



ARPA YOUTH BASKETBALL



ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

Section A – Age Divisions

1. **Age Control Date:** Player eligibility is determined by age **on or before September 1 of the previous year.**
2. **Divisions:** There are **five boys** and **three girls** age divisions:
 - Boys & Girls 8 & Under
 - Boys & Girls 10 & Under
 - Boys & Girls 12 & Under
 - Boys (and Girls) 14 & Under
 - Boys (and Girls) 18 & Under
3. **Division Restrictions:** Each participant may compete in only **one age division**. A player may “play up” in an older division but must remain in that same division throughout all District and State levels of competition.
4. **Eligibility for District/State Play:** Players may compete at the District and State levels provided they are not in violation of any rules or regulations contained in this manual (see **Rule I**).
5. **Roster Deadline:** Regular season basketball team rosters must be submitted to the **District Recreational Sports Chair by January 15**.

Section B – Entries

1. Affiliates may enter **unlimited teams** in District competition unless the District establishes an entry limit.

2. If a District does not conduct a tournament or playoff, it may allow **two teams per age group** to represent it at the State Tournament.
3. Only players listed on an approved **ARPA Official Roster**, who meet eligibility requirements, and represent an Affiliate not on suspension may compete.
4. **Roster Limit:** Maximum **15 players per team**.
5. **State Tournament Entries:**
 - Includes the **District Champion** and **Runner-Up** from each age group (Runner-Up may decline).
 - The **Host Team** also qualifies automatically.
 - Additional teams may be considered by the Tournament Host through requests to all District Sports Chairs.
6. **Large Districts:** Districts with **12 or more teams** in any age group may subdivide and send both the **winner and runner-up** from each subdivision to the State Tournament.

ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS

Section A – Governing Rules

1. All ARPA basketball games at the State level are governed by the **Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA)** Constitution and By-Laws, except as noted in this manual.
2. The **National Federation (National Alliance) Basketball Rule Book** is the official guide for ARPA and AHSAA play, except where modified in this manual.

Section B – Length of Games

Age Division	Length of Game
8 & Under Boys and Girls	6-minute quarters

10 & Under Boys and Girls	6-minute quarters
12 & Under Boys and Girls	6-minute quarters
14 & Under Boys	6-minute quarters
18 & Under Boys	8-minute quarters

Section C – Special Provisions

1. **Team Minimum:** Teams must have **five (5)** players to start a game.
2. **Tobacco Policy:** No form of tobacco is permitted on the court or bench area.
3. **Full-Court Press:**
 - 8U: **No press allowed** at any time.
 - 10U: Press allowed **only in the 4th quarter.**
4. **Backcourt Pressure:** Two warnings allowed. On the third infraction, a **team technical foul** is assessed to the coach.
5. **Free-Throw Line Adjustments:**
 - 8U & 10U: Foul line shortened by **3 feet**. Players line up in **regulation positions**.
 - Exception: When a hangover goal is used in 8U, free throws are taken from the **regulation line**.
6. **Game Start:** Teams must be **ready to play** at their scheduled game time according to the **official tournament bracket**.
 - **Penalty:** Forfeit.
7. **Three-Point Rule:** Allowed in all youth divisions (boys and girls).

8. **Definition – Full Court Press:** Any defensive pressure applied in the backcourt on a live ball or inbounds pass.
9. **8U Clock Rule:** During the **last minute** of the 4th quarter and overtime:
 - Clock stops on every made basket until the ball crosses half court.
 - Clock does not start after a dead ball until the ball crosses half court.
10. **No Press Rule:** Teams may **not apply full-court pressure** when leading by **20 points or more** (all divisions).
11. **Mercy Rule:** When a team leads by **30 points or more** in the **second half**, the game clock becomes continuous, stopping only for timeouts and end of quarter.

ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT

Section A – Approved Equipment

1. **Shoes:** Required for all players; must be smooth and soft-soled athletic shoes.
2. **Uniforms:** Each player must wear a matching team jersey with legal numbers on **front and back**.
 - **Penalty:** Technical foul at game start for teams without proper numbering.
3. **Basketball Specifications:**

Age Division	Ball Size	Goal Height	Free-Throw Line Distance
8U Boys & Girls	28.5" (Women's)	8 ft	12 ft
10U Boys & Girls	28.5" (Women's)	10 ft	12 ft
12U Boys	29.5" (Men's)	10 ft	15 ft
12U Girls	28.5" (Women's)	10 ft	15 ft
14U Boys	29.5" (Men's)	10 ft	15 ft

18U Boys	29.5" (Men's)	10 ft	15 ft
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Section B – Court Specifications

All court dimensions and goal heights must meet **AHSAA/National Federation** standards.

ARTICLE IV – GAMES & AWARDS

Section A – District Competition

1. Districts may conduct tournaments with Affiliate majority approval and District State Rec Sports Committee oversight.
2. District or Affiliate Hosts are responsible for all District-level awards.
3. Recommended completion:
 - All divisions (8U–18U) should conclude by the **last Saturday in February**.
 - Rosters must be verified and signed off by a Rec Sports Committee member **not employed by the same department** before play begins.

Section B – State Tournament

1. **Format:**
 - a) Two-game guarantee – one **pool play** game followed by a **single-elimination bracket**.
 - b) **District Champion & Runner-Up** plus **Host Team** advance to State in each age group.
 - c) Both District Champion and Runner-Up are **required to attend** State Tournament.
 - d) Failure to appear for pool play = **automatic disqualification** (host retains entry fee).
2. **Tournament Dates:**
 - Held the **second Friday–Sunday in March** (if necessary).
3. **Pairings:** Determined by **blind draw** conducted by at least three individuals (State Chair, Tournament Director, District Committee Members).

4. **Awards:**

- Trophies awarded to **1st and 2nd place** in each division.
- A **Sportsmanship Trophy** presented in each age division, selected by officials and committee representatives.

ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS & PARTICIPANTS

Section A – Host Responsibilities

1. Provide competent adults for **scoring, timing**, and **tournament management**.
2. Ensure proper conduct by spectators.
3. Supply official game balls per ARPA specifications.
4. Ensure gym and court meet ARPA standards.
5. Provide warm-up balls for participating teams.

Section B – Game Officials

- See **Rule II, Article IV** for requirements.

Section C – Players & Team Members

1. Any participant (player, coach, or assistant) **ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct** (including abusive language) is ineligible for the remainder of that game and the next scheduled game.
 - They may also be dismissed from ARPA competition at the discretion of officials or committee members.
2. **Ineligible Players:** Use results in **forfeiture** of all affected games. Burden of proof lies with the protesting Affiliate (see Rule II, Article I, Section A).

ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS & APPEALS

- Protests and appeals shall follow procedures outlined in **Rule II, Article I, Section A.**

ARTICLE VII – FEES

1. **District Fees:** Determined by each District. Additionally, a **\$10 per team** fee is payable to the State Office (collected by the host).
2. **State Tournament Fees:**
 - \$150 per team entry fee.
 - Plus a **\$25 per team** fee payable to the State Office (host responsible for payment).