

ANNOUNCEMENT



13th March 2009

Dear; Member / Parent / Guardian.

Re: Cambridge Cats Basketball Club

I find myself writing to you in dismay to let you know that Cambridge Cats Basketball Club has this week been suspended from the Peterborough Basketball League (PBL).

In brief, the circumstances are that the league Secretary raised a query with us on Monday about the eligibility of certain Cats players in a recent U13's game, stating that; subject to explanation and investigation, we may have to concede the result and face a small fixed fine. However, to our horror, less than 24 hours later and before we had filed our official response, we received notification that the entire club, not the relevant team, had been suspended.

The entire committee, as well as the senior players that have been aware of this decision, are still stunned and many have sent informal complaints to the league. I personally have been in daily contact with the league secretary in attempts to negotiate a sensible solution but have seen no sign of compromise.

The Cats, only last weekend, enjoyed a glorious victory in the senior men's cup final and were poised to challenge for the league title against the league secretary's own club.

The U13's have also been getting good results and the U18's were enjoying mixed fortunes. Unfortunately however, the timing and manner with which the league has acted, coupled with their refusal to review the decision, means that we will not be able to complete the 08/09 season in the PBL. I can only apologise to those players and coaches this affects.

Needless to say, we're disgusted by the leagues apparently arbitrary and vexatious actions and will now be mounting a formal appeal, with the support and guidance of England Basketball.

However, what's most important now is for us to continue to provide a professional and fulfilling Basketball experience for all the members. Clinton and Piotr are already investigating alternative competitive match opportunities for the teams affected and we expect to be able to make announcements shortly.

The club is of course still active in the National conference for U16 and U18 as well as the Cambridgeshire senior local league. So, with some central venue tournaments to come, Clinton's and Piotr's additional fixtures, plus the end of season tournament, we can look forward to a lively and interesting back half of the season.

I sincerely hope that you all enjoy it.

One final point; the website; www.cambridgecats.co.uk is about to be overhauled and from the middle of next week, it will be updated on an almost daily basis. So, please refer to it regularly for news and information.

If you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via; enquiries@cambridgecats.co.uk

Yours Sincerely

Paul Kerrison
Club Chairman