1. Tri-County Basketball

**Philosophy**
The philosophy of Tri-County basketball is to provide an opportunity for girls to compete against teams from other communities. The league will promote positive values, fair play, sportsmanship and competition based on ability, grade levels, and community request.

**Divisions**
The Commissioner and Community Representatives will assign the teams into divisions based on geography and competitive experience. For any community entering a 6th, 7th, or 8th grade team, it will be required to enter at least one team in the American League (more competitive) unless it receives approval from the Commissioner.

2. Leagues

**American League**
Designed for those players who are either more talented or have had more exposure to leagues, camps, tournaments, etc.

**National League**
Designed for those players who are either new to the game, or have limited exposure. It may also serve the needs of players that have played before, but do not have the size or ability (at this point in time) to play in the American League.

**4th Grade**
Teams may be split geographically into American and National divisions based on requests.

**5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade**
Teams will be divided into American and National divisions based on talent and competitive experience. If a team wins their league, they must move up to the next highest level the following year. If a community rep would like to dispute this, a special request form may be submitted to the Tri-County Commissioner.

**Request for a League**
A **MANDATORY** Community Representative Meeting on Sunday, October 5, 2014, will be the process to figure out league placement. If a community does not have a representative at the meeting, then the Tri-County Commissioner will make the final decision on where those teams are placed.

If a community only has one team in a grade level, that team is not required to be in the American League if they cannot compete at that level. Community Reps are responsible for communicating this information to the Commissioner.

**New communities must apply for admission to the league by August 1st of current year.**
3. Conference Structure

Community
A community will be defined as a high school attendance area, a unit of government within the attendance area, or a primary school attendance area. The Commissioner must approve all community compositions.

Players from communities that do not participate in Tri-County should play for the closest community that does participate.

School Choice
A written request must be submitted to the Commissioner if there is a conflict with the athlete playing in the community they are from. The Commissioner will handle each case on an individual basis after talking to the Community Representatives involved. Parochial School students must play with the community that their home address is in.

Violations
Any team found in violation of their declared and approved community composition will forfeit all remaining league games, will not be allowed to participate in the season end tournament, will forfeit all awards earned for the current season, and will forfeit all fees paid to the Conference. In addition, the community will have to re-apply for admission for ALL grades for the following year.

Community Representatives
Each community will designate one representative to serve as their Community Representative. Each Representative will have a vote on issues that come before the Conference Commission. Other duties of the Community Representative include:
- Be responsible for registering teams in their community
- Attend MANDATORY Community Rep meetings
- Educate coaches on conference rules and policies - Particularly the “Zero Tolerance” policy
- Liaison between the coach and the Conference Commissioner
- Promote sportsmanship and exemplary behavior
- Assure the use of WIAA officials’ at all home games
- Report all scores for your community to the website
- Maintain copies of all player/parent and coach/community rep waiver forms, and concussion forms

4. Eligibility

Age Limits
4th Grade - 10 years old or less as of January 1 of the playing year
5th Grade - 11 years old or less as of January 1 of the playing year
6th Grade - 12 years old or less as of January 1 of the playing year
7th Grade - 13 years old or less as of January 1 of the playing year
8th Grade - 14 years old or less as of January 1 of the playing year

Any player exceeding the age limit may play one grade level up. All exceptions to the age limits set forth above must be submitted, in writing, to the Commissioner for consideration.

Gender
Boys are not allowed to play in the girls league. Girls will not be allowed to play in the boys league unless their community does not offer a team in the Girls Tri-County League.

Playing Outside Grade Level
Players will be allowed to play up one grade level for the league. Players may not play at a lower grade level unless they receive permission from the Commissioner.
Needing Subs during the League
Players **may not** play for multiple teams in different age groups. Girls can be brought up a level only if a team has five or fewer players and the total number of players must not exceed six. **That player may not play on their normal team on the same day.** Coaches and Community Representatives must communicate this information with each other.

Willful Violation
Any team, coach, or community found in willful violation of the eligibility rules may be subject to dismissal from the League and other sanctions as determined by the Commissioner.

5. Registration

Team Registration
The Community Representative will be required to register the teams, submit the rosters, and pay the **NON-REFUNDABLE** Conference fees by the Thursday, October 2, 2014. Rosters are not due at the time of registration, but can be completed at that time. A late registration fee of $25.00 will be assessed to all teams entering after the deadline based on availability.

Team Registration Fee
For the 2014 season, each team must pay a $225.00 registration fee which must be submitted, in full, with the team’s registration form.

Team Rosters
All rosters must be entered by Friday, October 24, 2014. In order to complete your online roster, you will need player’s name, address, phone number, birth date, current email address. Teams may add to their roster up to the first game by written notification to the league Commissioner. After the first game, players may only be added under extenuating circumstances and after receiving approval from the Commissioner.

Waiver and Concussion Head Injury Forms
All players and players’ parents/guardians must sign a “Waiver and Release of Liability” form. Coaches and Community Representatives must also sign waiver forms for respective teams.

The Concussion and Head Injury Form must be filled out and on file with each Community Representative. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

6. Games and Tournaments

League Games
Games may be rescheduled by mutual agreement of both teams. Every effort should be made not to cancel league games. Rescheduling league games should not accommodate non-conference games/tournaments. The opposing team may refuse to reschedule games in this situation. The requesting team will forfeit the game if it is not played due to this reason. If a team cancels the day of, that team will be responsible for paying for the officials. This does not include weather-related situations.

Crossover games will remain in league play, when needed.

Scheduling Games
Games must be scheduled to meet the following criteria.
- May not begin before 5:30 PM during the week.
- May not begin before 8:00 AM on Saturdays.
- May not begin before 10:00 AM on Sundays.
- May not begin later than 9:30 PM on any day.
**Arrival Time**
The host team will have the gym open 30 minutes prior to game time. Visiting teams should not arrive more than 30 minutes before game time. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team and spectators at all times.

**League Games**
- **Warm-Up:** Seven (7) minutes minimum
- **Quarters:** Four 7-minute quarters
- **Halftime:** Four (4) minutes
- **Overtime:** Two (2) minutes
- **Timeouts:** Two per half - one minute (Horn sounds after 45 seconds)

**Tournament Games (Two-game guarantee)**
- **Warm-Up:** No Guarantee Time
- **Halves:** Two - 18 minute halves, with a continuous clock until the last minute of each half, where the clock will stop per the rulebook.
- **Halftime:** Three minutes
- **Timeouts:** Three (3) per game - one (1) minute each and horn sounds after 45 seconds. One (1) timeout for the first overtime - **NO CARRYOVERS.**
- **Overtime:** Two (2) minutes (**If there is a Second overtime the first team to score wins)**

Technical fouls will result in an automatic two points and possession of the ball.

As voted at the post-season meeting, teams will have a grace period of 10 minutes for tournament games.

Forfeits in the Season End tournament will result in a score of 15-0.

**Tournament Placement**
The 4th, 5th, & 6th grade league will run six (6) weeks with the season ending tournament running on the seventh week. Tournament seeding will be determined after the fifth week of play. The 7th & 8th grade league will run seven (7) weeks with the season ending tournament running on the eighth week. Tournament seeding will be determined after the sixth week of play.

If a team is 10-1 and another is 8-1 (and beat the 10-1 team) the 10-1 team will be the #1 seed (higher winning percentage and more games). If two teams are brought up a division, those teams will be seeded the lowest of the division. Two teams brought down a division will be seeded the two top teams.

**Tournaments**
Host sites will receive $90 per participating team to pay for officials and other expenses.

**Admission**
Admission will not be charged for any regular season games.

For the Season End Tournament, admission will be $5.00 for all spectators. Children 6 and under receive free admission to both tournaments.

*If the Season Ending Tournament is canceled due to weather, games will not be rescheduled.
*If there is inclement weather for the Season Ending Tournament please call **(608) 245-2117** for updates.
7. Game Administration

Referees
Two (2) WIAA registered referees are required for each game. Referees will sign the home scorebook and provide their referee number. Failure to provide two (2) WIAA officials may result in a forfeiture of the contest. All infractions of this rule must be reported to the Commissioner, in writing, no later than five days after the contest. All coaches should contact their Community Representative concerning any problems with officials. Community Representatives are encouraged to evaluate officials regularly.

Scorers and Timers
Each team will provide one person for the score table; one individual will be in charge of running the clock and the other individual will be in charge of keeping the scorebook. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age. All game personnel must remain neutral during all regular season and tournament games.

8. Rules

• All WIAA rules will be enforced unless noted •

Coaches
Coaches must have contact with the bench at all times. Coaches may stand only to call a timeout.

Game Ball
All grade levels will use an official regulation size women’s basketball

Grade Specific Rules

4th & 5th Grade
1) Free Throws - Players may start with any portion of their foot touching the free throw line and they may step into the lane with their follow through. **The player shooting the free throw cannot be the first player to touch the ball following a miss.**
2) Lane violations will be 4 seconds rather than 3 seconds.
3) **Only half-court person-to-person defense will be permitted.** Once the defending team gains control of the ball the opposing team must immediately retreat to half-court to defend their basket; after the ball changes possession the defense cannot touch the ball in the back-court.
4) A defensive player may pick up their opponent at half-court but will not be required to play defense until their opponent enters the three point arc in the front-court.
5) **Double-teaming** is not allowed unless the offensive player comes to the defense and the defense does not initiate the double-team (half-court trap); a team will be allowed to provide help defense in the lane provided it is not construed to be a zone;
6) **Absolutely no zone defenses**, formal (e.g., 1-2-2) or informal (i.e. sagging so far off the offensive player that it becomes unclear who the defensive player is guarding) are allowed at any time.
7) The penalty for initiating a double-team, or zone defense, will be one team warning. Thereafter, a technical foul will be assessed to the team which will not count towards the bench.
8) During the last two minutes of the game: full court pressing, either zone or person-to-person shall be allowed by either team; double-teaming of an offensive player shall be allowed; and zone defenses in the front-court shall be allowed.

6th Grade
Full court press will be allowed until 20 points ahead. At that time, the team ahead must drop back to half-court defense.

4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, Grade
All technical fouls will result in an automatic two points for the other team, and possession of ball.

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All WIAA rules will be enforced unless noted!
**Lopsided Scores**
A team ahead by 20 points will not be allowed to press in the backcourt. Once a team is ahead by 30 points, the score will be removed from the scoreboard and the clock will run continuously except for timeouts, injuries, and free throws. These procedures apply, even if the losing team closed the gap to less than thirty points. The scorekeeping personnel will be responsible for keeping the official score book in this situation.

**Technical Fouls**
All technical fouls should be reported by the opposing coach or site supervisor to the Community Representative who should report to the Commissioner.

**Uniform Numbering**
Uniforms must be numbered in the **front & back**. Numbers do not have to be the same color. Shirts worn under jersey must be the same color as the jersey. Violation of this rule will result in **ONE** technical foul for the team.

**9. Awards**

**Participation Awards**
All levels will receive up to twelve (12) participation t-shirts, per the team roster. Additional shirts may be purchased in advance for $10.00 each.

**Regular Season**
The league will sponsor individual trophies for the first place team in each division during the regular season at each grade level. If teams do not play everyone in their league twice, records will be done based on the first time through the league. Tie-breaker criteria: wins/losses, head-to-head competition for the first two games, and least number of points allowed in the head-to-head games.

**Tournament Play**
The conference will sponsor individual trophies for teams finishing first and individual medals for those finishing second and third. A maximum of twelve awards will be presented.

**10. Conduct**
All coaches, players, and spectators are expected to abide by the Conference Code of Conduct. Violations of the Code of Conduct must be reported, in writing, to the Commissioner. Any coach, player, or spectator found in violation of the Code of Conduct or the “Zero Tolerance” policy will be subject to league consequences.

Coaches are expected to promote good sportsmanship and to monitor the conduct of their players and spectators. Referees have the authority to assess technical fouls on coaches, players, and spectators. Coaches are expected to assist game officials with players and spectators not abiding by the Code of Conduct.

Players, coaches, or spectators ejected from the contest for violating any provision of the Code of Conduct have two (2) minutes to leave the gymnasium area or the contest will be forfeited to the opposing team. Players and coaches ejected for fighting will not be allowed to participate in the next conference contest. At the tournament level, players and coaches who are ejected for fighting will be ineligible for the remainder of the tournament.

The Tri-County Conference will not tolerate harassment, taunting, profanity, or racial comments directed towards coaches, players, officials, scorers, timers, or spectators. People found in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline by the Tri-County Commissioner.

We strongly encourage communities to do background checks on all coaches and officials.
11. Dates To Remember

League Requests/Coach Info Due: Thursday, October 2, 2014

Mandatory Rep Meeting: Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 7:00pm
(Community Reps must bring along the dates that your community can host the round robin format)

Schedules out to Community Reps: Monday, October 13, 2014

Leagues posted on Website: Wednesday, October 23, 2014

Rosters and Waivers Due: Friday, October 24, 2014

Coaches Meeting: Sunday, October 26, 2014 at 6:00pm

League Play Begins Saturday, November 1, 2014

Game Reporting Begins – Monday, November 3, 2014
(Community Rep is responsible for reporting all scores by 1:00 pm on Mondays throughout the season)

Season Ending Tournament 4th, 5th, & 6th grades December 6th or 7th
7th & 8th grades December 13th or 14th

Mandatory Post-Season Comm. Rep Meeting Monday, January 5, 2015

12. Contact Information

Please note that your first contact with any comments, issues, concerns or complaints should be addressed with your Community Rep.

Scot Vesterdahl svesterdahl@madisoncollege.edu (608) 245-2112
Scott Nelson senelson1@madisoncollege.edu (608) 245-2104
Fax Number: (608) 245-2118
Address: Madison College, 1701 Wright Street, Madison, WI 53704
Website: madisoncollege.edu/girls-tri-county

Inclement Weather # For Tournament Games: (608) 245-2117