



# **Special Olympics Leinster**

## **Basketball League**

**Rules & Information  
2016-2017**



# ***Special Olympics***





## **Basketball Rules**

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that all players, coaches and other volunteers are familiar with the [Special Olympics Rules](#) and [Basketball Ireland Rules](#)

## **SO General Rules - Article 1**

Available on the SO Ireland website in Sports FAQs "Are there other rules?"

<http://www.specialolympics.ie/WHATWEDO/SPORTS/COMPETITIONDEVELOPMENT/SPORTSRULESANDGUIDELINES.aspx>

## **Sports Regulations**

The Sports Regulations apply to all Special Olympics sports training and competition. Please remember to familiarise yourselves with the contents of these regulations. Your club has already been issued with a hard copy of this document and a soft copy is also available for download on the SO Ireland website at:

<http://www.specialolympics.ie/CONNECTSHARE/BLOGS/tabid/115/EntryId/890/Regulations-Governing-Special-Olympics-Ireland-Sport.aspx>

### **League Structure:**

- Teams will compete both Home and Away i.e. Clubs will play matches in their own venues and travel to their opposing team's venues to fulfil fixtures.
- Where numbers and time do not accommodate the Home and Away format, teams will play Home or Away, fixtures will be randomly selected
- **Grading Event** will be held for coaches on Saturday the **1<sup>st</sup> of October 2016 in IT Carlow**. Any team wishing to enter this year's league must have at least 1 coach attend this session (see attached information document).
- Fixtures will be issued to all clubs before the league begins

### **Fixtures:**

- The fixture list will be circulated no later than **Friday October 21<sup>st</sup>**
- **Fixtures must be played prior to the date stated**. Any fixture change outside this window must be agreed between both teams and the league Co-Ordinator, and will be in exceptional circumstances only.
- It is the **home team's responsibility** to communicate with the away teams to arrange the fixtures. Each team will receive a list of team contact details and venue's prior to the commencement of the league
- Teams will play each other twice (where possible friendly games may be organised to increase the amount of game play)
- Fixtures will begin in October 2016 and will be finished no later than May 2017
- Only registered league players can play in any game, any breach of this will result in a point's deduction.

### **Cancellation of Fixtures:**

- If a team cancels a fixture within 48 hours of scheduled time of game a walkover will be given. This will result in 2 points for the remaining team.
- If matches need to be cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, club bereavement etc., the new fixture date must be agreed between coaches within 7 days. The match must be scheduled for play prior to official season end date.
- Once the decision is made to cancel a fixture, the league co-ordinator (Leinster Office) must be informed and kept in the loop regarding re-scheduling.
- If the club that cancelled the original fixture cannot agree a new date the fixture will be awarded to team that planned to play original game (usually the Home team).





### Competition Structure

- Each game will be of 4 x 6mins quarters with a running clock.
  - In last 2 minutes of the final quarter a stop clock will apply.
- A team may be granted four timeouts per game (two per half).
- The Back Court Rule must be applied.
- The Double Dribble Rule must be applied.
- A player may take two steps beyond what is permitted by Basketball Ireland rules. However, if the scoring player, is deemed to have “travelled” or escapes the defence as a result of these additional steps, an advantage has been gained. A violation is called immediately. This will be finalised by the Referees match day discretion.
- The three-second rule restriction is in force when team control exists in the opponents’ front court. (Note: In FIBA rules, a team shoots at its opponent’s basket, thus the opponent’s front court).
- Any athlete or coach, who refuses to obey the instruction of the Referee, conducts himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner or who is offensive by action or language to the officials, spectators, or other athletes should be dealt with as per FIBA guidelines up to and including disqualification if necessary.
- **Every player MUST BE PLAYED and given be equal and fair time on court.**

### Score Sheets/Results:

Official Basketball Ireland Score Cards (Basketball Ireland can provide these booklets or contact the Leinster Office – payment required) must be filled out correctly, returned completed and should include;

- All players listed
- Numbers should correspond to the player’s jersey
- All scores and scorers
- Any cautions and relevant player names and numbers
- All timeouts taken
- Head coaches signatures
- Table Officials Signatures
- Referees Signatures
- Scorecards must be sent to the league coordinator (Leinster Office) **one week** after the fixture has been played. **It is the Winning team’s responsibility.**
- It is the responsibility of each club to check that every player named on your score card is eligible (i.e. on the registration list) at the time of the match. Any illegal players will result in a team forfeiting the game. When match cards are submitted to the league coordinator (Leinster Office), they will all be checked to ensure that all players listed on the match cards are fully registered with the league. Affected clubs will be notified by e-mail of any registration breaches.

### Points System:

- Teams will be awarded the following;
  - Win: 2 points
  - Loss: 1 Point
  - No Draws
- No game is to end in a tie – FIBA 5 minute overtime rule will apply
- There will be no finals day, the team with the most points at the end of the league will become the league winners.
- Medals and ribbons will be awarded by the Leinster Office at the end of the League
- In the event of two teams finishing the league on level points a playoff game will be arranged at a neutral venue by the league coordinating committee.





### **Team Players Equipment (Athletes must bring the following):**

- Valid and stamped athlete participation form. It is the Head Coach's responsibility to bring **valid and stamped medical** forms for each athlete with him/her on the day of the league.
- Shirts must be numbered.
- Runners must be worn.
- No Jewellery allowed.
- Ball size: **7** for men **6** for ladies

### **Team Combinations, position and Max Panel Size:**

- Athletes must be aged 16 or older on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 to be eligible to enter the league
- Mixing of genders is not permitted
- Team Positions Include;
  - PG – Point Guard
  - G – Guard
  - F – Forward
- The composition of a match day team including substitutes **will not exceed 12 players**

### **Refereeing/Table Officials:**

- It is the home clubs responsibility to source a local registered referee. If a club is finding it difficult please contact the Leinster Office.
- All referees operating in all events, both Regional and National, must be licensed and registered as appropriate with Basketball Ireland i.e. paying the relevant registration fees.
- It is the home and away team's responsibility to provide one table official each.

### **New Player Registration Form**

- New players may be registered throughout the season by emailing [aoife.reilly@specialolympics.ie](mailto:aoife.reilly@specialolympics.ie) with the following information: Athletes Name, DOB and Club Team. Any new player emails should not be considered received until a confirmation of receipt e-mail is sent.
- New players may be only added to your team before January 31<sup>st</sup> 2017.
- These players must be fully registered with Special Olympics Ireland, and must be training with your club for a sufficient period of time prior to joining the league.

### **Protests and Appeal Forms and timelines**

All Protests must be made on the official Protest Form (Contact Leinster Office for form) Any protest submitted on anything other than the official Protest form will not be given consideration.

The following are the procedures and timelines around Protests and Appeals in league competition from the Regulations Governing Special Olympics Ireland Sport, Section 7.4 and 7.5, page 17. It is the responsibility of each club to make themselves familiar with this document.

- **Making a protest for League competition**
  - The Head Coach (or a designated registered coach in the absence of a Head coach) may protest, in writing, on an official protest form, which must be completed in full and submitted to the league secretary within 7 days of the fixture. See Appendix D Protest Form.
  - Any protest involving the judgement of a referee will not be given consideration.
  - The Jury of Sport meets and approves or denies the protest (see 7.7 Jury of Sport).
  - Result will be communicated to the Head Coach by the League Coordinator (Leinster Office).
- **The appeals process for League competitions**
  - A Head Coach may file an appeal for a denied protest to Special Olympics Ireland





within 7 days of receipt of the ruling from the protest.

- Appeals should be lodged with the League Secretary, on the original Protest Form with a notation that it is an appeal, and the grounds upon which they are making the appeal.
- The decision of the Jury of Appeals is communicated to the Head Coach (see 7.8 The Jury of Appeals).

In the event of a protest being submitted, any other directly affected teams will be notified by e-mail of the protest. All teams will be notified of the outcome of a protest/appeal and where it is in the best interest of the league and does not breach any confidentiality/athlete protection guidelines, the rationale for the decision.

