

West Hartford Girls Basketball League (WHGBL)

Disciplinary Committee Guidelines

Board Approved 01/02/25

The WHGBL welcomes inclusive participation. The league is committed to providing a safe, fun atmosphere for young women to acquire basketball skills in a nurturing and positive environment. This involves teaching our players basketball fundamentals, reinforcing the value of teamwork, committing to the principles of good sportsmanship, growing from lessons associated with winning and losing, and deriving joy from their experience. It also involves **equitable treatment regarding instruction and playing time**, regardless of talent.

All volunteers involved with the league are held to high standards of conduct. Your service is invaluable. Volunteer coaches play a central role in ensuring that these key objectives are met. In keeping with our objectives, we insist that **all volunteers, especially our coaches, commit to respectful treatment of the players, officials, other coaches, and League rules.**

The WHGBL maintains the right to remove a volunteer from their position if behavior necessitates that action. This may include any public demonstrations of loss of emotional control at League events, games or practices such as swearing, breaking clipboards, kicking chairs, kicking basketballs, yelling at players, singling out one player as a negative example, or arguing with officials, other coaches, or spectators. During games, the first level of response will be through referee management. Referees will issue technical fouls as appropriate. A second technical foul in a game automatically results in a coach's removal from the bench area **and gymnasium if necessary.** All infractions occurring during games, **practices or in public areas used by the league for such purposes, that are brought to the attention of any other coach or member of the Board will be reported to the WHGBL Board Disciplinary Committee for review and investigation.** The League has a range of disciplinary actions that can be taken in response to a behavior that is deemed inappropriate but serious behaviors such as a physical assault, verbal altercation, inappropriate interaction with a player, or refusal to leave the gym for safety concerns could result in the intervention of law enforcement or state child protection agencies **and require immediate suspension from league activities.** **The Disciplinary Committee will determine the consequences of issues not rising to that level and communicate by phone directly with the parties involved (within 2 days) including dismissal of any consequences for unsubstantiated or insignificant findings. The committee will use its best efforts to resolve issues within one week of notification but reserves the right to remove a coach immediately if deemed appropriate.**

The following are intended to act as guidelines and are not fully inclusive:

PLEASE NOTE: These guidelines may be applied not only to volunteers and paid staff of the WHGBL but to parents, guardians and spectators for any WHGBL event function, which may include practices, exhibition games, scrimmages and league games. These guidelines are also in-

line with Article V, Section 4 of the League's ByLaws, as well as the Spectator Code of Conduct and Coaches Code of Ethics.

Also, timing of actions (such as suspensions) begins at the time that a member of the WHGBL Disciplinary Committee informs the offending party of the decision. Communication of the decision may be made by any forms of communication and does not require acknowledgment of the offending party.

1) Unsportsmanlike behaviors, as described above, whether in practice or resulting in technical fouls during a game or substantiated complaint during a WHGBL function: a warning and/or up to a one-week suspension.

2) Inappropriate direct mistreatment of players, WHGBL officials, staff or board members in any substantiated manner: First offense is a one-week suspension. A second substantiated suspension offense in the same season or over multiple seasons for any of the two reasons above, is removal from participation in the league for the remainder of the season and potentially longer.

3) Persistent failure to adhere to the league rules is considered willful, including correct usage of the rotation of players on a submitted roster before the game, and is contrary to league objectives. Incorrect implementation of the rotation of players/substitutions: first time warning, second time 1 week suspension, third time is removal. If in doubt, bring your situation to the attention of the referees and opposing coach before the game is restarted.