepted by the Executive Committee, a random draw of all teams shall be conducted to correspond with the numbers on the approved schedule.
 - 3. Once the schedule has been completed with team names, no changes may be made without approval of the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting.

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2.23 Secretary:

- a) Shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.
- b) Shall maintain all League documents, including but not limited to, minutes, By-Laws, rules, rosters, and correspondence, and shall make the same available for inspection by any League member upon request.
- c) Shall be responsible for giving one week's prior notice to all Executive Committee members of Executive Committee meetings. Such notice shall contain the date, time and place of the meeting and the agenda, as well as a copy of the minutes from the previous regularly scheduled meeting.
- d) Shall keep accurate records of all League meetings, both General Membership and Executive Committee.
- e) Shall be responsible for obtaining and distributing official rosters to each team representative manager and notifying them of changes.
- f) Shall be responsible for preparing and distributing ballots and compiling the results with the Commissioner or his designator.
- g) Shall be Chairperson of the Administrative Committee.
- h) Shall be responsible for the issuance of a League newsletter to the General membership.
- i) Shall be responsible for determining League statistics when viable.
- j) Shall be responsible for maintaining a mailing list of all current League members. Such list will not be released to anyone other than a League officer for League business without Executive Committee approval.

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2.24 Treasurer:

- a) Shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.
- b) Shall keep accurate records of all League income expenditures and collection of funds and shall make such records available for inspection by any League member upon request.
- c) Shall have custody of all League funds, which shall be maintained separately in the name of the League.
- d) Shall co-sign all League checks and withdrawal orders upon League accounts.
- e) Shall submit a financial report at the annual Awards Banquet.
- f) Shall submit an itemized Treasurer's report at least once every two (2) months.
- g) Shall prepare and present a budget at an Executive Committee meeting.
- h) Shall be Chairperson of the Development Committee.
- i) Shall schedule league benefits.
- j) Shall act as the purchasing agent for the League.
- k) Shall submit necessary tax information to proper authorities.

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SECTION THREE

Elections

3.00 League Officers

3.01 Eligibility:

- a) Any League member may run for office upon nomination by four other League members. No League member may nominate more than one person for the same office each year.
- b) Candidates must have their nomination papers turned into the League Secretary on or before the last regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting prior to the annual end of year Awards Banquet/General Membership meeting.
- c) Candidates may only run for one (1) office.
- d) Nominations for League office will be closed at the end of the last regularly scheduled Executive Committee Meeting prior to the annual end of year Awards Banquet/General Membership meeting.

3.02 League officers shall be elected by the general membership of the League. There will be no quorum requirement for the election of officers.

3.03 The election of league officers shall be at the end of year Awards Banquet/General Membership meeting. If there is no end of year banquet, the election must be held by April 1st.

3.04 Candidates will be allowed to speak before the General Membership at the annual end of year Awards Banquet/General Membership meeting in a format to be determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may establish any other procedures for the conduct of elections, which are consistent with these By-Laws.

3.05 Election shall be held by secret ballot after candidates are allowed to speak.

3.06 If no candidate receives a majority, there shall be a run off election of so many candidates receiving the most votes as will constitute a majority.

3.07 The term of the new League officers shall commence after the end of year Awards Banquet (or not later than April 1st).

3.08 Any elected officer may be impeached and removed from office only at a general membership meeting called for this specific purpose.

3.09 In case of vacancy of a League officer other than the Commissioner, the Executive Committee will elect another League member to complete the term by at least a two-thirds majority of those present at an Executive Committee meeting.

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SECTION FOUR

Finances

4.00 Fees & Dues

4.01 Sponsorship fees and individual membership fees and dues will be established by the Executive Committee prior to September 1st of each year.

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4.10 Expenditure of League Funds

4.11 All League finances must be approved by the Executive Committee.

4.12 Expenditures for referees, League playing equipment, and court fees, if any, shall have priority over all other expenditures.

4.13 The Executive Committee may authorize the expenditure of League funds by approving a budget for a particular committee or purpose.

4.14 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section or these By-Laws, no amount of League funds shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to League officers or members, except that the League shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services actually rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the corporation's purposes as set forth in Article II of its Articles of Organization as filed with the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

4.15 Referee fees will be established by the Executive Committee and paid by the Treasurer.

4.16 A fund shall be drawn from League revenues for use by League officers in the performance of their administrative duties as outlined in the League budget.

4.17 The League fiscal year will end on June 30th of each year.

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4.20 Awards

4.21 Monies will be expended for the purchase of League awards, which will be given at the end of the year banquet. There may be four (4) categories of awards, as determined by the Executive Committee.

4.22 Service Awards

a) For service to the League. The number and recipients to be determined by vote of the Executive Committee.

4.23 Athletic Awards (one of each or the following)

a) Most Valuable Player for each League team. Determined by each individual team coach.

b) Rookie of the year. Awarded by vote of the Executive Committee.

c) 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. Determined by standings.

d) League Champions. Determined by Playoffs.

e) Most Improved Player. Determined by vote of the Executive Committee.

4.24 Sportsmanship Awards

a) Awarded by vote of the Executive Committee.

b) The Executive Committee may give more than one of these awards in its discretion.

4.25 Commissioner's Award

a) Awarded at the discretion of the Commissioner to that individual who has done the most to benefit the League over the past season.

b) The Commissioner may give more than one of these awards with the approval of the Executive Committee.

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SECTION FIVE
Rules

5.00 Regular Season

5.01 Rules for all Boston Gay Basketball League basketball games will be Massachusetts State High School Rules, with the official exceptions contained in these By-Laws or passed by the Executive Committee.

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5.10 Exceptions to Massachusetts High School Rules

5.11 Eligibility

- a) Teams are under no obligation to have any percentage of male or female players.
- b) Game referees shall determine what jewelry is allowable on the playing field.
- c) The only uniform requirement is that all players on a team wear uniform shirts that are alike in color and style, possessing unique and visible numbers. Outer garments required due to medical reason will be allowed over regulation uniforms with notification to the opposing coach.

5.12 Playing Rules

a) A team which does not field at least Four (4) **at the scheduled game start time**, will forfeit with an official game score of 2-0. b) If at the forfeit deadline, a team has four players available to play, they may begin the game with four (4) players. Late arriving players may enter the game **after signing in with the official scorer**.

c) Five fouls (including technical fouls) eliminates a player from a game regardless the number of players available.

d) If during any game, injuries cause a team to be left with fewer than five players, that team may elect to finish the game with its remaining players.

e) Any punch thrown eliminates player for the remainder of the season.

f) Only coaches may discuss rules interpretations **with referees**. The League Commissioner (or his/her representative) will have, in consultation with referees, final say on rules interpretations.

g) Players must be present for at least fifty per cent of regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs.

h) There must be at least one (1) referee present at each regular season game.

i) Players shall be allowed to enter the lane during a free throw attempt, upon release of the ball.

5.13 Timing of Games

1. Games will consist of (2) 22-minute periods.
2. Games will be continuous running time, except for:
 - a. Time outs called by either team or by referees
 - b. Stoppage of play due to injury
 - c. The last minute of the first half
 - d. The final two (2) minutes of the second half, the clock shall stop on any dead ball, except as follows: if a team is winning by more than fifteen (15) points, the clock shall not stop.

5.14 Overtime Periods

1. First Overtime: 5 minutes running time, except last minute.*

2. Second and each subsequent overtime: 3 minutes running time, except last minute.*
*Please refer to Section 5.13 2.c.

5.15 Time Outs

1. Each team will be allocated, per game, a total of two (2) full time outs per period during regulation play. Time outs will consist of one (1) minute.
 - a) Time outs not used during regulation play, may not be carried over into any overtime period.
2. In each overtime period, each team is granted one (1) full time out.

5.20 Playoffs

5.21 Eligibility

- a) The Executive Committee shall determine the team eligibility and format for the playoffs.
- b) Player eligibility shall be determined by the player attending at least fifty percent (50%) of regular season games.
 - b.1. For players selected in the supplemental draft, the player must play in at least fifty percent (50%) of the games for which he/she was eligible to play.

5.22 Tie Breaking Rules

- a) For purposes of seeding teams for the playoffs, ties will be broken as follows:
 - (1) Head-to-head competition of teams
 - (2) Forfeit factor (a team that has forfeited a game <regardless of ranking> gets the lower ranking
 - (3) Division record
 - (4) Free throw %
 - (5) Coin toss

b) Three Way Ties

1. In a three-way tie where one team has a win advantage over each of the other two teams in head to head competition, that team will finish higher than the other two-
2. In a three-way tie where no team holds an advantage over the other two in head to head competition, the following criteria shall be used in breaking ties:
 - i. A two game playoff (if the executive committee determines that sufficient time is available). A draw to be held of the tied teams to determine the bye. The other two (2) teams will play. The winner of that game will play the "bye" team. The winner of that game shall determine the high finisher.
 - ii. Scoring differential.
 - iii. Random draw in a manner to be determined by the Executive Committee.

c) Other Ties

1. Ties involving more than three teams will be decided on these same criteria to the extent they can be similarly applied.

5.23 Playoff Format

- a) The format shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

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SECTION SIX
Penalties

6.00 Individual

6.01 Expulsion

a) For the remainder of the game:

1. Referee's judgment on players' adherence to Massachusetts High School rules and/or unsportsmanlike conduct.

b) For the remainder of any part of the year (individual and team):

1. Any punch thrown will eliminate the player for the remainder of the season.

2. See Section 6.12 of these By-Laws

c) The Commissioner is empowered to immediately suspend any player indefinitely pending a hearing by the Executive Committee for acts of physical violence.

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6.10 Teams

6.11 Forfeits

a) As determined by Section 5.12 of these By-Laws, Massachusetts High School Rules, and any additional League rules, if any.

b) Any individual has the right to point out forfeiture violation of membership or League rules to the Commissioner or Executive Committee.

6.12 Expulsion

a) A team that forfeits four (4) games is no longer eligible to participate in the League for that year except with the affirmative approval of the Executive Committee.

1. Eligible players from a team that is no longer eligible to play in the League may change teams with the approval of this change by the Executive Committee.

2. All eligible players from such dissolved teams retain all League privileges regardless of whether they are allowed by the Executive Committee to join another team.

3. When a team forfeits out of a regular season, all games played by that team will be eliminated from the standings and a new win loss standing will be determined.

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6.20 Protests and Appeals

6.21 Procedures:

a) Written protests must be sent by registered mail or given in person to the Commissioner within a week of the game that is protested, unless it is a violation that is not known at game time. In such cases, an extension may be granted.

b) The Commissioner is responsible for determining whether a protest is upheld or denied. Appeals of rulings made by the Commissioner must be made at the next meeting of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may review and overturn the Commissioner's decision upon a two-thirds majority vote.

6.22 Upon deciding that a protest is valid, the Commissioner will proscribe the penalties listed below as applicable:

a) For violation of uniform liability waiver, player fee requirement and any other administrative requirements the offending player and the person in charge of the offending team at the time of the violation will be suspended for two games and the result of the game will not be altered.

b) For an incorrect application of the rules of play by the referee, the Commissioner must determine if the incorrect application had any impact on the game score. If so determined the Commissioner will rule that the game be replayed from the point of error with the same line-up and substitutions in effect.

6.23 The Commissioner is empowered to immediately suspend any player, pending a hearing by the Executive Committee for acts of physical violence.

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SECTION SEVEN

Amendments and Adoption

7.00 Amendments and Adoption

7.10. These By-Laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of the Executive Committee. However, amendments to these By-Laws, except those pertaining to League Rules under Section Five, must be ratified upon an affirmative vote in favor of ratification by an absolute majority of League members at a League membership meeting.

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