2026- 2027 The Premier League RULES

PREAMBLE

The mission and purpose of The Premier League of Northeast Georgia, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "The Premier League") is to develop a highly competitive youth basketball program designed specifically to develop the skills of the most serious minded basketball players. The Premier League exists to develop teams with players from the same school and area (Northeast Georgia), thus developing a program of feeder systems for those respective Middle/High Schools in Northeast Georgia. A major emphasis is to provide the opportunity for the youth to have fun and enjoy basketball while learning proper sports skills and techniques in an atmosphere where good sportsmanship, ethics and competitiveness are stressed with their fellow schoolmates.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Premier League is a voluntary youth development organization designed to promote, manage, and support youth basketball in the Northeast Georgia area. Members of each association (also known as cluster), all coaches, all officers, all directors, officials, parents and players shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner so as not to bring discredit on The Premier League or any of its members.

The Premier League's goals include teaching proper basketball skills and techniques, instructing the principles of good sportsmanship, emphasizing physical fitness, providing an opportunity for fun and enjoyment, and the development of a teamwork attitude with their classmates. The Premier League will seek to promote pride in one's sense of accomplishment, the recognition of one's shortcomings and the importance of doing it right while working hard to accomplish a personal and team goal.

All who are associated with The Premier League including all member associations and their representatives, all coaches, players, and parents understand and agree that such attributes constitute the Code of Conduct of The Premier League and understand that actions on their part in contravention of this Code can constitute grounds for the imposition of a fine against the member association, suspension or expulsion of a member association, coach, parent, or player whose actions are in any manner in contravention of the Code of Conduct.

GOALS

1. Identify and recruit players within each school in Northeast Georgia with the potential skills to compete at the highest level of youth basketball.
2. Develop teams with players from the same school clusters, thus developing a program of feeder systems for the High Schools in Northeast Georgia.
3. To improve the knowledge and teaching skills of all coaches involved in the youth basketball program.
4. To teach good sportsmanship and physical fitness.
5. To provide an opportunity for fun and enjoyment.

PRECENDENCE

The Premier League's rules **TAKES PRECEDENT OVER LOCAL RULES.** The Premier League recognizes that individual associations / clusters may adopt certain Rules and Regulations for the management of their programs. When any Rules and Regulations of an individual association are in conflict with the Rules and Regulations of The Premier League, the Rules and Regulations of The Premier League shall control and the individual association must either adhere to those Rules or withdraw from the membership in The Premier League.

Rule 1: Certification and Rules.

A. Each member of the coaching staff must be familiar with the "National Federation of State High School Association Rule Book."
B. Each member of the coaching staff and each Premier League of Northeast Georgia representative must have a thorough understanding of The Premier League Rules, The Premier League Code of Conduct, and agree to abide by all provisions of these Rules and Code of Conduct, and be willing to accept any penalties which may be imposed as a result of violations(s) of the Rules and Code of Conduct.
C. The Rules in this Rule Book are subject to change. Each Premier League of Northeast Georgia Member Cluster Director or Contact Person is responsible for advising his/her association, coaches, players and membership of any Rule changes.

Rule 2: Membership Requirements

A. A Member must field a team in at least one age group in the league.
B. All participating teams must be certified by The Premier League, meeting all certification requirements for that season
C. Each Member will present to the Board, in writing, the name of the Director and other individuals authorized to represent the Member in the Directors absence at Premier League of Northeast Georgia meetings.
D. Insure that at least one, but not more than two, of the designated representatives attend each Premier League of Northeast Georgia meeting.
E. Pay all fees within the time-frames specified annually. Fees are due prior to the beginning of each season in November.

Rule 3: Age & Divisions

A. Age divisions will be based upon grade level during the academic school year.
B. Age divisions are 7^{th} Grade Boys, $5^{th}/6^{th}$ Grade Boys, $3^{rd}/4^{th}$ Grade Boys. Depending on the number of teams, divisions may be broken down into 7^{th}, 6^{th}, 5^{th}, 4^{th}, and 3^{rd}.
C. Players can not play in a lower grade level but may play up one level.
D. Player's birthday can be no greater than one year beyond the age cut off for that grade.
E. Members representing local school clusters that have two feeder middle schools will be allowed to place up to two teams in a grade level for both the age groups. If space allows, schools with one feeder middle school will then be allowed to enter two teams if desired. Precedence will go to the clusters who fielded two teams the prior season.
F. A Player will be allowed to play up a division but cannot play down. For example: Player A plays in Development Division but coach would like him to gain experience in the competitive Division then said player may play both. Player A may not play up more than 3 games in a season.

Rule 4: Boundaries/Recruiting

A. Teams will be comprised only of players from the Northeast Georgia Area. For example, player attends Snellville Elementary School. Player is not eligible to play.

    1. Rules will be strictly enforced. Any exceptions must be approved by The Premier League Commissioner. Rules are intended to foster community spirit.
    2. Team tryout dates will be provided to The Premier League for posting on The Premier League web site.

Rule 5: Practice

Teams can practice at their own discretion based upon availability of facilities. There are no limits on the number of hours a team may practice.

Rule 6: Team Composition

A. The minimum number of participants on a team will be five (5). A team can play with less than five (5) players during a game but must start with five (5) unless the opposing coach consents to play against four (4).
B. There is a maximum of twelve (12) certified players per team.
C. The maximum number of coaches on the team bench will be two (2).
D. Players may not change teams in a season once they have are certified, regardless of a change in address or school attendance.
E. A player may only participate with the team they are certified for regardless of how many teams a school may field.

Rule 7: Certification

A. All players must be certified with a Premier League of Northeast Georgia Registration form.
B. Certification will be done by The Premier League prior to the start of the season.
C. A certified roster with player's number and full name must be submitted to Premier League of Northeast Georgia before their opening game. Certified roster will be used as the official score book for all games. Any modifications / additions up to the first game require the member team to submit a new roster for certification with sufficient copies for all regular season games.
D. All players must be certified with a birth certificate or a report card from the fall session of school.

Rule 8: Uniform and Equipment

A) All individual teams are required to have matching jerseys and letters. All players must have a white uniform when the home team and must use legal numbers (0,1,2,3,4,5) or combination of these. All players must have an away uniform when the visiting team. Failure to have a valid number will result in a team technical when the player tries to enter the game and that player will be suspended from playing until the jersey is correct.
B) Jerseys must have permanent numbers on both front and back of jersey (no tape or markers).
C) If undershirts are worn, they must be the same color as the jersey.
D) Coaches are role models and should dress accordingly. Clothing such as casual (basketball or athletic) shorts and/or "cut-off" shorts, warm-up suites, t-shirts, jerseys, and hats are not permitted. Proper attire must be neat, clean, and portray a positive image for all Premier League of Northeast Georgia participants.

Rule 9: Playing Rules

A. National Federation Basketball Rules with GHSA exceptions as approved and published by GHSA.
B. Game Length - Game Length may be modified prior to the season beginning if the Commissioner determines it is necessary to manage the game schedule.

7^{th} Grade Boys – Four 6 minute quarters
$5^{th}/6^{th}$ Grade Boys – Four 6 minute quarters
$3^{rd}/4^{th}$ Grade Boys – Four 5 minute quarters

C. Half Time – 3 minutes
D. Overtime – 2 minutes for one period
E. Timeouts - three 1 minute, two 30 second (per game), and one extra for overtime. Timeouts do accumulate and can be carried over between halves and into overtime.
F. Fouls – players foul out on the 5^{th} personal foul. Players will be shoot 2 shots after the 5^{th} team foul per period. Offensive fouls count as fouls but not a shooting foul.
G. Mercy Rule – Once a team is ahead by 20 points in the 2^{nd} half, the clock will run continuously except during timeouts and injuries. If the point differential is reduced below 12, the clock will return to normal stoppages.
H. Press – No full court press allowed after 15 point lead. One warning, then a technical on the Coach will be assessed.
I. Ball Size – The Premier League provides Game balls only. Coaches are responsible for bringing warm-up ball for their team.

7^{th} Grade – Boys will use 29.5
$3^{rd}/4^{th}/5^{th}/6^{th}$Grade – Boys will use 28.5

J. Clock Keeper and Score Keeper – The Premier League will provide the Clock Keeper. The participating teams will each provide a Score Keeper and they will be signed in at the admissions gate and will not be required to pay. Score Keeper will keep the scorecard of each others teams.

Rule 10: Schedules

A season ending tournament will be sponsored by The Premier League. The tournament format- SINGLE elimination with Round 1 of the tournament could include bye's for the top seeds. The format may change due to the number of teams that enter the league.

A. Regular Season Standings will be used to determine the tournament seeding. Standings are determined as follows:

a) Best overall record
b) Standing Tiebreaker rules:

a. Head to Head Play: The team that wins the head to head competition between the two tied teams will be the higher seed.
b. Defensive Point System: A total defensive point system will be used if teams are still tied. The team with the lowest points allowed will determine the teams' order of placement.

c. Offensive Point System: A total offensive point system will be used if teams are still tied. The team with the highest points scored for the season will determine the team's order of placement.
d. Coin Toss: If two teams remain tied a coin toss will determine the team's order of placement.

Rule 11: Admission Charges

The Premier League will charge an admission fee of $5 per REGULAR SEASON games for adults 18 years of age and above and $3 per person below and over the age of 2. $5 per Adult / $3 per child under the age of 18 years old for All-star and End of Season Tournament. This pays the officials and allows us to be competitive in getting officials by paying them in cash after each game. This also pays for website, as well as awards at the end of the season.

Rule 12: Required Conduct for Coaches, Players, Parents and Spectators

A. In addition to the stated purposes of the Code of Conduct of The Premier League, it will be strictly against the policy of The Premier League for any person either as player, spectator, or coach to:
    1. Engage in arguments or unprivileged touching of an official, coach, participant, or Premier League of Northeast Georgia representative;
    2. To use abusive or foul language;
    3. To harass officials; and
    4. To exhibit any behavior not in accordance with the Bylaws, or the Code of Conduct shall be dealt with as necessary by The Premier League. Penalties may include a fine and/or suspension and/or expulsion from The Premier League Program.
B. All coaches must sign the Code of Conduct form prior to the beginning of the season.
C. Coaches are also responsible for reviewing and enforcing this Code of Conduct with their players and parents.
D. If a coach or player receives either 2 technical fouls, a flagrant foul or is ejected from a game, they will be suspended for at least one game thereafter.
E. If a coach or player is involved in a fight at any time, a minimum punishment of a 2 game suspension or greater based on Premier League of Northeast Georgia review and vote. A coach may be penalized for players fighting.
F. If a coach or player is ejected from 2 or more games, upon Premier League of Northeast Georgia Review said offenders may be suspended from league.

Rule 13: Ineligible Participants

The use of ineligible players (players not certified by The Premier League for suspect team) will cause the coach to be suspended for a minimum of one (1) game and all games that involved that individual will result in a forfeit. A fine also may be imposed on the Member involved.

Rule 14: Canceling Games and Forfeits

Games canceled because of lack of participants or any other reason will result in an automatic fine of $80 to the team. This includes all regular season and tournament games.

Rule 15: Registration Fees

A. Annual Team Registration fees will be $1,100.00 per team with the option to change by the league and announced to all teams prior to two weeks before regular season league play. Payments required on designated date provided by the Premier League each year.

B. Only The Premier League is authorized to collect registration fees from member associations in order to accomplish the Purposes of The Premier League.

Rule 16: Protests of Game

A coach may protest a game if he/she feels a Rule has been broken or not enforced. The coach must have a written protest to a Premier League of Northeast Georgia Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours after the game. A $40 cash deposit must accompany the written protest. If the protest causes a reversal by The Premier League, the $40 will be returned. If the decision is not reversed, the $40 deposit will not be returned and will be deposited into The Premier League general fund. Judgment calls by a referee cannot be protested. Only Rule violations may be protested.

Rule 17: Fines and Appeals

Should a fine be imposed against a Member, a coach, player, or parent from that association, the association shall have thirty (30) days to appeal the imposition of that fine to The Premier League. Should they fail to appeal and win that appeal to The Premier League, the fine shall stand and the association shall pay the fine within ten (10) days of any decision on the appeal. Should the Member fail to pay the fine for any reason whatsoever, that association shall be put on suspension from The Premier League and shall not be allowed to participate in any Premier League of Northeast Georgia decision until that fine has been paid. Should that fine remain unpaid at the conclusion of the season, that local association may be removed from The Premier League.