

Dear Coaches & Church Basketball Directors:

We would like to invite your church to join us in the Ebenezer Basketball League for the 2018-2019 season. In this packet you will find everything you need for your church to begin putting teams together your teams. We are excited about a new year of church league basketball and hope that your church plans to join us!

In this packet, you will find a copy of the League Guidelines, which includes the objectives of the league. Our primary purpose is to recognize that this basketball league is a ministry partnership between your church and Ebenezer. Our goal is to use the sport of basketball to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and reach this community with His love and hope. As you will see in the League Guidelines, there are rules in place to encourage all of our churches to help build up godly young men and women to enjoy this game. Please work with your coaches and teams to make sure our Christ-like attitude and sportsmanship extends beyond the opening prayer at the start of the game. May we do everything on and off the court in such a way that we model Christ for our players and families. You will also find a copy of the Team Roster Form and the Player Permission Form. Please make more copies as needed for your teams and players. Forms and League Guidelines are also available at: www.ebcsc.com/ministries/basketball.

Here are some important dates and information you need to know about the league:

Friday, November 2 - All Team Rosters, Player Forms, Certificate of Liability Insurance & Payments Due at Ebenezer Church Office

** No team will be allowed to play until all team rosters and individual forms are filled out for every player on your roster. Please be sure to have the pastor of the church sign off on the roster. We will not add your team to the schedule until all paperwork has been turned in to Ebenezer.*

*** NEW FOR 2018 - Each participating church will provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance that shows liability coverage for all teams and their players.*

Tuesday, November 13 at 6:00pm - League Meeting (All Coaches and Directors)

We will meet in the Family Life Center at Ebenezer. We will talk through age specific game rules and make adjustments to rules as necessary that night after discussion with all churches. **Every church that plays in the league must bring their coaches and league directors to the meeting.**

Games Begin - The Week of Nov 27th

*** Game Schedules will be emailed to teams and posted on the church website by Thanksgiving.*

Team Photos: Our Student Ministry will be offering individual and team photo packages again for all churches. We will be taking pictures of the 8U & 10U teams. However, if other teams want pictures, let us know. **Photos will be taken on Saturday, January 12th.** All proceeds will go to help support the Student Ministry Summer Camp & Mission Trips.

Thank you for your interest in this league, and I hope we can grow as a faith community in Florence demonstrating the love of Christ to children and teenagers in all we do, on and off the court. Please let me know how I may serve you as we enjoy this season together. You can email me at nathan@ebcsc.com or call the church office at (843) 669-1802.

Faithfully,

Rev. Nathan Neighbors
Associate Pastor to Students

CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY COVERAGE

NEW for 2018/2019 Church League Basketball Season

All participating churches must provide a Certificate of Liability Coverage from your Church's insurance company that shows liability coverage for all of your teams, players and coaches for the season that will run from December through mid March. Please turn in a copy of this Insurance Certificate along with your Church's registration information by Friday, November 2nd.

Please list the location as:
Ebenezer Baptist Church
524 S. Ebenezer Rd.
Florence, SC 29501

and the event dates as Nov 27 - Mar 15 (that should cover teams that are playing in the playoffs in the post season)

Ebenezer Church Basketball League

GUIDELINES & OBJECTIVES

The Ebenezer Church Basketball League exists to:

1. Honor Christ in all of our actions and words and develop a Christian environment where fellowship, recreation, and ministry can occur.
2. Use the league as a tool to spread the Gospel of Jesus and reach people for Christ.
3. Develop within each participant patience, self-control, courage, good sportsmanship, team work and a Christian outlook toward competition.

I. Membership Requirements

The participating church is to be of the Florence area and must agree to the rules and guidelines below.

II. Organizational Structure

A. The league will be governed by the League Committee, consisting of the League Director(s), Coach/Representatives, and the Recreation Committee of EBC.

B. Duties of this committee will be to perform the following tasks:

1. Enforcement of rules and guidelines.
2. Review of protests and/or violations with determining action.

III. League Fees

A. The total cost of each team will be \$350.00. This fee will cover trophies, officials, scorekeepers, utilities, and expenses for the regular season and tournament play. Checks may be made payable to "Ebenezer Baptist Church."

B. The fee deadline is November 2, 2018.

IV. Player Eligibility

A. Each team member must be a member in the sponsoring church or a member (regularly involved) in Sunday School (small group Bible study). (EBC holds each individual church accountable for implementing this rule. The League Director and Recreation Committee will not ask to check each Church's Member Roster unless an issue arises).

B. Four non-church members are allowed per team with the following criteria:

1. They are actively attending the sponsoring church for which they play.
2. They are members of a church that does not have a team or teams in their age bracket in the Ebenezer Baptist Church League.

C. If a church does not have enough players to complete a reasonable roster, the church may combine with another church under the following stipulations:

1. Each church must submit a roster signed by their pastor.
2. Each combination team **MUST** be approved by the League Committee before admission to the league.

D. Age requirements are effective as of September 1, 2018.

1. To play in the 8 and Under League, the player be 8 years old or UNDER on Sept. 1, 2018.
2. To play in the 10 and Under League, the player be 10 years old or UNDER on Sept. 1, 2018.
3. To play in the 12 and Under League, the player be 12 years old or UNDER on Sept. 1, 2018.
4. To play in the 14 and Under League, the player be 14 years old or UNDER on Sept. 1, 2018.
5. To play in the 17 and Under League, the player be 17 years old or UNDER on Sept. 1, 2018 OR may appeal to the League Committee if 18 years old and still in high school.

E. No player who plays on a MIDDLE SCHOOL team OR HIGH SCHOOL Junior Varsity OR Varsity team will be eligible for a church league team (This rule will be enforced and no exceptions of any kind will be permitted).

V. Official Rosters and Roster Forms

- A. All official rosters and forms are due by the first game. Cards and rosters are required to be officially admitted to the League.
- B. There is a limit of fifteen players per team on the roster.
- C. Additions or roster changes will be allowed until December 18, 2018.
- D. Roster changes must be made with an official roster card submitted to the League Director.

VI. League Structure

A. Game play will follow this schedule:

Age Group	Type of Period	Length of Period
8 and Under	Quarter	6 minutes
10 and Under	Quarter	6 minutes
12 and Under	Half	14 minutes
14 and Under	Half	14 minutes
17 and Under	Half	14 minutes

- B. Games must begin on time.
- C. Two minute break between halves.
- D. Less than five players constitute a forfeit. A five minute grace period will be allowed for the first game of the day only. After the first game no grace period is allowed.

VII. Officiating and Scorekeeping

A. Officials and scorekeepers will be hired by the League Committee. Each church is asked to submit names for these potential officials and scorekeepers.

1. An officiating clinic will be scheduled for new officials.
2. Names and phone numbers are due no later than the first game.

B. Pay Schedule:

1. Timekeeper/Score \$7.50 per game
2. Officials \$12.00 per game (8U & 10U)
\$15.00 per game (12U, 14U & 18U)

C. High School basketball rules will be followed except where noted within these rules.

*** The League Director and Recreation Committee do the best they can to get Qualified, Responsible, and Dependable Time/Scorekeepers and Officials. PLEASE submit names if you know of someone that could be an asset to this league. ***

VIII Equipment (THESE RULES WILL BE ENFORCED, NO EXCEPTIONS!!!)

- A. All players must have Jerseys with Numbers. Reversible jerseys are recommended.
- B. Regular court shoes are required.
- C. Shorts or Pants must be worn at the waist at all times
- D. No player may play with cast or splint.
- E. No two players on the same team may have the same number.
- F. No two teams may have like jerseys. However, Team A and Team B may have jersey and number color reversible. Team colors must be submitted at the league meeting. Ebenezer Baptist Church supplies no jerseys.
- G. T-shirts worn under jerseys must be the same color as the jersey or white.
- H. Jewelry must be removed prior to playing.

IX. Protests

- A. Protests must be in written form and submitted to the League Committee within 48 hours of the protested event.
- B. The League Committee will rule on the protest as soon as possible.

X. Prayer

- A. A prayer will be said at center court before each game led by the home team (as indicated on the schedule).
- B. A prayer will be said at center court after each game led by the visiting team.

XI. Championships

- A. A tournament will be held at the end of the regular season play for the 12, 14, and 17 & under leagues.
- B. Seedings will be decided by team standings.
- C. In case of tie for first place, seedings will be decided by the point spread of the games played by the tied teams. If these teams are still tied the tie will be broken by a coin toss. Ties for other positions will be broken by draw.

XII. Awards

- A. There will be three trophies.
 - 1. First place for regular season play.
 - 2. First and second place for tournament play.

XIII League Play in the Ebenezer Baptist Gym

A. Rules for League Play:

1. All coaches, players, and parents are expected to treat the Ebenezer Baptist Church gym and equipment with respect and care.
2. A coach or responsible adult is required to be with the team before they are allowed to enter the facilities and begin practice.
3. Areas other than the gym, restrooms, and vending areas are off limits.
4. No food, drink, or chewing gum is allowed in the gym.
5. No balls are to be thrown or kicked against walls or lights.
6. No street shoes allowed on the gym floor.
7. Ebenezer Baptist Church will not be responsible for valuables
8. No smoking is allowed inside the Family Life Center.
9. No one is allowed on stands when folded shut.
10. Hanging or slam dunking on goals is prohibited.
11. Each coach is responsible for making sure all players have rides and have safely left the premises when practice is over AND each coach is responsible

for enforcing seeing that these guidelines are enforced. Failure will result in loss of practice time.

12. Equipment damage caused by misuse, unnecessary roughness, and thrown balls (i.e. broken lights, signs, lockers, etc.) will be billed to the church involved.

13. No balls are to be brought to the EBC Gym. EBC supplies all game balls. Any other balls brought or found in the EBC Gym during game play will be confiscated by the League Director.

B. No dunking will be allowed at anytime.

XIV League Guidelines

A. Technical fouls will be given for unsportsmanlike conduct.

1. When a player receives two technical fouls for unsportsmanlike conduct, he/she is immediately dismissed from the game and must leave the Family Life Center immediately, and becomes automatically disqualified from the next scheduled game and must be reinstated after meeting with the League Committee before playing again (NOTE: Reinstatement is not an automatic act of the committee and will be at the committee's discretion) .

2. If the player plays in more than one league, he/she is disqualified from the other league until after the suspension is fulfilled in the league where he/she received the technical fouls.

3. If the player receives three unsportsmanlike technicals in one season, he/she is automatically suspended for the remainder of the season. If he/she plays in more than one league, he/she is suspended in both leagues.

4. If a team receives four unsportsmanlike technicals in one game, the game is automatically forfeited.

5. If a team receives eight unsportsmanlike technicals in one season, the team will be automatically dropped from the league for the season and possibly for an extended period of time at the discretion of the League Committee.

6. THERE ARE NO EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND THERE WILL BE NO APPEAL OF RULES XIV.A.1,2,3,4,5,6.

B. FIGHTING: Any player who throws a punch or is involved in starting a fight OR returns a punch and is actively involved in a fight will be automatically disqualified from the next scheduled game and must be reinstated after meeting with the League Committee before playing again (NOTE: Reinstatement is not an automatic act of the committee and will be at the committee's discretion) .

C. Each team must have a team captain who will identify himself to the officials at the opening prayer.

1. Only the captain and coach may address the referees.

2. Any other player addressing the referees will receive an unsportsmanlike technical foul.

3. The captain / coach may address the referees concerning clarification of a call (understanding what was called), NOT TO ARGUE A RULE INTERPRETATION. THIS TYPE OF COMPLAINT SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH A PROTEST. THIS RULE DOES NOT GIVE THE COACH OR CAPTAIN THE RIGHT TO BADGER, TAUNT, OR DEGRADE A REFEREE. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT BY A CAPTAIN OR COACH WILL RESULT IN A TECHNICAL FOUL.

D. No basketballs are allowed in the Family Life Center or the gym during games and will be confiscated if brought. Ebenezer Baptist provides balls for the games.

E. Only players, coaches, officials, timekeepers and scorers are allowed on playing floor during and after the game.

F. Ebenezer Baptist Church is not responsible for any injury which may occur during practice or league play.

G. Each church as well as each coach, is responsible for its fans. Only sportsmanlike conduct and Christian attitudes are acceptable. We are a Church League!!

H. The League Director or the officials have the right to eject anyone (player or spectator) from the building if necessary.

Coaches, players, and/or fans who show any type of misbehavior (including unsportsmanlike comments to players, coaches, or referees) will be immediately ejected from the Family Life Center and will be required to meet with the Recreation Committee of Ebenezer Baptist Church before they will be allowed to return to the league.

J. The League Committee has the right to suspend any player or team from the league for failure to adhere to these guidelines, or for any misconduct (conduct which is in direct conflict with the league objectives).

XV League Play Begins December 1, 2018.

NEW for 2018/2019 - All participating churches must provide a Certificate of Liability Coverage from your Church's insurance company that shows liability coverage for all of your teams, players and coaches for the season that will run from Nov 27 - Mar 15. Please turn in a copy of this Insurance Certificate along with your Church's registration information.