



Sports League for Independent Christian Educators

LEAGUE GUIDELINES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

Christian character • Fair competition • Responsible stewardship

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1. Purpose, Scope, and Authority

1.1 Mission and Purpose

The Sports League for Independent Christian Educators (SLICE) exists to provide organized athletic competition for Christian schools that recognize the importance of developing students mentally, physically, and spiritually. SLICE encourages a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, the development of Christlike character, physical growth, sportsmanship, and responsible competition.

At SLICE Sports League, our desire is to provide a Christ-centered environment where students can enjoy athletic competition, develop their abilities, and grow in Christian character. We are committed to doing all we can to preserve an atmosphere that honors the Lord both on and off the court. Our prayer is that every school, coach, player, parent, and spectator will value their Christian testimony above the scoreboard, remembering that how we compete is more important than whether we win.

1.2 Scope and Order of Authority

These Rules and Regulations govern all SLICE regular-season contests, tournaments, member schools, teams, players, coaches, administrators, officials, and spectators. SLICE rules control whenever they differ from the rules otherwise adopted for gameplay. Matters not modified by SLICE shall be governed by the current applicable rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

1.3 Commissioner

The Commissioner administers league operations and has authority to interpret and enforce these rules; approve membership; determine player, team, and school eligibility; create and revise schedules; decide protests and complaints; impose penalties; and resolve circumstances not expressly covered by this handbook. The Commissioner shall exercise this authority consistently with the mission, safety, integrity, and orderly operation of SLICE.

1.4 Amendments and Administrative Directives

The Commissioner may issue interpretations, deadlines, forms, and administrative directives consistent with this handbook. Material rule changes should ordinarily be communicated to member schools before the affected season. Emergency changes necessary for safety or league operation may take effect when issued. Continued participation constitutes acceptance of properly communicated changes.

1.5 Final Authority

Except where an appeal is expressly provided, the Commissioner's written decision is final for league purposes. SLICE retains authority over league eligibility and competition even when a member school applies a different internal policy.

2. Membership and Financial Obligations

2.1 Eligibility for Membership

Membership is open to Christian schools that share SLICE's commitment to developing students mentally, physically, and spiritually through Christian athletics. Any Christian school may apply, but membership is effective only after approval by the Commissioner, membership payment is received, and Rule and Regulations acknowledgment document is signed.

2.2 Annual Membership Fee

Fee	Amount	Due
Annual membership	\$100 per school	May 1 each year

Membership fees support league administration and are nonrefundable after a school has been admitted for the membership year, except at the Commissioner's discretion when SLICE cannot provide the anticipated season.

2.3 Team Registration

Fee	Amount	Due
Team registration	\$75 per team, per sport	September 1 unless a sport-specific deadline is announced

Registration fees may be used for league-management software, administrative expenses, other costs necessary to operate the league, and compensation for the Commissioner.

2.4 Minimum Participation

At least three member schools must register teams in the same sport and division for a league season in that classification to be held. For example, at least three schools must register Junior High basketball teams before Junior High basketball games will be scheduled. This requirement applies separately to each sport and division.

2.5 Nonpayment

A school or team with unpaid fees may be withheld from scheduling, standings, tournament seeding, awards, or further participation until its account is current. Continued nonpayment may result in forfeiture, suspension, or nonrenewal.

3. School, Team, and Player Eligibility

3.1 Member-School Representation

Only an approved SLICE member school may enter a team. Each team shall compete under one member school, and that school assumes responsibility for every player, coach, employee, volunteer, and spectator associated with its delegation. A student may represent only one SLICE member school in the same sport during a season unless the Commissioner grants written approval before participation.

3.2 Homeschooled Students

Homeschooled students may participate only through a SLICE member school. They must meet the same academic eligibility requirements applied by that school and comply with all SLICE rules and all policies, eligibility standards, and conduct requirements of the member school they represent.

3.3 Academic Eligibility

Each member school shall establish and consistently apply academic eligibility requirements to its students and participating homeschooled students. Before placing a student on a roster, the school administrator or

athletic director certifies that the student is academically eligible. The Commissioner may request written certification but will not ordinarily review grades unless necessary to investigate a credible complaint.

3.4 Age Divisions

Division	Age standard on September 1 of the competition year
Junior High (Jr.)	Less than or 13 years of age on or after Sep 1st
Junior Varsity (JV)	Less than or 16 years of age on or after Sep 1st
Varsity	Less than or 19 years of age on or after Sep 1st

3.5 Playing Up and Multiple Divisions

A student may play in an older division when the member school determines that participation is appropriate and accepts the associated risk. The school must list the player on each applicable roster before participation. Playing up does not automatically make the player permanently ineligible for the younger division; however, the Commissioner may limit excessive same-day participation for safety or competitive fairness. A player may not play in two divisions in the same tournament bracket unless expressly approved.

3.6 Biological Sex and Athletic Participation

SLICE believes that God created humanity as male and female and that biological sex is determined at birth. To preserve fairness, safety, and equal athletic opportunities, participation in sex-specific teams and divisions shall be based upon each student's biological sex at birth. Male teams and divisions are limited to biological males, and female teams and divisions are limited to biological females. Coed volleyball may include biological males and biological females in accordance with the coed rules in this handbook.

3.7 Eligibility Verification

Birth certificates are not required for routine registration. If a legitimate question or complaint arises concerning a player's age, biological sex, enrollment, graduation status, or other eligibility, the Commissioner may require a birth certificate or other official documentation reasonably necessary to verify eligibility. Records shall be handled confidentially, reviewed only by persons with a legitimate league need, and used only for eligibility determination.

4. Rosters and Registration Administration

4.1 Official Rosters

Each team shall submit an official roster through the method designated by the league office. Volleyball and Basketball rosters are due before September 1.

4.2 Required Information and Certification

Rosters shall include the information requested by the league office, which may include player name, date of birth, grade, division, jersey number, and school or homeschool status. Submission by the school administrator, athletic director, or authorized coach certifies that each listed player is eligible.

4.3 Roster Changes

New players must be added to the official league roster before playing. The Commissioner may establish a roster-freeze date before tournament seeding. Clerical corrections do not create eligibility for a player who was otherwise ineligible.

4.4 Tournament Eligibility

A player must have appeared on the official roster and participated in at least one SLICE regular-season league contest for that team to participate in the championship tournament, unless the Commissioner grants an exception for documented injury, late enrollment, cancellation, or another extraordinary circumstance.

4.5 Ineligible Players

Use of an ineligible or unregistered player may result in forfeiture of every affected contest and may also result in suspension, tournament ineligibility, probation, or other discipline. Failure to submit a required roster may result in forfeiture of season games.

5. Sports, Divisions, and Season Structure

Sport	Divisions
Volleyball	Girls Varsity, Girls JV, Girls Jr.; Coed Varsity, Coed JV, Coed Jr.
Basketball	Girls Varsity, Girls JV, Girls Jr.; Boys Varsity, Boys JV, Boys Jr.

5.1 Regular Season

League regular-season play ordinarily consists of each team playing each same-division competitor twice—once at home and once away. The Commissioner may modify this format because of team count, travel, facilities, cancellations, or other operational needs.

5.2 Nonleague Contests

Member schools may schedule nonleague contests, but those contests should not displace league obligations. Nonleague contests do not count in SLICE standings unless designated in writing by the Commissioner before play.

6. Scheduling, Cancellations, and Forfeits

6.1 League Schedule

The Commissioner creates the league schedule. Standard game days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Varsity contests ordinarily begin at 4:00 or 7:00 p.m., depending on the number of varsity teams playing, with Junior and JV games preceding varsity games.

6.2 Schedule Changes

Schools may agree to adjust a date, time, or location to facilitate travel or accommodate a legitimate need, but no change is official until reported to and approved by the league office. Known preseason change requests should be submitted by September 1 for volleyball and basketball.

Game Rescheduling

A team seeking to reschedule a game is responsible for contacting the opposing team and attempting to agree upon a mutually acceptable make-up date. If the opposing team cannot accommodate another date and the requesting team is unable to play the game as originally scheduled, the requesting team shall forfeit the game.

6.3 Weather and Emergencies

A school shall promptly notify the opponent and league office when severe weather, illness, facility failure, unsafe travel, or another emergency may prevent play. The Commissioner may postpone, relocate, reschedule, declare a no-contest, or determine a forfeit after considering notice, fault, feasibility, and fairness.

6.4 Voluntary Cancellations

A school unable to fulfill a scheduled contest should give at least 48 hours' notice when reasonably possible. A cancellation without sufficient cause or timely notice may be declared a forfeit. The canceling school may be responsible for nonrefundable official or facility expenses caused by a late cancellation.

6.5 Failure to Appear

A team that fails to appear within 30 minutes after the scheduled start time without notice or approval may forfeit. The Commissioner may excuse delay caused by travel emergencies or circumstances beyond the team's reasonable control.

6.6 Forfeit Results

For standings, a forfeited volleyball match shall be recorded as a two-set loss and a forfeited basketball game as a loss, using a standardized score determined by the league-management system or Commissioner. Forfeit scores shall not create an artificial point-differential advantage beyond any differential cap adopted for that season.

7. Host and Visiting School Responsibilities**7.1 Host School**

- Provide a safe, regulation-ready playing area and necessary game equipment.
- Arrange and pay the required certified officials.
- Provide the official scorebook, scoreboard/clock operator, and adequate game personnel.
- Open the admissions gate at least 45 minutes before the first scheduled contest.
- Provide a volleyball line judge
- Provide reasonable crowd supervision, emergency access, and facility directions.
- Report final scores promptly through the league system.
- Communicate facility rules and dress expectations to the visiting school in advance.

7.2 Visiting School

- Arrive on time and ready to compete.
- Supervise players and spectators associated with the school.
- Provide a volleyball line judge unless advance notice is given that the host must locate a substitute.
- Honor reasonable host-facility, dress, conduct, parking, and security requirements.

- Promptly review and submit or confirm scores when requested.

7.3 Admissions

Category	Maximum admission
General admission	\$5
Students and children age 5 or older	\$3
Children under age 5	Free
Rostered players and coaches	Free

A host school may charge less than the established admission prices or waive admission entirely but may not charge more. Any special tournament admission schedule shall be established and announced by the Commissioner.

8. Officials and Game Administration

8.1 Certified Officials

League contests must be officiated by certified officials: at least one official for volleyball and two officials for basketball. The home school arranges and pays officials unless the Commissioner announces a different tournament arrangement.

8.2 Volleyball Line Judges

Each participating team shall provide one line judge. A traveling team unable to provide one must notify the host school in advance so the host has time to locate a second line judge.

8.3 Failure of an Official to Appear

If a scheduled official fails to appear, a substitute official may be used with the approval of the head coaches of both participating teams. The Commissioner's approval is not required. If both head coaches do not agree to the substitute, the contest shall be rescheduled.

8.4 Officials' Authority

Game officials control the contest from their jurisdiction's beginning through its conclusion. Judgment calls are final and are not protestable. Only the head coach may address an official as permitted by the applicable playing rules.

9. General Rules of Gameplay

9.1 NFHS Rules

Basketball and volleyball shall be played under the current applicable NFHS rules except as expressly modified by SLICE. Rule clarifications should be addressed before play whenever possible. SLICE eligibility, conduct, scheduling, and tournament rules remain controlling.

9.2 Warmups and Pregame Protocol

Time	Requirement
60 minutes before	Host management completes court setup and makes the court available
No later than 30 minutes before	Officials and teams arrive at the court in uniform
Before timed warmups	Prematch conference
6 minutes – Volleyball	Visiting team timed court warmup
6 minutes - Volleyball	Home team timed court warmup
Clock countdown until scheduled game time - Basketball	Both teams' warmup
No later than 2 minutes before warmup ends	Lineups due
Warmup ends	Audio signal; announcements and prayer follow
Scheduled time	Contest begins

9.3 Between Contests

Schools have five minutes to clear the bench after a contest and have the next team ready to begin its warmup. The host and officials may adjust this interval when necessary for safety, injury response, or schedule recovery.

10. Volleyball Rules

10.1 Match Format

All regular-season matches shall use a best-of-three-set format. The first two sets are played to 25 points. A deciding third set, if necessary, is played to 15 points. Every set must be won by two points. Tournament match format shall be the same unless the Commissioner publishes a tournament modification in advance.

10.2 Coed Volleyball

1. At least one biological male and no more than three biological males may be on the court at one time.
2. A biological female must contact the ball at least once during a team's possession unless the ball is returned in one contact; in that case, either a male or female player may make the sole contact. This requirement does not apply to Junior Coed.
3. Net height shall be approximately 7 feet 4 inches for Junior and JV Coed and 7 feet 8 inches for Varsity Coed, or as close as the facility reasonably permits.
4. A female player may substitute for a male player and vice versa, provided the on-court composition rule and NFHS substitution rules are satisfied.
5. All other applicable NFHS volleyball rules apply.

10.3 Junior Serving Modifications

Player age	Permitted service line
Ages 11–13	Official service line
Ages 7–10	Free-throw line
Age 6 and younger	Three-meter line

Any overhand serve must be made from behind the official service line, regardless of the player's age. These modifications apply to Junior Girls and Junior Coed volleyball.

11. Basketball Rules

11.1 Game Length

Division	Quarter length
Varsity	8 minutes
Junior Varsity	7 minutes
Junior High	6 minutes

Regular-season games use regulation stop-clock operation under NFHS rules. If either team leads by 30 points or more during the second half, the game clock shall run continuously. The clock shall stop only for timeouts, injuries, technical fouls, and other circumstances directed by an official. Once the running clock begins, it shall remain in effect for the remainder of the game, even if the point differential falls below 30 points.

11.2 Tournament Clock

Tournament games use a **running clock**: eight-minute quarters for Varsity, seven-minute quarters for JV, and six-minute quarters for Junior High. Regulation clock stoppage applies during the final two minutes of the second and fourth quarters. The clock shall also stop for timeouts, injuries, official conferences, and other circumstances directed by an official.

11.3 Overtime

Overtime periods shall follow NFHS rules unless a tournament-specific rule is announced in advance. The running-clock provision does not apply during the final minute of an overtime period unless the Commissioner has published a different tournament procedure.

12. Uniforms, Dress, and Equipment

12.1 General Standard

League members shall respect the rules and dress requirements of host schools. A host school should communicate any requirements exceeding the SLICE standards before the contest. Players and spectators must remain appropriately dressed while participating and while in the facility.

12.2 Female Participants

Young ladies shall wear loose-fitting culottes, knee-length shorts, or skirts extending to the knees. Sleeveless jerseys are not permitted, and V-necks shall not extend more than two inches below the clavicle. Jerseys shall be numbered on the front and back. Form-fitting shirts and skirts are not permitted.

12.3 Male Participants

Young men may wear warmup pants or knee-length shorts for basketball and volleyball. Sleeveless shirts are not permitted during competition or while in the stands. A T-shirt must be worn under a sleeveless jersey.

12.4 Spectators and Off-Court Dress

When out of uniform, all persons shall comply with the host facility's dress standards and shall not wear clothing displaying improper images or messages. Schools are responsible for communicating expectations to their delegations.

12.5 Uniform and Equipment Compliance

Uniform numbers, jewelry, protective equipment, balls, nets, goals, and other game equipment shall comply with applicable NFHS rules unless modified by SLICE. The home team shall address color conflicts by using an available contrasting uniform or another solution approved by the officials.

13. Christian Conduct and Sportsmanship

13.1 Expected Conduct

Every participant represents Christ, the member school, and SLICE. Players, coaches, administrators, parents, and spectators shall demonstrate self-control, honesty, respect, humility, and good sportsmanship toward opponents, officials, game personnel, and facilities.

13.2 Prohibited Conduct

- Profanity, vulgarity, obscene gestures, or abusive language.
- Taunting, baiting, ridicule, threats, intimidation, or harassment.
- Fighting, striking, pushing, leaving a bench to join an altercation, or other violent conduct.
- Publicly berating officials or repeatedly disputing judgment calls.
- Entering the playing area without permission.
- Destruction or misuse of property.
- Discriminatory, demeaning, or sexually inappropriate conduct.
- Encouraging spectators or players to violate league rules.

13.3 School Responsibility for Spectators

Each school is responsible for the conduct of its coaches, players, families, and spectators. The host school may remove a person whose conduct disrupts the contest or threatens safety. The Commissioner may require a school to provide additional supervision, restrict a spectator, play without spectators, or take other corrective action.

14. Ejections, Discipline, and Enforcement

14.1 Automatic Ejection Consequence

A player or coach ejected from a contest is suspended for the remainder of that contest and the next scheduled SLICE contest in that sport. The Commissioner may reduce, extend, or otherwise modify the suspension after reviewing the official's report and relevant evidence. An ejected person must leave the playing area and remain under appropriate school supervision.

14.2 Fighting

Fighting or leaving the bench to participate in an altercation ordinarily results in suspension for at least the next two SLICE contests and may result in removal for the season. The Commissioner shall consider safety, provocation, self-defense, severity, and prior conduct.

14.3 Available Penalties

- Written warning or corrective directive.
- Game forfeiture or adjustment of standings.
- Player, coach, or spectator suspension.
- Loss of hosting privileges.
- Tournament ineligibility or award disqualification.
- School or team probation.
- Suspension or removal from SLICE.

14.4 Repeated or Serious Violations

Repeated violations, deliberate falsification, use of ineligible players, failure to control spectators, threats, violence, or conduct materially inconsistent with SLICE's Christian purpose may warrant enhanced discipline even when no single provision states a specific penalty.

15. Safety, Medical, and Insurance Responsibilities

15.1 School Responsibility

Each member school is responsible for determining that its players are medically fit to participate, obtaining any permissions or medical information the school requires, providing proper adult supervision, and maintaining appropriate accident, liability, and other insurance for its operations and participants.

15.2 Injuries and Emergency Care

The host shall provide reasonable access to emergency services and basic first-aid resources. Coaches remain responsible for their players. In an emergency, appropriate care shall not be delayed while seeking league approval. The player's family and school remain responsible for medical expenses unless applicable law or a written agreement provides otherwise.

15.3 Concussion and Return to Play

A player suspected of sustaining a concussion shall be removed from participation and may not return that day unless permitted under applicable law and medical protocol. Return to participation shall require compliance with the player's school policy and any applicable medical-clearance requirement. When in doubt, safety controls.

15.4 Unsafe Conditions

Officials, the host administrator, or the Commissioner may suspend or terminate play because of an unsafe facility, severe weather, threatening conduct, medical emergency, or other significant hazard. The Commissioner will determine whether the contest is resumed, replayed, recorded as final, or declared a no-contest or forfeit.

15.5 Assumption of School Responsibility

Participation in SLICE does not transfer custody, supervision, employment responsibility, or primary legal responsibility for a school's participants to SLICE, the Commissioner, God Said Ministries, LLC, or another member school. Each member school remains responsible for its own delegation and agrees to cooperate in addressing claims or incidents arising from its conduct. This provision does not waive rights or duties that cannot lawfully be waived.

16. Scores, Standings, and Tiebreakers

16.1 Score Reporting

After each contest, both home and visiting teams may receive an email request to submit or confirm the score. Scores should be entered the same night as the scheduled game if possible. A school discovering an incorrect entry shall contact the league office without delay.

16.2 Standings

League standings are determined by league results recorded by the league office. The Commissioner may correct clerical errors, apply forfeits, or exclude contests not completed or designated as league contests.

16.3 Tiebreakers

6. Head-to-head result.
7. Point differential in head-to-head contests.
8. Overall point differential in league regular-season play.
9. Coin toss or another neutral method selected by the Commissioner if the tie remains.

17. Championship Tournaments and Awards

17.1 Qualification and Seeding

Overall league standings determine seeding for the double-elimination championship tournament. All teams participating in the league regular season are ordinarily invited, provided they have satisfied fees, roster rules, schedule obligations, and disciplinary requirements. The Commissioner may exclude an ineligible, withdrawn, suspended, or substantially noncompliant team.

17.2 Tournament Fees and Procedures

Tournament fees, admission charges, dates, sites, brackets, clock procedures, and operational instructions shall be set and communicated by the Commissioner.

Tournament Fees

Tournament fees shall be established by the Commissioner based on the anticipated expenses of conducting each tournament, including officials, trophies and awards, scorekeepers, clock operators, facility costs, and other necessary tournament-related expenses. Fees may vary by sport or tournament depending on the actual costs involved.

Tournament MVP Selection

Tournament MVPs shall be selected by opposing coaches. After each game, each coach shall cast one vote for the most valuable player on the opposing team. Coaches may not vote for their own players unless their vote is needed to break a tie. Votes shall be collected throughout the tournament, and the player from each team who receives the most votes shall be recognized as that team's Tournament MVP.

Tournament Conduct

Parents, spectators, and other unauthorized individuals shall not approach or enter team bench areas or the officiating and scorekeeping tables.

The Commissioner reserves the right to require any disruptive parent, spectator, coach, player, or other individual to leave the facility. Each member school's administration is responsible for supervising and maintaining the conduct of its players, coaches, parents, and spectators throughout the tournament.

17.3 Awards

- First-place team award.
- Second-place team award.
- Most Valuable Player recognition for each team, selected according to the procedure announced for the tournament.

17.4 Tournament Rosters

Only eligible players appearing on the approved tournament roster may participate. No player may be added after the roster-freeze (after a school's final game of the season) deadline except with written Commissioner approval for an extraordinary circumstance.

18. Complaints, Protests, and Appeals

18.1 Authorized Filers

Complaints and protests must be submitted by a member school's administrator, athletic director, or head coach. Parents, players, and spectators shall direct concerns through their school and may not file directly unless the Commissioner requests information.

18.2 Precontest Eligibility Questions

A concern reasonably known before a contest—including a visible uniform, facility, roster, age-division, or player-identity issue—should be raised before play begins. Beginning the contest does not waive a concealed eligibility violation or misconduct discovered later.

18.3 Protestable Matters

Officials' judgment calls are not protestable. A protest may concern misapplication of a written rule, use of an ineligible player, roster falsification, improper contest administration, or material violation of league policy.

18.4 Filing Procedure and Deadline

A complaint or protest shall be emailed to the league office, identify the contest and rule involved, state the relevant facts, and include available supporting evidence. It should be filed within 48 hours after the contest

or discovery of the issue. The Commissioner may consider a later filing when the information could not reasonably have been obtained earlier or when safety or serious misconduct is involved.

18.5 Investigation and Decision

The Commissioner may request statements, official reports, video, roster records, or other relevant information and shall give affected schools a reasonable opportunity to respond. The Commissioner may uphold the result, correct records, order a replay or resumption, declare a forfeit or no-contest, or impose discipline.

18.6 Appeal

A school may request reconsideration within three business days of the written decision by identifying a material factual error, newly available evidence, or a clear misapplication of league rules. The Commissioner's decision on reconsideration is final. A request does not stay discipline unless the Commissioner grants a stay.

19. Communications, Records, and Confidentiality

Official notices may be delivered by email, the league-management system, or another method designated by the Commissioner. Member schools are responsible for maintaining current contact information and monitoring league communications. The league office may retain membership, roster, score, discipline, and eligibility records for administrative purposes. Confidential student documentation shall be limited to persons with a legitimate need and shall not be publicly disclosed except as required by law or authorized by the student's parent or legal guardian.