

Leeds-Grenville Secondary Schools Athletic Association

Basketball Regulations

(This version updated in June 2023 by Matt Reil, Chris Finner, Jason Crotty, Meredith Clarey and Kendall MacLeod)

Introduction:

LGSSAA's interscholastic basketball program provides an opportunity for our athletes to compete as representatives of their respective schools in a structured, organized format. Educating our students in the areas of fair play and proper sportsmanship in conjunction with teaching fundamental basketball skills and strategic competence should be the goals of all of our coaches. Where applicable, LGSSAA Basketball sets its regulations in accordance with EOSSAA and OFSAA policies.

League Leadership:

Selection of Convenor:

Each spring, one league member will be chosen for the position of convenor for the following basketball season. If more than one member volunteers for the position, a vote will take place with one vote per school counting. A tie will be broken by the LGSSAA President.

Duties of Convenor:

The convenor's duties include collecting and checking eligibility information, collecting and reporting game results, settling all league disputes (through application of the regulations where possible), summarizing the season and reporting at the LGSSAA AGM, and acting as a communication officer for all LGSSAA, EOSSAA, and OFSAA directives. Any problems deemed unsolvable by the convenor will be submitted to the LGSSAA Executive for final judgment.

(Please note: The previous season's convenor, as a final duty, will create the tentative schedule - regular and playoff - for the upcoming season.)

Disagreements: League members in disagreement with the convenor's actions or decisions may appeal to the LGSSAA Executive.

League Structure:

All LGSSAA schools will be invited to participate in Boys and Girls Basketball leagues at the junior and senior level. For the regular season, each team will play all other league teams one time, regardless of OFSAA's school classification categories. At the conclusion of the league's regular schedule, a separate playoff schedule will be organized for each OFSAA School Classification (i.e., There will be a separate A, AA, and AAA playoff.) Teams will be ranked based on the results of the regular season – all regular season games regardless of school classification are used in the calculation of the rankings.

Start times:

Can modify as needed but is usually dictated by official's availability and must be agreed upon by both teams.

Deadline for League Participation:

Schools have until the Athletic Coordinators Meeting that immediately precedes the season to declare whether a team will be entered. After this deadline passes, a team may not be permitted to enter the league for the upcoming season if they haven't committed at that point.

Regular Season Scheduling:

Each year the previous season's convenor will prepare a draft schedule in the spring to be submitted to the LGSSAA Athletic Coordinators for approval. The schedule should be "built in reverse" to ensure that the LGSSAA playoffs have concluded one week before EOSSAA competition. As a guideline, the season should begin no later than the third week of September. The convenor should keep in mind any specific requests by teams when scheduling and accommodate if possible. Each team should play all other teams in the league. Location (i.e. home or away) should be determined by consulting the previous season's schedule and reversing the location. Games will generally take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The junior game will be scheduled first, followed by the senior game unless a school specifically makes a request in advance of the creation of the schedule to reverse that order. This does not preclude the possibility of the scheduling of night games in the case of both teams agreeing to the special time. In scheduling, the convenor should try to limit layoff time for each team (e.g. if possible do not schedule two byes in a row). For the girls' season, games should not be scheduled on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving Monday. The convenor should also attempt to rotate the order of games each year. For example, if Team A plays Team B on the first play date one year then that match-up should fall at a different play date on the schedule the following year. In the fall, after consulting the draft schedule any teams requiring changes (e.g. gymnasium is not available on the scheduled date) should submit these requests to the convenor. The convenor will take note of this information as well as which schools plan to enter teams for league play. The convenor will then release a Final Schedule. Any change to the Final Schedule after its release must be agreed upon by both schools involved and is subject to convenor approval. The Boys Season is to start one playdate earlier (if possible) to allow for more "make-up" dates throughout the season.

Game Cancellations / Forfeitures

Problems Detected in Advance of the Game:

Games will be rescheduled, at an agreed upon date and time by both teams involved, if unforeseen circumstances will not allow a team or both teams to complete a scheduled game. Examples of such a problem include gymnasium issues, lack of referees, transportation emergencies, etc. In order to assist with scheduling, there will be an option to swap sites (ex. St. Mary is scheduled to host St. Michael but the St. Mary gym is not available, then St. Michael can suggest to host as the first option).

Problems at Game Time:

In a case where no prior notification has been given, traveling teams should be given a 30-minute window of opportunity beyond the scheduled start time to arrive for a game (and home teams should schedule their facilities to accommodate this rule). If the home team has reason to believe that the traveling team is en route, the home team can extend the 30-minute window. Within reason, a late arriving visiting team may have to wait to play the game until the home team's facilities become available. If a team is simply negligent, causing a game cancellation with no reasonable explanation, the convenor, with approval of the LGSSAA Executive, may reward a forfeit win in this case.

Forfeit Scoring

For purposes of seeding teams at the conclusion of the regular season, a forfeit win, for whatever reason, will be officially recorded as a 20 to 0 victory (this score reflects the tie-breaker explained in the following section).

Drop Back Rule

If a team is leading in a game by 25 points or more (AT ANY POINT) that team is not permitted to FULL COURT PRESS and must drop back to half. If the score becomes 25 points or less again within the same game, a FULL COURT PRESS is once again allowed. It is expected that Coaches are to monitor this and report back to their Athletic Coordinator if not followed. Officials will not be responsible for informing a coach of this rule.

Team Seedings for Playoffs:

Division of Teams:

At the conclusion of the regular season, teams are divided into their OFSAA school classification categories (i.e., A, AA, or AAA). Teams will then be seeded within their category based on their regular season record (against all league teams).

The bottom 2 teams in a league have the OPTION to remove themselves from the playoffs and play against each other in a friendly match. Higher ranked team would host. The “bottom of standings” schools must agree to play a friendly match, rather than one team simply dropping out of the playoffs. This is an attempt to promote a positive experience for two teams who are more evenly matched and who both do not feel realistically competitive versus the top teams. This is an only an **OPTION** for a pair of schools rather than those schools being **FORCED** out of the playoff structure.

Tiebreaker(s):

- If two teams are tied within the category, their head-to-head game result breaks the tie.
- If three or more teams are tied:
 1. Use the head-to-head games between the tied teams to break the tie. (For example, Team A, Team B, and Team C have the same regular season record. Team A has defeated both Team B and Team C. Therefore, Team A gets the top rank and then the tie between Team B and Team C can be settled by the result of their head-to-head league game.) If this method does not break the tie, move to Step 2.
 2. Use the plus/minus tiebreaker. Using only games involving the tied teams, calculate the “total number of points scored” and subtract the “total number of points against” for each team. Please note, there is a cap of 20 for any individual game used in this calculation. Rank the teams based on this number. (For example, Team A has a +4, Team B has a -6, and Team C has a +2 plus/minus rating. Therefore, these teams will be ranked A, C, B.) If two teams have an identical plus/minus score, see Step 3.
 3. When ranking teams through the plus/minus method, if two teams have an identical plus/minus rating, use their head-to-head result to break that tie. If three or more teams have identical plus/minus scores, use only the “points against” scores to break the tie and rank the teams this way.
 4. If all else fails, flip a coin.

Playoff Scheduling:

All teams will advance to the playoffs. The number of playoff rounds and the playoff structure will be determined by the number of teams included in each OFSAA School Classification grouping.

- **one team:** automatically declared LGSSAA Champion
- **two teams:** play each other on Championship Night
- **three teams:** semi: #2 vs. #3 (#1 gets bye); final: #1 vs. semi-winner
- **four teams:** semi: #1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3; final: semi-winners play
- **five teams:** quarter: #5 vs. #4 (#1, #2, #3 get bye); semi: #1 vs. quarter-winner and #2 vs. #3; final: semi-winners play
- **six teams:** quarter: #3 vs. #6 and #4 vs. #5 (#1 and #2 get bye); semi: #1 vs. lowest remaining seed and #2 vs. highest remaining seed; final: semi-winners play
- **seven teams:** quarter: #2 vs. #7 and #3 vs. #6 and #4 vs. #5 (#1 gets bye); semi: #1 vs. lowest remaining seed and the other two remaining teams play; final: semi-winners play
- **eight teams:** quarter: #1 vs. #8 and #2 vs. #7 and #3 vs. #6 and #4 vs. #5; semi: highest remaining seed plays lowest remaining seed as well as other two teams play; final: semi-winners play
- **nine teams:** play in game; #8 vs. #9; quarter: #1 vs. lowest remaining seed and #2 vs. #7, and #3 vs. #6 and #4 vs. #5; semi: #1 vs. plays lowest remaining seed as well as other two teams play; final: semi-winners play

Location and Time:

Playoff games will take place at the higher seed's home gym at the same scheduled time as per the regular season (unless both teams agree to a different time and/or location). The exception to this rule is the final (Championship Night) which occurs at the highest seeded SENIOR team's home gym starting at 6:00pm (junior championship first, followed by the senior championship).

Playoff Travel (cost saving):

In the rare case that Junior and Senior have same opponent in same round of playoffs but different locations due to seeding, the Junior team will travel with the Senior team regardless of seeding.

Voluntary Removal from Playoffs

Any team is allowed to voluntarily remove itself from the playoff schedule. This decision should be communicated to the convenor as early as possible, but no later than noon on the final scheduled regular season playing date.

Playoffs in the event of Extreme Weather

If a traditional playoff format is not able to occur due to unforeseen weather circumstances the following protocol will be utilized:

- 1.) Games can be moved to a non-play date (Wednesday).
- 2.) A NEUTRAL SITE will be used for make-up games on the Tuesday at the start of second semester. The cost for the officials for this game will be divided among the teams who are playing. Transportation costs will be paid for by the teams who are travelling to the site.
- 3.) If none of the above is possible, playoff games will remain as is and the existing point system at the end of the season will be used to determine playoff rankings.

Awards:

LGSSAA Medals will be awarded to each member of the A, AA, and AAA championship teams provided that the championship has been contested. A trophy will be awarded to the A and AA champion. (If the AAA championship is contested in the future, the convenor should explore the possibility of acquiring a trophy for that level as well.) The winning team is responsible for updating the trophy with a plaque containing the name of the school and the year. The winning team should ensure that the trophy is available at the following season's Championship Night.

Rules of the Sport:

LGSSAA will follow the set of rules recommended by OFSAA and enforced by our referees. The league will use a 24 second shot clock with a 14 second reset on an offensive rebound. Existing gym lines will be used as per FIBA rules.

Referees and Minor Officials:

Each game should be officiated by two referees. These referees will be paid by the home team. In the event of an unforeseen problem where one official is missing, the game will be played using one official as per OFSAA guidelines. However, in the event only one official is available for a playoff game, both coaches must agree to proceed or the game will need to be rescheduled. Scorekeepers should be provided by the host school. The visiting team may have a manager sit with the scorekeepers to ensure accuracy.

Ordering of Referees from the Ottawa Association:

Schools employing referees from the Ottawa Association can expect the convenor to communicate these requests to the assigner. Officials for the 2023-24 season cost \$60 per official (plus travel costs when applicable). It is the responsibility of each school to double-check the assigner's website or with the head referee to ensure that their referees have been correctly assigned. Any necessary changes to referee assignments should be communicated to the assigner and to the convenor.

Ordering of Referees from the Outside of the Ottawa Association:

Individual schools ordering referees from other than the Ottawa Association are entirely responsible for this duty. The convenor is not involved unless he/she volunteers to schedule these referees as well.

Scoresheets:

Scoresheets are supplied by the home team. Scoresheets must be fully filled in and faxed to the convenor immediately after the game takes place. The home team is responsible for this duty. The visiting team should also be given a copy of the scoresheet. The convenor will be responsible for reporting the results to the LGSSAA Webmaster. Optionally, scoresheets may also be shared with the media by the visiting or home team, the convenor, or the LGSSAA Webmaster.

Uniforms:

Each team should have an alternate uniform or pinny colour available. The home team wears white (or a light colour) while the visiting team wears a dark uniform. The wearing of light and dark jerseys can be reversed if both teams agree. In the event of both teams having the same uniform colour with no alternate uniform available, the home team will wear pinnies.

Player Eligibility:

Participating players must be enrolled in Grade 9-12. Use of students not from the Secondary panel is not permitted in League or Exhibition play. In the event that a student NOT FROM GRADES 9-12 is used, this action is to be reported to the school's Athletic Coordinator.

Use of an Ineligible Player:

Any games played with an ineligible player will be forfeited by the perpetrating team. The convenor may also ask the LGSSAA executive to investigate the matter and levy a harsher punishment if the convenor deems it necessary.

Eligibility Sheets:

All eligibility rules specified by LGSSAA will be honoured (e.g. transfer rules, age limits, academic eligibility, etc.). Each team must submit a completed eligibility sheet before the start of the regular season – including all necessary signatures. Any league games played before the submission of the eligibility form will be forfeited. Teams should note that the convenor's duty is to double-check these eligibility sheets but it is the responsibility of each team to ensure that its players are eligible.

Addition of Players:

If a team wishes to add a player to the team during the season, the convenor must be provided with the newly updated eligibility sheet, initialed by the school's athletic coordinator and principal, before that player can participate in a league game. Use of an ineligible player in a league game results in the forfeiture of that game. Please note, as ordered by OFSAA, elementary students are not eligible, under any circumstance, to play on a LGSSAA basketball team. Also note that even in non-league exhibition play, ineligible players should not participate since these game results are used to rank teams at EOSSAA and OFSAA competition.

Playoff Eligibility:

A player must have been recorded on at least one regular season scoresheet to participate in the playoffs.

Use of Junior Players on Senior Teams:

Any junior basketball player currently listed on a school's junior team eligibility list is allowed to play in ONE regular season senior game and will not lose junior eligibility. Upon being listed on the scoresheet for a second time with the senior team, that player automatically is considered a senior player from that game forward. A junior player also automatically becomes a senior player if that player participates in a senior LGSSAA playoff game. A junior player may not participate in both junior and senior level LGSSAA playoff games in a particular season. A Junior player who has played 2 or more Senior games is ineligible for ALL Junior games including any form of exhibition and/or tournament play. (Please note, EOSSAA also does not allow players to participate in both junior and senior championships.)

Host Gymnasium:

Each host school should provide a game ball. All practice, medical, and other equipment is not provided by the host school for the visiting team. The host team should ensure that the gymnasium floor has been properly swept and cleaned to provide the safest surface for the players. The host should provide seating for both the team playing the game as well as the team watching from the stands.

The host school should ensure that supervisors are on hand to police the audience and ensure that visiting players feel safe. Behaviour of the fans should be regulated as specified by OFSAA.

All-Star Option:

Since the All-Star games are NOT a LGSSAA sanctioned event they will be now by referred to as an event "Ran in conjunction with community partners if feasible"

Equipment: The new "OFSAA basketball" is to be used whenever possible

