

# **BIG WEST CATHOLIC LEAGUE BY LAWS**

## **Basketball – 2010-2011**

### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

This association shall be known as the Big West Catholic League (“League”).

### **ARTICLE II: PHILOSOPHY**

This philosophy of the Big West Catholic League is based on the strong belief that athletics are educationally sound and that they play an important part in the development of the participants physical, mental and moral growth. The member schools believe that this is educationally sound for it offers training for living in a competitive society. The basic principles of good sportsmanship and high ethical standards should prevail at all times in order to enhance the educational growth of students who participate in the League’s programs. To that end, it is imperative that coaches play all players present at the game.

### **ARTICLE III: PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Big West Catholic League is to offer those experiences needed to reach the educational objectives of interscholastic athletics as stated in the philosophy of the League. The League shall provide a means for the member schools to work together in order to enhance their instructional programs. The Big West Catholic League will provide the student participant with opportunities to learn skills and develop moral values beyond those offered in the school curricula. The major emphasis of the Big West Catholic League programs will be based on learning through competitive sports as well as learning the skills of sports. These activities shall be modified to meet the physical, mental and emotional levels of the student participant.

### **ARTICLE IV: SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1:** The League shall be composed of Catholic elementary schools. Any Catholic school that desires membership in the League must petition to the League members. A two thirds yes vote is needed from the current league members for admittance. All member schools will agree to follow the rules and regulations of the Big West Catholic League as herein after defined.

**Section 2:** All member schools will agree to submit a signed Principal Support Agreement (the form and content of which will be determined by the League members) prior to the first game of the season.

**Section 3:** All coaches, officials and school volunteers over the age of 18 who are in any way associated with the Big West Catholic League must attend the Diocese of Joliet’s Protecting God’s Children Program and submit to a background check.

**Section 4:** Schools may forfeit membership by failure to notify the League of its intent to participate in competition. Participation may be in 5, 6, 7, and 8 boys and girls.

**Section 5:** Any violation of the rules of the League shall render the offending school liable to expulsion by a majority vote of the League’s members.

**Section 6:** Any member school desiring to voluntarily withdraw from the League should make its intent know in writing to the League Commissioner.

**Section 7:** The member schools will set the league fees by a majority vote. Fees for the volleyball league will be set at the August schedule meeting and fees for the basketball league will be set at the October schedule meeting. Fees will be based on the League’s current financial status and the projected expenses of operating each program for the upcoming season. All league fees are payable to the Treasurer no later than the first monthly meeting following the beginning of the playing season.

**Section 8:** League fees are to be used to pay direct operation expenses of the league only.

## **ARTICLE V: LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION**

Administration of the Big West Catholic League shall be governed by the Board of Control.

### **Section 1: THE BOARD OF CONTROL AND THEIR DUTIES**

- A. **Commissioner:** Serve as head of the Board of Control, supervise all League functions, uphold the rules and By-Laws of the League, arrange for the tournament site(s), call League meetings, arbitrate problems and rule on protests, act as liaison between League and school administrators and appoint interim officers to vacant offices.
- B. **Lead Basketball Officials Coordinator:** Serve as a member of the Board of Control and schedule official referees for games and tournaments in conjunction with the basketball schedule only.
- C. **Schedule Chairperson:** Serve as a member of the Board of Control, secure gym facilities, develop and publish the regular season and tournament schedules, and co-ordinate changes in the schedule.
- D. **Secretary:** Serve as a member of the Board of Control, record minutes of all meetings, produce and distribute materials for League meetings, preside over meetings in the absence of the Commissioner, fill the office of Commissioner if vacated until filled by election.
- E. **Treasurer:** Serve as a member of the Board of Control, have charge of all funds and deposit such in League accounts, pay League bills and keep a general summary of the receipts and expenditures and present it at each meeting.

**Section 2:** Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the member schools at the April meeting and shall perform the duties of the office until the next April meeting

**Section 3:** A majority vote of the Board of Control shall break all tie votes from the League members.

**Section 4:** The Board of Control shall enforce the rules and regulations governing the League.

## **ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS**

**Section 1:** Monthly League meetings will be held the second Tuesday of every month at a facility to be determined by the Commissioner. These meetings will be held at 7:00pm unless otherwise stated.

**Section 2:** The Commissioner may hold special meetings of the Board of Control and member schools upon notification

**Section 3:** Each member school **MUST** have one representative present at each meeting that is held. Probation or suspension from league membership and/or loss of voting privileges may result from missing meetings or not having any school representation at meetings. Such probation or suspension may be enacted by a simple majority vote of the Board of Control.

**Section 4:** At the beginning of each season, a rules meeting sponsored by the League. The volleyball league and the basketball league will each have separate meetings. The date of these meetings will be determined by the League membership. Attendance is mandatory for all Athletic Directors, coaches and referees involved in the League.

## **ARTICLE VII: BY-LAW AND RULE AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1:** All matters involving changes to the By-Laws and league rules shall be voted on by the member schools. All matters involving changes to the By-Laws or rules shall be decided by a simple majority vote of member schools. Matters of routine business shall be decided by a simple majority of the member schools present at the meeting in which the routine business comes up for a vote.

**Section 2:** Each member school is allowed one vote. League officers with no school affiliation are also allowed one vote.

**Section 3:** Any vote resulting in a tie shall be broken by the members of the Board of Control as per their stated duties.

## **ARTICLE VIII: TEAM ROSTERS, FEES AND GAME SCHEDULE**

The official League schedule will be prepared by the Schedule Chairperson and approved by the Commissioner. Teams are expected to adhere to the schedule with changes to the schedule made only under exceptional circumstances and then only with the approval of the Commissioner or Schedule Chairperson. Teams that request the change are responsible for the cost that may be involved due to such changes and will be billed by the League Treasurer.

### **Section 1: VOLLEYBALL**

- A. All volleyball team commitments, black-out dates and gym availability are due at the July meeting. A final League volleyball schedule will be handed out at the August meeting.
- B. League fees will be set by the member schools prior to the August meeting. All fees are due to the League Treasurer no later than the first monthly meeting following the beginning of the playing season.
- C. The volleyball league shall consist of two boys divisions (5th/6th grade and 7th/8th grade) and four girls. Divisions may be changed as determined annually by the League members.
- D. All teams must submit a roster to the league commissioner no later than 7 days prior to the start of the season. Failure to submit a team roster will result in forfeiture of all games until the requirement is met.
- E. All teams must be rostered with a minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 15 players.
- F. Players can only be rostered on one team. **Penalty for violating:** forfeiture of match and disciplinary action by the league.
- G. Players may play up in an older division, but cannot play down in a younger division. Also, a player cannot play on another team in their same division. The head coach must announce to the score table and to the opposing head coach that a player has been called up. **Penalty for violating:** forfeiture of match and disciplinary action by league.
- H. A permanently rostered player must play in at least 50% of that team's regular season League matches in order to be eligible to play in any League tournament games. The only exception would be a medical exemption with written doctor's verification.
- I. Players must be full-time students registered at their respective school. **Penalty for violating:** forfeiture of match and disciplinary action by the league.
- J. All players that suit for a match and are on the match roster must play in that match. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit of the match and a 3 match suspension of the head coach. If the infraction occurs at the end of the season, the suspension will be carried forward to the next volleyball season.
- K. All players on the same team who participate in a game must have the same uniform (jersey and short) in order to play. All jerseys must have legible front and back numbers. T-shirts may be worn under the team jersey provided they are the same color as the predominate color of the jersey. All t-shirts must have a finished edge... no cutoffs. **NO VISIBLE MARKINGS ARE ALLOWED ON THE T-SHIRTS.** Jerseys must be tucked in at all times with the exception of those that are manufactured to be worn outside the shorts. If a player is not wearing a proper uniform, they will not be allowed to participate in the game.
- L. Competition will be contested separately in each division for the purpose of determining 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- M. Final League standings will be based on overall season record. Ties will be broken first by a head to head competition during the regular season, then, by another method chosen by the Board of Control (example - playing card placement method).
- N. Immediately following the regular season, an end of season tournament will be played for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls. Tournament seedings are based on regular season standings.

- O. An All-Star Game for 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls will be held prior to the end of the season at a location determined by the member schools. The head coach and assistant coach will be selected by standings

## Section 2: BASKETBALL

- A. All basketball team commitments, black-out dates and gym availability are due at the September meeting. A final League basketball schedule will be handed out at the October meeting.
- B. League fees will be set by the member schools prior to the September meeting. All fees are due to the League Treasurer no later than the first monthly meeting following the beginning of the playing season.
- C. The League shall consist of 8 gender based divisions: four boys divisions (5, 6, 7 & 8) and four girls divisions (5, 6, 7 & 8). Divisions may be changed as determined annually by the League members.
- D. All teams must submit a roster to the League Commissioner no later than 7 days prior to the start of the season. Failure to submit a team roster will result in forfeiture of all games until the requirement is met.
- E. All teams must be rostered with a minimum of 5 players and a maximum of 15 players.
- F. Players can only be rostered on one team. **Penalty for violating:** forfeiture of game and disciplinary action by the league.
- G. Players may play up in an older division, but cannot play down in a younger division. Also, a player cannot play on another team in their same division. The head coach must announce to the scorers table and to the opposing head coach that a player has been called up. **Penalty for violating:** forfeiture of match and disciplinary action by the league.
- H. A permanently rostered player must play in at least 50% of that team's regular season League games in order to be eligible to play in any League tournament games. The only exception would be a medical exemption with written doctor's verification.
- I. Players must be full-time students registered at their respective school. **Penalty for violating:** forfeiture of match and disciplinary action by the league.
- J. All players that suit for a game and are on the game roster must play in that game. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit of the game and a 3 game suspension of the head coach. If the infraction occurs at the end of the season, the suspension will be carried forward to the next basketball season.
- K. All players on the same team who participate in a game must have the same uniform (jersey and short) in order to play. All jerseys must have legible front and back numbers. T-shirts may be worn under the team jersey provided they are the same color as the predominate color of the jersey. All t-shirts must have a finished edge... no cutoffs. **NO VISIBLE MARKINGS ARE ALLOWED ON THE T-SHIRTS.** Jerseys must be tucked in at all times with the exception of those that are manufactured to be worn outside the shorts. If a player is not wearing a proper uniform, they will not be allowed to participate in the game.
- L. Competition will be contested separately in each division for the purpose of determining 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- M. Final League standings will be based on overall season record. Ties will be broken first by a head to head competition during the regular season, then, by another method chosen by the Board of Control (example - playing card placement method).
- N. Immediately following the regular season, an end of season tournament will be played for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls. Tournament seedings are based on regular season standings.
- O. An All-Star Game for 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls will be held prior to the end of the season at a location determined by the member schools. The head coach and assistant coach will be selected by standings

### **Section 3: MOVING PLAYERS ON ROSTERS**

- A. Players may play up in an older division, but cannot play down in a younger division. Also, a player cannot play on another team in their same division. The head coach must announce to the scorers table and to the opposing head coach that a player has been called up. **Penalty for violating:** forfeiture of match and disciplinary action by the league.
- B. No player can move up to participate in the League tournament. Any exemption to this rule must be brought before the League members and voted upon.
- C. No player can play more than the equivalent of 2 quarters in a game in which said player has been moved up (Basketball only).
- D. Each individual player can only be brought up 2 times per season, per sport.
- E. The amount of players that can be moved up is as follows (basketball and volleyball):
  - 1. If a team has only 5 players, 1 player can be brought up to fill a roster position.
  - 2. If a team has only 4 players, 2 players can be brought up to fill the roster positions.

### **ARTICLE IX: HOST SCHOOL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Section 1:** The host school shall be responsible for providing facilities that participating teams might reasonably expect in order to play a volleyball or basketball game. At a minimum (but not limited to) this should include: a properly lined court free of unduly hazardous conditions, proper nets and goals fit for the purpose, time keeping device, a proper scorebook and suitable location for changing clothes, not necessarily separate from the other team.

**Section 2:** The host school shall provide a good quality game ball and a minimum of 3 practice balls per team.

**Section 3:** In order to maintain the scheduled starting and completion times of League games, if starting times are running behind schedule, or teams arrive late, but within 5 minutes of scheduled starting time, pre-game warm-up time may be reduced or eliminated. For basketball games, half time may be reduced to 2 minutes.

**Section 4:** Host schools must report all red card, flagrant fouls and ejections to the League Commissioner within 24 hours of the occurrence. Also, the above occurrences should be noted in the comment section of the official scorebook.

**Section 5: Admission Fees** – All host schools will charge the following admission fees to all fans, excluding coaches, players, officials and cheerleaders. **Adults and Students \$1.00** **Family \$3.00**

### **ARTICLE X: INJURIES**

All player injuries where excessive bleeding, swelling, bruising or loss of mobility occurs should be documented by filling out an accident report. The person in charge of the host facility, the parents or guardians of the athlete and the coaches of the athlete's team should check the injury and determine whether or not immediate medical attention is required. If there is any question, 911 should be called immediately. If medical attention is refused by the player, parents, guardian or coaches that should be noted in the accident report. All accident reports should be copied and sent to the League Commissioner within 24 hours of the occurrence.

## ARTICLE XI: OFFICIATING

### **Section 1: VOLLEYBALL**

- A. All League games shall be officiated by persons with a reasonable knowledge of the rules. Volleyball referees do not need to be IHSA licensed, however must meet the criteria outlined in Article IV, section 3.
- B. The host school will be responsible to secure referees for all games at their facility.
- C. The host school shall provide the official scorer and timekeeper.
- D. The selection of the official scorer and timekeeper shall be left solely to the discretion of the host school. A general knowledge of the responsibilities pertaining to their duties is expected.
- E. The referees and gym management shall have complete charge of and authority over the game.
- F. The referees, score table and gym rental fees will be paid for by the host school, tournaments included.

### **Section 2: BASKETBALL**

- A. All League games shall be officiated by IHSA licensed referees.
- B. The Lead Basketball Officials Coordinator shall assign referees to all games scheduled by the League. This includes regular season games, make up games, all-star games and tournament games.
- C. The host school shall provide the official scorer and timekeeper.
- D. The selection of the official scorer and timekeeper shall be left solely to the discretion of the host school. A general knowledge of the responsibilities pertaining to their duties is expected.
- E. The referees and gym management shall have complete charge of and authority over the game.
- F. The referees, score table and gym rental fees will be paid for by the host school, tournaments included.

## ARTICLE XII: GAME OPERATIONS

### **Section 1: VOLLEYBALL**

- A. IHSA Rules except as modified in the leagues general rules shall be adhered to.
- B. All League volleyball matches will consist of the best 2 out of 3 games. Games 1 and 2 will be played rally score to 25 points with a 27 point cap. The 3<sup>rd</sup> game will be played to 15 points with a 17 point cap. Teams must win each game by 2 points. If the 17 or 27 point cap rule comes into effect, you do not have to win by two points. If a third game is NOT necessary it will not be played. **EXCEPTION: The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade division tournament matches will be played best 2 out of 3 games. Games 1 and 2 will be played rally score to 25 points with a 27 point cap. The 3<sup>rd</sup> game will be played to 15 points with no point cap. The CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH in each division will play games 1 and 2 rally score to 25 points with a 27 point cap. The 3<sup>rd</sup> game of all championship games will be played rally score to 25 points with no point cap.**
- C. All teams must submit a team roster to the score table prior to the start of the match. This roster must include the first and last names and numbers of all players suited to play in the match.
- D. **All players that suit for a match and are on the match roster must play in the match. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a forfeit of the match and disciplinary action by the league.**
- E. Cancellation of games due to adverse weather conditions shall be the right of the host school and/or the League Commissioner.
- F. A team should arrive for their match no more than 20 minutes and no less than 10 minutes prior to the starting time, unless otherwise stated in the rules. If a team fails to arrive and be ready for first serve 5 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the match, that team shall forfeit the match.
- G. Should the referee not arrive at the scheduled starting time, the match may be officiated by a person chosen by the gym management that meets the requirement stated in Article IX, section 1, part A.

- H. Should the official scorer not arrive by the scheduled starting time of the match, the game shall precede using personnel selected by the gym management in the following order: a qualified volunteer and assistant coach from one of the participating teams or a qualified reserve player.

## **Section 2: BASKETBALL**

- A. IHSA Rules except as modified in the leagues general rules shall be adhered to.
- B. All league basketball games shall consist of 4 quarters.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade divisions** will play 5 minute quarters.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade divisions** will play 6 minute quarters.
- C. League games in which the score is tied at the end of four quarters shall go to overtime to decide a winner. Overtime periods will be 2 minutes in length for all divisions. Overtime is considered an extension of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade divisions** will play a maximum of one overtime period. If there is not a winner after that one overtime period, the game will end in a tie.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade divisions** will play as many overtime periods necessary to determine a winner.
- D. All teams must submit a team roster to the score table prior to the start of the game. This roster must include the first and last names and numbers of all players suited to play in the game.
- E. **All players that suit for a game and are on the game roster must play in the game. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a forfeit of the game and disciplinary action by the league.**
- F. Cancellation of games due to adverse weather conditions shall be the right of the host school and/or the League Commissioner.
- G. A team should arrive for their game no more than 20 minutes and no less than 10 minutes prior to the starting time, unless otherwise stated in the rules. If a team fails to arrive and be ready for tip off 5 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game, that team shall forfeit the game.
- H. Should one of the referees not arrive by the scheduled starting time of the game, the game shall proceed with one referee. Should both referees not arrive by 5 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game, the game is officially postponed and will be rescheduled by the Schedule Chairperson. Under no circumstances shall a referee not scheduled directly by the League Basketball Officials Coordinator officiate a League scheduled game.
- I. Should the official scorer and/or timekeeper not arrive by the scheduled starting time of the game, the game shall precede using personnel selected by the gym management in the following order: a qualified volunteer, and assistant coach from one of the participating teams or a qualified reserve player.

## **ARTICLE XIII: FAN, COACH AND PLAYER CONDUCT**

The person in charge of the host gym and the referees shall have complete control over the fans, players and coaches that attend a league sponsored activity.

### **Section 1: FAN CONDUCT**

- A. Any unsportsmanlike conduct by a fan that is anywhere in the gym or in the vicinity of the gym (including parking lots) will result in ejection from the gym. The penalty is a one calendar year (12 month) suspension from all League activities (volleyball and basketball) beginning from the date of the initial suspension. This includes regular season games, all star games and tournament games. If the unsportsmanlike act occurs before or after a game, in the gym or in the vicinity of the gym, the same penalties will be enforced.
- B. If the ejection occurs at the end of the season, the suspension will be carried forward a period of 12 months, which will include the next volleyball and basketball season.

- C. **Procedure to follow during incident of fan unsportsmanlike conduct** – The referee or the person in charge of the facility will request that the head coach of the team in which the fan(s) belongs ask the fan to refrain from their unsportsmanlike behavior. If the situation persists, the person in charge of the facility will eject the fan(s) from the facility. If the fan(s) refuse to leave, the team from which the fan(s) belong will forfeit the game immediately. If the situation persists further, the police should be called to handle the situation.
- D. **Procedure to follow for suspension** – The Athletic Director of the facility will fill out an incident report which will be supplied by the League. Included in the report will be the name of the person(s) ejected from the facility and the reason for the ejection. It should be signed by the Athletic Director or person in charge of the facility. Copies of the report should be sent to the League Commissioner and the Athletic Directors of the schools involved. If the person(s) in question attend a game that they have been suspended from, their team will forfeit the game in question.

## **Section 2: COACH CONDUCT**

- A. Any ejection of a coach from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, red cards or technical fouls will result in a one game suspension. A second suspension against a coach will result in a one calendar year (12 month) suspension from all League activities (volleyball and basketball) beginning from the date of the initial suspension. This includes regular season games, all star games and tournament games. If the unsportsmanlike act occurs before or after a game, in the gym or in the vicinity of the gym, the same penalties will be enforced.
- B. If the ejection occurs at the end of the season, the suspension will be carried forward a period of 12 months, which will include the next volleyball and basketball season.
- C. **Procedure to follow for suspension** – The Athletic Director of the facility will fill out an incident report which will be supplied by the League. Included in the report will be the name of the person(s) ejected from the facility and the reason for the ejection. It should be signed by the Athletic Director or person in charge of the facility. Copies of the report should be sent to the League Commissioner and the Athletic Directors of the schools involved. If the person(s) in question attend a game that they have been suspended from, their team will forfeit the game in question.

## **Section 3: PLAYER CONDUCT**

- A. Any ejection of a player from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, red cards or technical fouls will result in a one game suspension. A second suspension against a player will result in a one calendar year (12 month) suspension from all League activities (volleyball and basketball) beginning from the date of the initial suspension. This includes regular season games, all star games and tournament games. If the unsportsmanlike act occurs before or after a game, in the gym or in the vicinity of the gym, the same penalties will be enforced.
- B. If the ejection occurs at the end of the season, the suspension will be carried forward a period of 12 months, which will include the next volleyball and basketball season.
- C. **Procedure to follow for suspension** – The Athletic Director of the facility will fill out an incident report which will be supplied by the League. Included in the report will be the name of the person(s) ejected from the facility and the reason for the ejection. It should be signed by the Athletic Director or person in charge of the facility. Copies of the report should be sent to the League Commissioner and the Athletic Directors of the schools involved. If the person(s) in question attend a game that they have been suspended from, their team will forfeit the game in question.

## **ARTICLE XIV: GENERAL**

**Section 1:** Traveling trophies will be awarded to the first place teams of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade end of season tournament. All traveling trophies must be brought to the League Secretary one week prior to the end of the regular season. League members will vote on any additional awards that will be given out.

**Section 2:** It is the responsibility of all coaches to be familiar with these By-Laws, including IHSA volleyball and basketball rules. Schools failing to comply with the By-Laws are subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion of the school from the League.

**Section 3:** Coaches and players should act in a Christian manner regarding sportsmanship in all aspects of the game i.e., respect towards coaches, players, and all officials, especially in lopsided scores. Consideration should be given for the host school facility. Vandalism of any kind will not be tolerated. Teams failing to comply will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion of the school from the League. Teams are asked to clean up their bench area at the end of each game.

**Section 4:** Unsportsmanship behavior by players, coaches or fans will not be tolerated.

**Section 5:** Coaches are expected to control the behavior of their players and exert their influence in controlling unsportsmanlike behavior of their fans.

**Section 6:** Coaches must remain with their team at all times when in a host school.

**Section 7:** Protests must be made verbally to League Commissioner through the school's Athletic Director within 24 hours of the game in question, and in writing within 2 days of the game in question to be considered by the Commissioner.

**Section 8:** The Joliet Diocese Athletic Regulations will override all rules stated above.