

John H. Bower Sunday School Basketball League
By-Laws, As Revised 2006
Organized in 1921 by John H. Bower

Article 1 -- NAME:

This organization shall be known as the John H. Bower Sunday School Basketball League of Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Article II – OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of the league is to work for the betterment of the Sunday school or church by developing character through athletic contests and by making Sunday school or church attendance a condition of membership.

Article III – MEMBERSHIP:

Any church or Sunday school in Lycoming County is eligible for membership in the league.

Article IV – GOVERNMENT:

The management of this league shall be under the direct supervision and control of the officers and directors of the league, in whose authority shall rest all final decisions.

Article V – OFFICERS:

1. The officers shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and supervisors to be appointed by the president at his/her discretion.
2. The league officers will be elected by the voting representatives. Each church shall be entitled to one vote, regardless of the number of teams it has entered. It will be up to the church to designate the voting representative.
3. Election of all officers will be held during the first October meeting every two years.

Article VI – AMATEURISM:

The league shall be governed by the principles of amateurism as adopted by the Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.).

Article VII – MEMBERSHIP AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

1. Coaches and/or adult supervisors shall be responsible for all male and female players while on the court and in the building.
2. Any player who is above the sixth grade level and on an organized middle, junior, or senior high school team shall not be allowed to play in the Bower League. A player who leaves an organized team two weeks before the start of the Bower League season may play in the Bower League. A player who joins an organized team, whose games are played after the end of the Bower League season, may continue to play in the Bower League.
3. All players are required to attend Sunday School or church for one year prior to the start of the season. A player who has no Sunday School or church affiliation

will become eligible to participate after attending Sunday School or church for three consecutive Sundays.

4. A player must have a 75% Sunday School or church attendance record. Proof of attendance shall be provided by the team coach, church clergy or Sunday School superintendent upon request of the league. Church officials may provide reasons, in writing, why a player is unable to meet this requirement.
5. Players attending a Sunday School or church that does not have a team in their division may represent a Sunday School or church other than their own in the Bower League. A team may not add more than three players from another Sunday School or church and that team's roster may not exceed a total of ten players. A Sunday School or church team having ten or more players may not add any players from another Sunday School or church.
6. A roster, consisting of at least five eligible players, along with player contracts and league entrance fee, must be turned in by the date set by the league president at the first league meeting.
7. A Sunday School or church team shall not be allowed to use a player until that player's contract is in the hands of the Bower League bookkeeper. If violated, the game may be protested and subject to forfeiture.
8. The league is open to players up to and including 12th grade. Players who have completed high school or dropped out of school are not eligible to play.
9. Grade level to be determined at the start of the playing season.
10. To be eligible, a player must be in the grade level as outlined below:

Beginner Pee-Wee	Grades K, 1, 2
Pee-Wee	Grades 3, 4 5
Midget	Grades 4, 5,6
Junior	Grades 7, 8, 9
Senior	Grades 10,11,12

Article VIII – LEAGUE RULES

1. A player may transfer to a higher division but may not return to a lower division during that season.
2. Games are to be played as scheduled and teams appearing on the floor with less than five eligible and uniformed players will forfeit the game. A team uniform shall consist of the same colored shirts with numbers on the back.
3. Players' first and last names and uniform numbers must be entered in the official scorer's book, at the scorer's table, at least ten minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the game.
4. To be eligible for championship play-offs, players must have been present for 70% of the games in the division in which they have competed.
5. Beginner Pee-Wee and Pee-Wee divisions will not have championship play-offs. Defense may not be played beyond half-court in these divisions.
6. Length of games:

Beginner Pee-Wee, Pee-Wee and Midget divisions- 5 minute quarters
Junior and Senior Divisions - 6 minute

quarters

In the last 2 minutes of the 4th quarter, the clock will stop for time-outs, foul shots and in-bounding the ball.

7. Overtime games: In extra period games, two 2-minute periods will be played; then if still tied, 1-minute periods will be played with the clock running and no time-outs.
8. Time outs:
 - a. Each team will be allowed two 30-second time out periods per game and one additional 30-second time out for each extra 2-minute period.
 - b. The clock will be stopped in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter and in extra periods. During all other time-outs, the clock will continue to run.
9. Foul shooters will be allowed five seconds for each shot.
10. The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association's (P.I.A.A.) rule book shall be the official rule book of the league, except for those changes provided for in the Bower League constitution.
11. A scorer / time-keeper from each team are required for each and every scheduled league game). Referees and proper timing devices will be supplied by the league.
12. Any team failing to appear for two consecutive games shall forfeit entry fee and franchise in the league.
13. Any player or coach using profanity shall be ejected from the game by the referee and that player's or coach's name shall be reported to the league officers. It should be the duty of each player and coach to see that the referees are shown the proper respect due them no matter what they may think of the decision. Any attempt by fans to harass or badger a referee should be discourage by the managers and players. The officials are performing their work to help the league's members develop good, wholesome and clean amateur athletics and should receive everyone's cooperation.
 - a. ANY player who throws a punch during a game will be ejected from the game and suspended for the remainder of the season.
 - b. ANY player who engages in pushing and/or shoving will be ejected from the game and be suspended for the next game.
14. Protests: No protest will be considered unless made at the time of play to the referee and official scorer, and placed in writing and submitted to the league officials within 48 hours.
15. Churches entering teams in the league must supply competent adults who can give time to the basketball program. The league officers reserve the right to ask for a change in personnel when the league officers deem it necessary. It is mandatory than an adult supervisor be present on the bench during game time and for ten minutes before and after a game. Otherwise, the game will be forfeited.
16. The league will supply all trophies.
17. All division championships will be played on full court.
18. All championship games shall have two referees.
19. Championship playoff eligibility, based on team records, will be determined by League officers after all regular games are played.
20. All rules, regulations, games and protests are subject to review by the League officers. Forfeits may be declared by authority of the officers, without a formal protest being lodged.