

# Putnam County Youth Basketball League (PCYBL)

## Official By-Laws & League Rules

Revised November 2025

### 1. General Information

The Putnam County Youth Basketball League (PCYBL) is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting youth basketball in Putnam County. The league is overseen by a Board of Directors, which ensures that all operations support sportsmanship, fair play, and player development.

League games are governed by the PCYBL Official Rules & Guidelines and NFHS Basketball Rules. All rules remain effective until formally amended and approved by the Board.

### 2. League Divisions

Divisions are offered for both boys and girls as follows:

- Pre K–Kindergarten (Co-Ed)
- 1st/2nd Grade
- 3rd/4th Grade
- 5th/6th Grade (Boys)
- 5th–8th Grade (Girls)
- 7th/8th Grade (Boys)

Grade verification may be requested. Players may “play up” one grade group but may not “play down.” Team composition may vary each season depending on registration numbers.

### 3. Division-Specific Rules

**Substitutions- No subbing during 1st or 2nd Q unless of injury or foul trouble. 3rd and 4thQ you sub how you would like as long as all players get the required amount of minutes. (Typically the 3 Min mark of the 3rd Q will handle this for age groups  $\frac{3}{4}$  and up.**

**12 min required for the groups PK-K / 1-2 will be done at the coaches discretion regarding the 2nd half.**

### **A. Pre K–Kindergarten (Co-Ed)**

- Goal Height: 8 ft
- Ball Size: 5
- Playing Time: Players must play at least 12 minutes. All players must sit at least 3 minutes
- Coaches on Court: Up to two (one per end).
- Backcourt Pressure: Not permitted.
  - Two warnings, then 1 free throw + possession.
- Fouls: Team fouls only; free throws after 5 team fouls per quarter (resets each quarter).
- Free Throw Line: 7 ft
- Scorekeeping: No score displayed on scoreboard.
- Mandatory Rest: Every player must sit at least 3 minutes.

### **B. 1st/2nd Grade**

- Goal Height: 9 ft
- Ball Size: 6
- Playing Time: Minimum 12 minutes. All players must sit at least 3 minutes
- Backcourt Pressure: Not allowed.
  - One warning, then 1 free throw + possession.

- Free Throw Line: First hash mark at the free-throw lane. (Could be adjusted if needed. Decision to be made by the board)
- Fouls: Two Free throws after 5 team fouls; resets each quarter.
- Mercy Rule: If ahead by 21+ points, starters must sit until the lead returns to 15 or less.
- One coach will be on the bench, and the other coach can be on the baseline/sideline.

### **C. 3rd/4th Grade**

- Goal Height: 10 ft
- Ball Size: 6
- Playing Time: Minimum 9 minutes; each player must also sit at least 3 minutes.
- Backcourt Pressure: Allowed only in the 4th quarter unless leading by 15+ points.
  - After a warning, violations result in 1 free throw + possession.
- Mercy Rule: If ahead by 21+ points, starters must sit until the lead returns to 15 or less.
- Fouls: Two Free throws after 5 team fouls; resets each quarter.

### **D. 5th/6th Grade (Boys)**

- Goal Height: 10 ft
- Ball Size: 6
- Playing Time: Minimum 9 minutes; each player must sit at least 3 minutes.
- Backcourt Pressure: Allowed only in the second half unless leading by 15+ points.
- Fouls: Governed by TSSAA rules.
- Free Throws: After 5 team fouls; resets each quarter.
- Mercy Rule: If ahead by 21+ points, starters must sit until the lead returns to 15 or less.

### **E. 5th–8th Grade (Girls)**

- Goal Height: 10 ft
- Ball Size: 6
- Playing Time: Minimum 9 minutes. Every player must sit at least 3 mins
- Backcourt Pressure: Allowed only in the second half unless leading by 15+ points.
- Mercy Rule: If ahead by 21+ points, starters must sit until the lead returns to 15 or less.

## **F. 7th/8th Grade (Boys)**

- Goal Height: 10 ft
- Ball Size: 7
- Playing Time: Minimum 9 minutes. Every player must sit at least 3 minutes.
- Backcourt Pressure: Allowed unless leading by 15+ points.
- Mercy Rule: If ahead by 21+ points, starters must sit until the lead returns to 15 or less.

## **4. Roster Construction & Draft Procedures**

- All teams are re-formed annually.
- Each team may “freeze” two players plus one sponsor freeze before draft day, if you have a sponsor.
- Freeze requests must be submitted before evaluations. Sponsor fees must be paid by draft day, or the player returns to the draft pool.
- The draft follows a snake format (1–2–3–4–5 → 5–4–3–2–1).
- Players who do not attend evaluations are placed randomly through a hat draw by the coaches
- If player counts are uneven, remaining players will be assigned by draft order.

## **5. Game Operations**

### **Game Structure**

- Quarters: 6 minutes each.
- Timeouts:
  - 3 full (1-minute) timeouts
  - 2 thirty-second timeouts
  - 1 additional full timeout in overtime
  - Unused timeouts carry over.
- Clock Stops:
  - During substitutions-
  - Free throws (10-second limit)
  - Timeouts
  - Injuries
  - Last 1 minute of quarters 1–3
  - Last 2 minutes of the 4th quarter and OT
- Overtime:
  - First OT: 3 minutes
  - Second OT: Sudden death (first to score)
- Grace Period: 5-minute grace period for missing players. This is only if you do not have 5 players.

## **6. Defensive Rules**

### **A. Man-to-Man Requirement**

- No zone defense permitted in:

- Pre K–Kindergarten
- 1st/2nd Grade
- 3rd/4th Grade
- All defenses allowed in:
  - 5th/6th Grade (Boys)
  - 5th–8th Grade (Girls)
  - 7th/8th Grade (Boys)

Violations:

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense: 1 technical free throw (counts toward team fouls)

## **B. Second-Quarter Rule**

Two designated starters may not play in the second quarter for the entire season, unless no other eligible players are available. These players must be identified before the first game and remain the same throughout the season. You will submit these players names to the board member over your division.

## **C. Half-Court Defense Violation**

When backcourt pressure is not permitted:

- Defenders must give the ball handler space to cross half court.
- First violation: Warning
- Additional violations: 1 technical free throw + possession
- Backcourt pressure is defined as defending in the backcourt after a rebound or turnover.

# **7. Sportsmanship & Conduct**

The PCYBL is a recreational league emphasizing teamwork, respect, and character development. All participants are expected to model good sportsmanship.

## **A. Players**

- First technical: Must sit one full quarter.
- Second technical in same game: Ejection + suspension for next game.
- Three technicals in one season: Suspended for the remainder of the season.

## **B. Coaches**

- First technical: Loss of coaching box privileges.
- Second technical in same game: Ejection + suspension for next game.
- Three technicals in a season: Removal from coaching duties; Board review required for reinstatement.
- Suspended coaches may not attend games.

Additional Rule:

In 3rd/4th grade divisions and above, only the head coach may stand during play. Assistant coaches must remain seated.

## **C. Fighting or Severe Misconduct**

Any participant involved in fighting or serious misconduct may be required to appear before the Board for disciplinary review and potential removal from the league

## **8. Coach Approval**

All coaches must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to the start of practices. Annual evaluations ensure coaches meet PCYBL standards and expectations.