

FLORIDA

The logo features the word "FLORIDA" in a large, bold, dark purple font. The letter "O" is replaced by an orange circle containing a white silhouette of a person running. Below "FLORIDA", the words "SPORTS" and "MINISTRY" are written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font, with "SPORTS" on the left and "MINISTRY" on the right.

S P O R T S M I N I S T R Y

The Florida Conference Sports Ministries is dedicated to bringing Adventist and non-Adventist (youth, young adults, and adults) together to share and to teach the gospel and to seek to impact, and grow God's kingdom through the platform of sports in its different forms (tournaments, volleyball, tennis, track & field, softball, soccer and basketball). New believers are then entrusted into the care of the local church. All teams will be guided by a team Chaplain to submit a report each month letting us know what ministry they are doing in the community as a team, inclusive of Bible study.

Motto: "LOVE GOD", Love Basketball- All to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

Aim: To provide athletic and sport alternatives as well as physical and social well-being for our youth, and to witness to former Adventist and non-Adventists.

Goal: To be able to conduct a minimum of **(5) Bible studies (per year per team)**. We can attain this goal by providing a fun and spiritual environment in which to teach and elevate the spirituality of Adventist and non-Adventist youth, young adults, and adults.



FLORIDA CONFERENCE BASKETBALL

The Florida Conference Sports Council is the governing entity of the Florida Basketball League (Director) Jonathan Swan, Asst. Directors Solinka McIntosh, René Brown, Reggie Long, Ian Cameron, Ricky Buckman, Benson Dieuville, Derrick Campbell, Eric Teamer, Michael Simmonds, Michelle Stevenson, Ori Bullard, Jasper Garth, Yasmine Rivera (Community Outreach Coordinator) and the consulting leadership for the council is the Conference Associate Youth Director (Pastor Robert Hines) and Youth Director (Pastor Pedro Perez). Area Supervisors: Mike Simmonds, John Richardson.

DIVISIONS

1. The league is offering the following divisions;
 1. JR. Youth- ages 5-9
 2. Youth- ages 10-13
 3. Varsity- ages 14-18
 4. Men-ages 19+
2. Each team/division is under the sponsorship of the local Adventist Youth Ministries Council and the church board and is governed by the decisions of these bodies.
3. Florida Conference Basketball League will be following the Rules and Guidelines of the FHSAA (Florida High School Athletic Association).
 - Each team shall consist of a Seventh-day Adventist coach and no more than fifteen (15) players. Each team shall be composed of members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a maximum of 3 non-Adventist.
 - A maximum of 3 non Adventists will be allowed to play on the men's and women's level.

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SPORTS MINISTRY

- On the youth and varsity levels there is no limit to the number of non-Adventists that are allowed to play as long as they have family members (grandmother, aunt, etc.) who are members of the church.
4. Each coach, player, and team staff must have their identification picture taken and uploaded onto the website during the registration process. Identification will be checked by the home team at the door or at the player check in table, prior to the beginning of every game. Failure to do so will result in a penalty fine of \$5 to enter the gym.
 5. Teams must complete all forms supplied by the Florida Conference Sports Ministries, pay registration fees (that include ID, insurance, tournament costs, and website maintenance) and return them by the specified date. If all forms, fees, and team pictures are not completed and submitted by the designated deadline the team will not be eligible to play in the league until doing so (**NO EXCEPTIONS**)!!!
 6. Teams shall be composed of members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and non-Adventists and are expected to attend church services (Sabbath School, Midday Service) at least twice a month as well as AYM (if your church has an AYM program). ***Special Note*** We are encouraging traveling teams (if it is possible) to try and attend and participate in the home team's AYM program. Once more, that is contingent on whether the home team's church has an AYM program).
 7. All non-baptized Seventh-day Adventists shall be exposed to the precepts and teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church and regular invitation and encouragement to attend church. **Special Note*** Each team is to have a "Team Chaplain" and he/she is to ensure that the required spiritual aspects are being upheld as well as completing the monthly Chaplain reports.

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8. A player must play in a minimum of three (3) regular season games to be eligible for play in the post-season games. The only exception will be if the individual is away at school (out-of-town) at the start of the season, and his name is on the roster from the start of the season.
9. The coach shall be responsible for the conduct and eligibility of all members of his/her team.
10. Each team member must play in each of his/her team's games that he/she is present for and is physically able to play in. Non-compliance will result in game forfeiture.

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FEES

The registration fee **per team** of \$ 250 (prior to the deadline) and \$280 (after the deadline). The fees cover the cost of participation, player ID's, website maintenance, and insurance. **Failure to comply with this or any other registration requirement, prohibits the team from participation in the league until this requirement is met.**

Forfeiture Fees: Any team forfeiting a game due to its failure to show or not being prepared to field a team, will be charged one-half the expenses (rental of space and referee fees) for each forfeited game which will be added to the team's indebtedness, and must be paid before the team will be allowed to continue the schedule.

Protest Fees: All protests shall be forwarded to the Conference Youth Director in writing by the following Tuesday. A ten dollar (\$10.00) fee must accompany each written protest. This ten dollar (\$10.00) fee will be refunded if the protest is deemed legitimate. Protests involving an official's judgment will not be entertained and protest arriving after the specified time will not be honored.



DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

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1. Any player or coach using profanity on or off the court shall be ejected from the game, warned, and counseled by the coach and team chaplain. 2nd offense may include a 3 game suspension, 3rd offense may incur a suspension for the remainder of the season including tournament competition. The definition of “off the court” will include both the interior and exterior of the venue being used.

2. Fighting is prohibited in Florida Conference’s Basketball League. Participants will be ejected immediately from the game and the venue followed by, suspension for the remainder of the season. Pending Council’s decision, participants may be band permanently from participating in the League.

3. No player or coach verbally threatening or physically attacking an official or Sports Council member, will be suspended or not allowed to participate in the League, depending on the council’s decision after the hearing of the matter.

4. The member(s) of a team which is under disciplinary action are ineligible to play for any other team within the league.

5. There is “**ZERO**” Tolerance for the following; (Drugs”, Alcohol and Tobacco use, the carrying of weapons) at games. These are prohibited in Florida Conference Sports Ministry League, and will result in dismissal from the League for the rest of the season and the possibility of criminal charges being pressed against the responsible party/parties.



SPECIAL RULES

- Prayer is to be offered before each game and after each game. This will promote continued comradery within the participating teams, and the asking of God for traveling mercies.
- The Florida Conference – Sports Ministry Basketball League has “**ZERO**” tolerance for the wearing of jewelry, body piercing adornments, which include earrings, chains, finger rings, nose rings, beads, ankle or wrist bracelets, by participating league members.
- All games must begin within fifteen (15) minutes of the starting time. If a team is not prepared to start a game at the end of the fifteen (15) minute period, the referee official will consult with the coaches and may impose a grace period of up to 15 minutes. After the grace period expires, the referee will declare a forfeit.
- Running Time: The decision regarding running time for any game will be at the discretion of the referee official and the area coordinator on site. However, if running time is caused by the tardiness of a team, then the team at fault shall start in the FOUL penalty for the first half of the game.
- Once a game has started, the officials are responsible for the continuation, completion and conduct of the game. No one is to approach the Table, Bookkeeper, or Clock operator except the referee’s officials. Any discrepancy

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should be brought to the referee's attention and then the referee's will address the table.

- Game Reports must be completed and submitted no later than 72 hours after the completion of the game. Failure to comply with the submission will result in a loss for the home team regardless of the outcome of the game played.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms: Must be in compliance with standards of FHSAA, for all teams participating within the Florida Conference Sports Ministry Basketball League. Each player must wear complete uniforms (shorts and shirts) with visible numbers from the outset of each season. No sweat pants or unconventional shorts will be accepted. The length of team shorts must not exceed more than one inch below the knee. Team members not in proper uniform for any game will not be allowed to play, or a technical will be enforced by the referee. No exceptions will be granted.

Note:

a) All uniform shirts and shorts must be tailored the same (i.e., in regard to length, trim, color and design.) The coach of any player who enters a game without proper uniform will be assessed a technical foul, and the player will be removed from the game upon which they cannot re-enter until the aforementioned has been corrected.

Compression sleeves shall be beige, black, or the dominant color of the uniform. All sleeves must be reported to the area coordinator and referee's officials on site before or during pre-game warm ups. Failure to comply will result in possible penalties. No doctors note is required for the Florida Conference league.