

# South Shore Basketball League

Adopted - October 2013

Revised — January 2025

## Article I

### Name:

The name of the organization shall be known as the South Shore Basketball League (SSBL).

## Article II

### Objective and Purpose:

The objective and purpose of the S.S.B.L. shall be to provide youth with an opportunity to participate in a supervised basketball program that teaches them sportsmanship, fair play, and how to live fuller and healthier lives. The hope is that they may become better citizens in their respective communities as well as foster and gain valuable lessons in the area of teamwork and camaraderie while gaining lifelong friendships.

## Article III

### Officers/Board:

1. The officers of the SSBL shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each officer who is unable to attend any regular or special meeting shall submit the reason to the President before the meeting (except in the case of an emergency). All of these Terms are for 1) year and must be elected annually.
2. The Board of Directors of the SSBL shall consist of the Board of Directors plus one (1) representative from each organization within the league.
3. **The President** shall preside at all meetings. The President shall have the power to enforce the terms and provisions of the By-laws and all other rules and regulations passed by the majority of the representatives in attendance. The President may appoint additional league positions as deemed necessary. The President will remain in his/her position unless replaced by majority vote by the general board at the October meeting or until he/she voluntarily resigns.
4. **The Vice President** is responsible for keeping accurate and up-to-date files on all team rosters. He/she will assist the President with the creation of the league schedule, and they are also responsible for making preliminary investigations on any complaint(s) registered. The Board of Directors will make a final ruling by majority vote on any complaint. The VP will remain in his/her position unless replaced by a majority vote of the general board at the October meeting or until he/she voluntarily resigns.
5. **The Secretary** shall keep accurate notes of the proceedings of all the meetings. Notes of each meeting shall be typewritten and copies made available for each officer and general board member at the next league meeting. The Secretary shall remain in his/her position unless replaced by a majority vote of the general board at the October meeting or until he/she voluntarily resigns.
6. **The Treasurer** shall give a complete financial report at each regular meeting. A designated bank account shall be maintained for depositing all SSBL funds. The Treasurer shall sign all checks for league disbursements. The Treasurer shall give a detailed typewritten financial report at each meeting. The Treasurer shall remain at his/her position unless replaced by a majority vote by the general board at the October meeting or until he/she voluntarily resigns.

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7. The officers of the SSBL shall have the authority to take disciplinary action against any player(s), team(s), coach(es), or organization(s) as they deem necessary to maintain the integrity of the league, safety of the players and to advance the highest level of sportsmanship and fair play. Any disciplinary action taken by the officers shall be reviewed by the general board at the next scheduled meeting.

## IV

### Meetings:

1. The first meeting of the season is usually held in September e At least seven (7) days' advance notice will be given to each organization.
2. Additional meetings may be held in October, November, December, and January, and as needed throughout the year. At least seven (7) days' advance notice will be given to each organization.
3. Special meetings may be called by the President with at least (3) days' advance notice provided to each organization.
4. League business may be conducted at each meeting, so each organization must be represented.
5. Any organization that does not have at least one representative at each league meeting (where adequate notice was given). At the September SSBL meeting, each organization must submit the number of teams it will be entering in each division. League fees have been set at \$100.00 per team, provided the information is submitted at the November league meeting. If an organization wishes to enter a team after the SSBL November meeting, the fee will be determined annually and discussed. No teams will be accepted after the first week of December.
6. Members that miss (2) of (6) league meetings will be subject removal of the league by the entire board.

## Article V

### Membership:

1. Membership in the South Shore Basketball League shall be confined to the member organizations sponsoring teams in the league.
2. Membership in the SSBL is on a year-by-year basis. Annual Applications must be submitted with any additional boundary requests submitted and be subject to a vote.
3. Any organization wishing to join the SSBL must make its intentions known by the September meeting. During the October meeting, the membership request will be presented and only accepted if a simple majority of the league organizations present vote yes. All new organizations accepted will be on a 1-year trial period (with no voting rights)
  - a) Any new teams must have multiple teams enter into the SSBL for acceptance.
4. All organizations must pay their league fees on or before the December meeting date. This fee shall be used to cover the costs for playoff officials, championship trophies or other league expenses.

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### Article VI:

#### Representation and Voting:

1. Each league organization shall be entitled to one vote regardless of the number of teams they place in the league or number of people from an organization in attendance at a league meeting.
2. For any motion to pass it will require a simple majority of the league organizations present.
3. Each league representative shall only be able to cast their vote on business matters of a particular division if their organization has a team in that division. **(There shall be NO voting by Proxy)** must be in attendance to vote
4. Each league officer shall be allowed a single vote unless they have already voted as an organization representative. (No league officer can vote twice on the same matter)

### Article VII

#### Player Eligibility/Boundaries:

1. SSBL Organizations & Boundaries:

**Avalon: Avalon/ Stone Harbor - Avalon School students 3-4<sup>th</sup> gr (No matter residency)**

**Bishop McHugh — Only permitted to place teams in 3 RD /4 TH division, and the team must be comprised of children who attend Bishop McHugh School.**

**Mainland**

**Lower Township — Cape May, Cape May Point, West Cape May**

**Margate/Downbeach – Ventnor/Margate/Longport**

**Middle Township – Middle Twp**

**North Wildwood — Includes West Wildwood, Wildwood, Wildwood Crest (Girls only)**

**Ocean City – Ocean City & Sea Isle City**

**Dennis Township – Dennis Township**

**Upper Township – Upper Township**

**Woodbine**

**Wildwood - Includes West Wildwood, Wildwood, Wildwood Crest (Boys Only)**

2. Each SSBL organization can only enter teams comprised of players who have established residence within its boundaries. The residence listed on the school records will be considered the official residence.
3. No organization is allowed to recruit players from outside their boundaries. In no instance will a player who resides in a township/city not listed as an SSBL organization be allowed to participate.
4. A player who has tried out and been cut by their home team may then be eligible to try out for a neighboring organization whose boundaries are nearest the player's residence, provided that both organizations agree. See Article VIII, number 3.

## Article

5. If an organization that is a member of the SSBL does not place a team in a particular age group, a player from that organization is eligible to try out for a neighboring organization's team whose boundaries are nearest the player's residence, provided that both organizations agree. See Article VIII, number 3,
6. In the event a player does not play for his/her home team due to Article VII numbers 4 or 5, he/she has the option of continuing to play for the neighboring organization throughout his/her SSBL eligibility or return to their home organization. If a player does return to their home organization, he/she must stay and continue to play with their home organization for the rest of their SSBL eligibility.
7. In the case of a dual custody situation where a player's parents reside in different townships/cities, a player may choose which of these townships/cities he or she wishes to play for. Once this decision has been made, the player must continue to play for this township/city throughout his/her SSBL eligibility.
8. Players may only play for one organization in the SSBL. Players may only participate for one team in the SSBL. Players are not permitted to participate on an A and B division team, nor are they permitted to play on a team in their appropriate age group and a team in a higher age group. A player, if skill level warrants and with permission from his/her organization, is allowed to leave their appropriate age group and play up one age group, but they cannot play in a younger age group.

## Article VIII

### Divisions/Rosters:

1. Varsity — for 7<sup>TH</sup> and 8<sup>TH</sup> graders; Players at this level cannot turn (15) before October 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming SSBL Season
2. Junior Varsity — for 5<sup>TH</sup> and 6<sup>TH</sup> graders; Players at this level cannot turn (13) before October 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming SSBL Season (They can, however, play up at the Varsity Level)
3. Midget —for 3<sup>RD</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> graders. Players at this level cannot turn (11) before October 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming SSBL Season. They can, however, play Junior Varsity. No more than two second graders can be on the roster of a 3 /4 grade team.
4. Each organization must submit complete "official rosters" at the December SSBL meeting. It is the sole responsibility of each organization to ensure that the players listed on their rosters reside within their boundaries and are in the appropriate grade. Only players listed on the official roster are eligible to play during the season and compete in the playoffs.
5. The use of an ineligible player will result in the player being immediately removed from the league, and the team will forfeit all games that the player has participated in. If the officers of the SSBL believe that the coach/organization had prior knowledge that the player was ineligible, then the head coach will be suspended for the rest of the season and the organization will be placed on probation.

## Article IX

### Conduct:

1. All coaches (head coach and assistant coaches) shall be required to obtain a coach's certification (NYSCA or equal) before the start of the season. Certification must be current and valid throughout the season. Each organization is responsible for ensuring that its coaches are certified, and information with each coach's name and NYSCA membership number must be included on each team's roster. Rosters must be submitted at the league meeting in December. Coaches/Players who are not certified are prohibited from being in the bench area during games. All Coaches will be listed on the Official SSBL Roster.
2. Any Coach or Player ejected from a game will also be suspended for the next two scheduled games.

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3. Any Coach or Player who throws a punch at another Coach, Player, Referee, or spectator shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.
4. Any Coach or Player or Spectator who leaves the bench area to participate in an altercation or enters an opponent's bench area or the stands to start or join an altercation shall be suspended for three games.
5. Coaches are not permitted to harass or badger a referee over calls or non-calls. Only Head Coaches are permitted to stand during a game and must remain within the coach's box in front of the team bench\* Any coach that receives a technical foul forfeits the right of the Head Coach to stand, and in this instance, a Head Coach must be seated for the remainder of the game.
6. Any Coach who does not immediately return to the coach's box after being instructed to do so by a referee shall be suspended for one game,
7. Any spectator who uses profane or confrontational language shall be ejected from the gym. In no instance is a spectator to be allowed in the team bench area or within an area of the gym that is in proximity to the court where his/her actions will negatively impact the game.
8. Any spectator who badgers or harasses a referee shall be warned by an official and ejected from the gym if the behavior continues.
9. All Head Coaches will be required to sign the SSBL Coaches Code of Conduct and sent it to the League President before the beginning of every season. (Please see attached)

### SSBL Coaches and Assistant Coaches Code of Ethics

ALL SSBL Head Coaches are required to sign an affidavit that they understand and have read the SSBL Coaches Code of Ethics and subsequent disciplinary consequences.

- There shall be NO shouting across the Court to the opposing coaching staff.
- There shall be NO harassment of opposing players at any time, before, during, or after the game.
- There shall be NO berating of officials at any time before, during or after the games. Only one Coach the Head Coach or his designated Assistant Coach in Charge, may "Discuss" a particular call at any time.
- It is the responsibility of the Coaching Staff to attempt at all times to keep their fans acting in accordance with the purpose of our league. "Acting in a sportsmanlike manner for the benefit of the children."
- At NO TIME will the opposing Coaching Staffs engage in a conversation regarding the conduct of the game while in the presence of the children. All complaints MUST be in writing to the SSBL Executive Board.
- All Head Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their coaching staffs; however, if a Head Coach visibly attempts to restrain one of his or her assistants, either physically or verbally, without success, then the penalties prescribed for the infraction apply only to that assistant coach. Any coach who is ejected from the game, by the officials (for the reasons below) shall be suspended for the next league game and may be subject to disciplinary action from the Executive Board depending on the severity of the incident.
- Included, but not limited to:
  - No coach, substitute, trainer, or other team attendant shall act in an unsportsmanlike manner during end of period, intermission or End of Game.
  - There will be NO use of profanity, insulting or vulgar gestures or language.
  - Attempting to influence a decision by an official
  - Indicating objection to an official decision
  - Holding an unauthorized conference
  - Failure of a team to be ready to start either half
  - Being on the court unless there is an injured player or an approved time-out.
  - Failures of the Head Coach to have his/her players wear legal and/or required uniform
  - Using tobacco or smokeless tobacco
  - Being outside the coaches' box as prescribed in the NFHS rules book for that season.

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### Article X

#### Forfeits

1. At the November SSBL meeting, each organization must submit the number of (tentative) teams they will be entering in each division, dates when their gym is available for home games, plus a list of blackout dates when their teams cannot play. Every attempt will be made to avoid these dates on the schedule.
2. Once the official schedule has been posted, changes are not permitted. The only legitimate reason to cancel a game will be due to the weather. All other cancellations will be considered forfeits, and the opposing team will be credited with a 10 —0 win
3. A team that forfeits a game without giving at least 24 hours' notice will be responsible for paying the referees.

### Article XI

#### SSBL Game Day Rules:

#### **South Shore Basketball League – Game Day Rules Updated 2025 Season**

- Games will consist of two, 20-minute (running clock) halves. The clock will stop for timeouts and after a whistle during the last two minutes of each half.
- Halftime will consist of two minutes. Overtime will consist of three minutes (stop clock).
- Each team will be granted two timeouts per half and one timeout per overtime period. Timeouts do not carry over.
- Ball Size for all levels of play will be the following
  - (a) For All Levels of play Boys/Girls (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade), the Ball Size shall be 28.5 or (Size 6)
    - RIM Height for these levels of play shall be 9ft.
  - (b) For Girls Levels (5-6 & 7-8) of play, the ball size will remain 28.5 or (Size 6)
  - (c) For Boys Levels (5-6 & 7-8) of play, the ball size will revert to 29.5 or (Size 7)

*Please adhere to the following game day rules:*

**3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade South Shore boys & girls** – the players on defense MUST remain in the key behind the 3-point line until the offense advances the ball over midcourt. Full court press is permitted in the last 30 seconds of the game, but only if the margin is 5 points or less. Repeated violations will result in a delay of the game and/or a technical foul call assessed to the coaches.

**5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade South Shore boys & girls** – players can only press in the final 2 minutes of each half of the game. NO PRESS BY EITHER TEAM if the score is 11 points or greater.

**7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade South Shore boys & girls** – the press rule is NO PRESS BY EITHER TEAM if the score is 20 points or greater. No limits to when you can press other than the one stated.

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**MERCY RULE- At halftime or beyond, once the score differential becomes (25 points or more for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, (30 points for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>), all scores will freeze, and scores will be reported as such. Clock will continue to run as normal, and fouls will continue. For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, there is NO PRESSING once the score is frozen. Coaches should substitute once scores are frozen.**

- A player will foul out of the game on his/her 5<sup>th</sup> personal foul.
- **There is no longer one and one on the 7<sup>th</sup> team foul. On the 10<sup>th</sup> team foul, a team will shoot two free throws in each half.**
- The coaches' box goes from the hash mark to the end line.
- Only **ONE** coach can stand during game play unless instructed to sit due to a technical foul or other game-controlling methods authorized by the officials.
- No more than THREE coaches on the bench. This includes a coach at the score table.
- The scorekeeper is an extension of the bench. They are not to be involved in any comments, coaching, etc. They are to keep the book. The referees are not hearing from the score table. If the score table representative gets a technical, it applies to the coaching staff. Meaning 2 shots, the ball to the other team, and the coaches sit down for the remainder of the game.

If a technical foul is issued to any coach or book personnel at the bench or score table, ALL COACHES MUST SIT FOR THE REMAINDER of the game. If you refuse to sit, you are subject to immediate ejection, which will result in future suspensions as outlined in the league bylaws. Also, the organization is subject to fines payable to the league as per its bylaws. If anyone from the coaching staff is ejected, they must completely leave the area for the evening. They are not to wait in the lobby, parking lot, or, most importantly, they are NOT to approach any referees after the game. Discipline from the league, team Administration, and possibly law enforcement (in the worst case) will follow if you do not adhere.

**Fan Decorum is a point of emphasis:** It is the responsibility of the site administrator and coaches to control the behavior of the fans. If fans are ejected and refuse to leave, the game will be stopped, and the clock will run until those individuals leave the property.

***As a friendly yearly reminder about end-of-game situations, the final few minutes are sometimes intense. The following is something we have been preaching at all levels:***

- If you need to foul at the end of the game, the officials recommend using a code word such as "take one," "Blue," "Red," "X," "Q," or anything other than yelling "FOUL, FOUL, FOUL." This will head off potential intentional fouls and possible altercations.

### **Play-Off Format**

1. The Play-Off format will be determined each year at the November meeting and shall be based on the number of participating teams.
2. Play-Off Tie Breaking System (If multiple teams have the same record):

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- A. Head-to-Head
- B. Least amount of points allowed between tied teams
- C. The least amount of forfeits during the season
- D. Least amount of points allowed during season
- E. Coin Toss

\*\* A team cannot win a tiebreaker over a team it forfeited to during the season.

- **Championship game sites will be selected during the SSBL meeting in November and will be awarded and rotated annually (On current league application)**