

# **Lanier League Rules & Code of Conduct**

## **MISSION**

The mission of our association is to promote basketball in a climate of fun and discipline where each player grows in skills, sportsmanship, and competitiveness.

## **PLAYING DIVISIONS**

There will be girls' and boys' teams in each of the following four divisions. Division placement depends on the player's age as of September 1 of each year:

### **Boys**

5-6-year-old (Co-ed)  
7-8-year old  
9-10-year old  
11-12-year old  
13-14-year old

### **Girls**

5-6-year-old (Co-ed)  
7-8-year old  
9-10-year old  
11-12-year old

## **DIVISION OF TEAMS and ELIGIBILITY**

All players will be placed into the draft according to their age and gender. There are no mixed gender teams or players above 5-6-year-old division. Assessment of skills will take place prior to the first week of practice. Following the skills assessment, the coaches of the same age division will together form equal-ability teams through a draft as outlined in this manual (see "Draft Guidelines"). Team size will be limited to 8 or 9 players. A 'wait' list will be formed with surplus sign-ups.

Any player who is injured prior to the first practice of each season is eligible for a full refund subject to a doctor's note stating the date and severity of the injury. No other refunds will be granted.

## **PRACTICES**

Practices are held at a combination of Lanier Public schools. The maximum practice time per week is two hours. Every attempt will be made to ensure that the 7-8-year-old players' practice times will begin no later than 7:00 p.m.

Each school has specific guidelines to be followed. LAA agrees to follow these guidelines. These specific guidelines will be given to the coaches during the coaches meeting and are to be communicated to the parents. Should a team repeatedly fail to follow the guidelines of a school, the team will be subject to losing the remaining practices scheduled for their team at that school. Although it is the association's goal to provide each team 2 one-hour practices a week, all teams are subject to practice cancellations. If a team loses privileges at a school, the practice time will not be re-scheduled.

For liability reasons, players who are not registered with LAA cannot practice with LAA teams during the regular scheduled practices. Any practices outside those scheduled by LAA, are not sanctioned by LAA.

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WATCH YOUNGER CHILDREN DURING THE GAME AND PRACTICE TIMES. LEAVING SIBLINGS UNATTENDED DURING PRACTICES OR GAMES IS NOT ALLOWED.

## **GAMES**

There is a 9-12-week regular season schedule. Home Games are played at George Pierce Park, Sugar Hill ECenter, and Lanier cluster schools (White Oak, Sugar Hill, Sycamore and Lanier Middle.)

Although there may be unforeseen schedule changes, most regular season games are played at the locations listed above. In accordance with the 'no food brought inside rule', after game snacks are not allowed. Only water is allowed in the gyms during games and practices.

All games are played in accordance with the Georgia High School rules with the following exceptions:

## **PLAYING TIME RULES**

1. All players will play at least half of every game

Although coaches may limit a player's playing time as a matter of discipline, it is to be approved by the Basketball Director. If a player is going to play less than two quarters or is going to be held out, the scorekeeper and the opposing coach must be notified.

\*Exception – If a player comes to his or her game after the 2nd quarter has started, the coach must play the player one (1) quarter.

If a coach doesn't abide by the playing time rule, the coach will be allowed to play only eligible players (eligibility via this playing time rule) for the remainder of the game. If it is determined after the game that the coach did not abide by the playing time rule, his/her team will forfeit that game.

## **STARTING THE GAME**

A game can start and play entire game with a minimum of 4 players.

## **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Substitutions can be made at any time as long as every player plays 2 quarters of the game. Quarters can be split.

## **CLOCK**

All leagues will play running time. The clock will only stop for foul shots and timeouts.

-6U and under play 7-minute quarters

-8U and over play 8-minute quarters

Mercy Rule: Once a team is up by 15 points or more the clock becomes a running clock and only stops for timeouts. Once the lead falls to 10 points or less normal clock operation returns.

## **OVERTIME**

Overtime periods are 2 minutes long (stop time) – all leagues. If tied after the first overtime, a second overtime will be played. If still tied at the end of the second overtime, there will be a shoot-out. The five players on the court at the end of the 2OT will each shoot 1 free throw. Shots will be taken by the entire visiting team first, then the home team. The team with most made free throws will be the winner. If still tied after the shoot-out, the game is declared a tie.

For playoff games, there will be no shoot outs. Overtime periods will be 2 minutes long until a winner determined.

## **TIMEOUTS**

Each coach is allotted 4 (one minute) time outs per game. Each overtime period allows for one extra time out plus any carried over from regulation play. No time out will be charged to either coach when an injured player re-enters the game. This will be considered an official's time out.

## **DRESS CODE**

In accordance with Georgia High School Basketball Rules, jerseys shall be tucked in and the pants shall be above the hips and worn properly. Players not adhering to the dress code will be directed to leave the game. Lanier AA will supply the jerseys and shorts. The following are approved jersey numbers:

0,1,2,3,4,5,10,11,12,13,14,15,20,21,22,23,24,25,30,31,32,33,34,35,40,41,42, 43,44,45,50,51,52,53,54 & 55

## **INTENTIONAL DELAY OF GAME (LAST MINUTE)**

Any intentional delay of game as determined by the referee will result in a technical foul, (2 shots and possession of the ball).

## **DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES**

### **6U – 5/6-YEAR-OLD DIVISIONS**

- 1) Ball size: 27.5".
- 2) The goal height will be 8' feet
- 3) No backcourt or half-court defense (all defense must be played within the 3-point ARC, this should be strictly enforced)
- 4) Cannot have a forced turnover in the backcourt
- 5) 5 Second Lane Violations

- 6) Offensive team must attempt to initiate play every 10 seconds (as long as they are attempting to swing the ball and initiate play and not eliminate clock time, they should be considered OK)
- 7) Foul Line is 12 feet (or best judgment by referee if not marked)
- 8) Understanding the limitations of the age, referees should use discretion on double dribbling and travelling. However, they should be called if it gives the player a scoring opportunity advantage. (In other words, a 5-year-old may take 2 steps for every dribble and need to use both hands to temporarily catch and re-dribble simply because of physical capability, however that player should not be able to take 5 steps while holding the ball in order to take a scoring opportunity)

#### **8U - 7-8-YEAR-OLD DIVISIONS**

- 1) Ball size: 28.5".
- 2) The goal height will be 8.5' for girls and 9' for boys.
- 3) Three-point shot is allowed.
- 4) No full court pressing allowed, defense begins after half court
- 5) Foul shots will be taken from inside the broken circle. The lane violation area will include the area below the broken circle and will be a 5-second violation.

#### **10U - 9-10-YEAR-OLD DIVISIONS**

- 1) Ball size: Boys: 28.5", Girls: 28.5".
- 2) The goal height will be 10'.
- 3) Three-point shot is allowed.
- 4) The boys' foul shots will be taken from the regulation free throw line.
- 5) The boys' lane violation area will include the area below this line and will be a 5 second violation.
- 6) The girls' foul shots will be taken from the regulation free throw line (players allowed to jump over free throw line).
- 7) The girls' lane violation area will include the area below this line and will be a 5 second violation.
- 8) No full court pressing allow for first 3 quarters

#### **12U - 11-12-YEAR-OLD DIVISIONS**

- 1) Ball size: Boys: Official size (29.5"), Girls: 28.5".
- 2) The 3-point shot is allowed.
- 3) No full court pressing allowed in the first half
- 4) Regulation free throw line

#### **14U - 13-14-YEAR-OLD DIVISIONS**

- 1) Ball size: Boys: Official size 29.5"
- 2) The 3-point shot is allowed.
- 3) No restrictions on full court pressing
- 4) Regulation free throw line

### **PRESSING**

5-6 & 7-8-year-old divisions: No pressing

9-10-year-old divisions: Pressing allowed during the fourth quarter (or overtime periods) the entire season

11-12-year-old divisions: Pressing allowed during the second half the entire season.

13-year-old and older divisions: Pressing is allowed the entire game the entire season.

Exception: If a team has a 20-point lead – **NO FULL COURT PRESS WILL BE ALLOWED.**

### **COACHES**

If you are chosen to be a coach, a league director will notify you after the LAA Board meets to select coaches. Coaches are required to adhere to the following:

- Adhere to the LAA code of conduct and rules and regulations listed in this handbook.
- Make parents aware of the gym's rules and address any infractions that may occur.
- Pass on information to your team and parents.
- Have only one assistant coach and have no parents or non-players on your team's bench during the games.
- Change or swap practice schedules only with your League Directors' knowledge and permission.
- Participate in the skill assessment, team draft, and mandatory coaches' clinics.
- Ensure that a practice gym is not left unattended due to a coach cancelling a practice. Coaches must coordinate with the coach they share a gym with if they will not attend any practice. If both coaches plan on cancelling a practice (such that a gym will be left unattended) a league

official must be notified as soon as possible. This will ensure the school system attendant will not close the gym for later practices that day.

## **TEAM SELECTION PROCESS**

The team selection process for each league will be conducted by an Officer or their designee. In all cases, the team selection process will be strictly observed. The purpose of this process is to ensure that teams are selected fairly to achieve competitive balance among teams. It is recognized that teams of equal ability may not always be the result, but the method used to select the teams is fair and without bias.

The process will proceed as follows:

### **For auto pick draft:**

- 1) Evaluate all the registered players in an equal and orderly evaluation session. All coaches will be present at this evaluation for judging players' basketball abilities.
- 2) After the evaluation session, a Lanier Basketball board member will attend and help to run the arbitrary draft. The draft needs to be done as carefully as possible, to insure the balance of teams, for a fair and competitive league.
- 3) Write the number of desired teams horizontally on a blackboard or dry erase board.
- 4) The first two rounds should be devoted to distributing the best guards with the best tall players.
- 5) Once the first two rounds are completed, the remaining rounds should be devoted toward distributing, as evenly as possible, the remaining players to the teams. Be cautious to look at teams and determine if one is too weak, or one is too strong. Correct imbalances by switching players to satisfy the unbalanced teams.
- 6) Once all the players have been distributed, the coaches draw numbers blindly to select the team they will coach.
- 7) The next step is to trade the coach's child to the coach's team. Take the player in the same round on the coach's team and trade him to the team his/her child happens to be on. If the top 2 rounds selections

are affected, trade the top two players.

8) Make sure all the teams are as balanced as possible one last time. Any trades, which will benefit the balance of the league should be done now.

9) The only reason for a trade of players at this point should be for hardship concerns. This does not include aligning neighbors or friends.

10) Teams selection is complete.

**For coach pick draft:**

1) Evaluate all the registered players in an equal and orderly evaluation session. All coaches will be present at this evaluation for judging players' basketball abilities.

2) After the evaluation session, a Lanier Basketball board member will attend and run the draft.

3) Evaluations for all evaluated players are compiled and calculated in the top down order. All coaches will have access the scoresheet prior to draft beginning

4) Coaches will draw numbers blindly to decide draft order.

5) Coach and Asst. Coach child and siblings will be placed on their team based on their individual ranking. For example, if one coaches son received 25 points and evaluation and was considered a first round pick and other coached son received 10 points at evaluation and was considered a fourth round pick. They would automatically become that team first and fourth round picks and those picks would be skipped in the draft

5) The format will be a "snake draft". For example, for a league with 10 teams, we would draft 1- 10 and then go back 10-1. This means that one coach will receive back to back picks for every round

5) Coach will have one minute to make a pick (if no pick is made the highest ranked player available will be selected)

6) Players that did not attend evaluations and do not have a ranking will be placed randomly onto teams (utilizing the hat pick system)

7) Trading pick is prohibited, Player may be traded after drafted assuming both coaches find the trade acceptable and the Board member running the draft agrees.

8) Team selection is complete



## **ADDING PLAYERS**

A player must be added to the team if a team drops below eight (8) players before the first week of January. After the first week of January, it is the coach's option whether he/she will add a player.

Added players will be taken from a wait list made up of surplus player registrations received on the date of registration. The wait list is created on a first come, first serve basis. The first to register appears first on the list and has the option to join the team. If that person declines, the next person will be contacted, until each person on this list has declined.

If there are no players on the surplus waitlist, or if each on the list has declined, a player will be chosen from a second wait list made up of persons who signed up after registration. No one can be added to the wait list after the last weekend before the winter break. If there is no waitlist, the team will have to commence as is.

## **TOURNAMENT**

The tournament will begin after the regular season is complete and conclude about a week later. Dates and times are determined annually by court availability and when the county all-star tournament is held.

## **ALL STAR TEAMS**

The League Director in conjunction with executive board members will determine a fair and proper selection process for each league's all-star team(s) as well as coach selection. There will be an All-Star try-out. Each coach will be asked for their top three (3) players to participate in this process. The all-star tournament is the Gwinnett Recreational All-Star Basketball tournament. This tournament has its own player eligibility requires for example, no GBL players or traveling basketball players who have played in recent tournaments, etc. The LAA will abide by those eligibility requirements as part of the selection process.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Our association was formed for the benefit of the youth in our area. As a result, all participants are

expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, teamwork and cooperation at all times and especially in resolving any disputes. Failure to adhere to this code may result in a parent, coach, player or official from being barred from participation. Examples include, but are not limited to, swearing, talking back to referees or league officials, or being disrespectful in any way. Players, coaches, parents, and guests are subject to ejection from the gym or to technical fouls that will be assigned to the appropriate team if their behavior warrants it.

During games, any concerns about conduct should be reported to the board member on duty. The board member on duty has the authority to take immediate action to ensure a safe and fair playing environment. This includes ejecting players, coaches, parents or spectators.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

If a member of the association has a non-immediate complaint toward the conduct of an official, coach, parent, player and/or board member it should be handled in the following manner:

- A formal letter (or email) should be submitted to the Basketball Director within 48 hours of the incident.
- This correspondence should describe the complaint, where and when it took place, the coaches of the teams involved, other relevant information and what the writer sees as the appropriate action.
- The person/person accused will be sent a letter (or email) and asked to respond in writing with 48 hours after receiving notification of the complaint.
- The Executive Board will review both/all letters. If the Executive Board deems it necessary to act, the persons involved will be asked to respond.
- The Executive Board will make a decision based upon the information presented. The decision will be binding and final.

The committee will have the power to bar from participation that person or person(s) who are involved in improper conduct. Warning letters may also be issued.

## **TECHNICAL FOUL / VIOLATION OF CODE OF CONDUCT**

The following guidelines are to determine any disciplinary actions toward coaches or players receiving flagrant technical fouls or those in violation of our code of conduct. If a player or coach receives a second technical foul of the season he/she will be suspended for the next game. This rule will be strictly

enforced. A letter of warning will also be sent outlining the following:

- The next technical (third overall) will result in a two-game suspension.
- The fourth technical will mean removal from the league.
- The technical fouls do not have to happen in the same game. They are cumulative.

**Note:** Violations of an extremely serious nature can, at any time, result in the suspension for the remainder of the season.

## **PROTEST**

Georgia high school rules do not allow for protesting of games. Lanier Basketball Association will abide by the Georgia high school association precedent. There will be no protesting of games.

## **SafeKids Program**

The LAA is committed to provide a safe environment and to prevent child abuse and sexual misconduct. Coaches, parents, players and all should read and follow the preventive measures below.

The LAA will make reasonable efforts to ensure our programs are safe. The LAA will take appropriate action regarding all allegations of child abuse and/or sexual misconduct. If such a situation arises, alleged or otherwise, please contact a Board member immediately. All allegations will be reported immediately to the authorities for investigation and the LAA will cooperate fully with any such investigation.

The following is a list of preventive measures that should be taken:

- Physical, mental, and verbal abuses are forbidden.
- Inappropriate touching is forbidden.
- Coaches/trainers should not socialize with the participants outside of the sponsored activities of the organization.
- Coaches/trainers should not be alone or ride solo with a child that isn't their own.
- Parents are encouraged to attend all sponsored activities.
- If a child needs special attention (one-on-one), do it with the assistance of another adult.