



LIBERTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Youth Recreation Basketball Program

Rules and Regulations

ADMINISTRATION:

The Youth Recreation Basketball Program is supervised by the Liberty Parks and Recreation Department. Decisions rendered by the Parks and Recreation Department are final. Official Basketball rules as established by the National Federation of State High School Associations apply except where superseded by the following Youth Basketball Program Rules.

COACHES:

1. Shall, above all, have the safety and welfare of each child as his/her main objective.
2. Must have a reasonable knowledge of the game.
3. Shall act as an example of good conduct and sportsmanship to his/her team in all league matters.
4. Emphasis of the program shall be to participate, enjoy and learn the fundamentals and skills of basketball within an environment of fair play.

TEAMS:

1. Grade divisions for boys' and girls' leagues shall be established by the Parks and Recreation Department.
2. Coaches can bring in a full or partial team. Kindergarten is a coed league and teams may be all boys, all girls or a combination of both. If bringing in a full team, the players must all register individually and a roster be turned in prior to the registration deadline. The Parks and Recreation Department has the right to add players to your team as needed.
3. A player may not be on a recreational and competitive roster at the same time.
4. All Divisions will be assigned players after their chosen picks.
5. Should a coach have two or more children playing in the same league those children will automatically be placed on his/her team if the family so desires.
6. Minimum/Maximum number of player per team shall be 8 – 10 for all divisions. Player selection process shall follow printed guidelines established by Parks & Recreation Department.
7. Players must submit a player contract or registration form with fee, properly signed by a parent or guardian, prior to participation in program.
8. There shall be no food or drink allowed in any gymnasium during practices or games. The only exception allowed is water bottles. Parents & children that are not participating in in the games must remain on the bleachers. Children will not be allowed to run around the gym. When entering the gym, please stay against the wall and walk around the court.
9. No smoking or alcohol permitted on school grounds.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT:

1. Required uniform consists of a reversible jersey with a number on the back provided by the league. Players' names may appear on the uniforms at the cost of the parent(s), no additional printing shall be on the jerseys. Uniforms on a team shall be of the same color. Players must be in uniform to participate.
2. Gym shoes are to be worn. No street shoes allowed.
3. Jewelry of all types is prohibited. The only exception to this rule is pierced earrings which cannot be removed. If worn, the earrings must have tape over them.
4. Game balls shall be supplied by the league. All Divisions will play with the following basketballs; Kindergarten: Rookie Ball (25.5); 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th: Junior Ball (27.5); 5th/6th boys and girls divisions will play with a 28.5 basketball; Boys 7th/8th grade divisions: Men's regulation basketball. Girls 7th/8th grade divisions: Women's regulation basketball.
5. Goal heights will be as follows; K- 2nd will play at 8 ½ foot goals and all other divisions will be 10 foot goals.

GAME TIME:

1. Games will start promptly as scheduled. A team must have five uniformed players to start a game and must have four uniformed players to complete a game. A five minute grace period is allowed from scheduled starting time.
2. The referee's watch is official.
3. All teams must play on assigned dates. Failure to do so is an automatic forfeit. Games may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Department.

DETERMINATION OF PLAYER LINE-UPS:

Prior to the start of each quarter at the direction of the officials, coaches will line up their five starters near the scorer's table. At that time, coaches will direct their players as to their individual player responsibilities. Coaches should attempt to balance the ability of players on the court. In the K-2nd grade divisions, if there is a mismatch in skill level, the game may be stopped and wristbands switched to make the match-up even. The referee will call a timeout in this case.

PLAYING TIME:

1. The Kindergarten – 2nd grades division games will consist of 4 quarters of 9 minutes. A continuous clock will stop the last minute of each half. The game will be stopped around the 4 minute mark of each quarter for mandatory substitutions for K – 1st/2nd grades. Grades 3rd-8th may substitute at any time. Coaches should attempt to play all players every quarter. There will be intermissions of 1 minute after the 1st and 3rd quarters and 5 minutes between halves. The 3rd – 8th grade divisions will play 2-20 minute halves, with 5 minutes between halves. There will be a running clock, except the last minute of each quarter.
2. K – 2nd grade divisions- no overtime.
3. 3rd – 6th grade divisions- 2 minute running clock overtime; if the score remains tied after overtime then the game is over.
4. 7th/8th grade division- 2 minute running clock overtime; 2 minute sudden death double overtime; if the score is still tied after the double overtime period, the game is over.
5. If a team is 20 or more points ahead the clock will run the whole fourth quarter.

TIME-OUTS:

1. Each team is entitled to 2 charged time-outs per half during a regulation game. During each extra period, each team is entitled to one time-out. Time-outs cannot be carried over from half to half or 2nd half to overtime.
2. A single charged time-out shall not exceed 1 minute.

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Home team will be listed first on the game schedule.
2. Home team shall provide the official timekeeper. The visiting team shall provide the official bookkeeper. The Parks & Recreation Department shall provide a gym supervisor who will have the official score books, keep games running, keep non-participating children off the gym floor, handling confrontations etc.
3. Score book and time clock will be provided by the department.

OFFICIAL GAME:

1. Games that have been canceled by the Parks and Recreation Department shall be rescheduled at the earliest possible date.
2. Games may be played with one official.

PLAYING REQUIREMENTS AND SUBSTITUTION:

1. All players in uniform will play a minimum of one full quarter in each half of the game. The minimum playing requirement does not apply in case of injury -should a player be removed from the game due to injury, that partial quarter counts as a quarter toward fulfilling the player participation requirement.
2. It is the decision of the official(s) as to when a player removed from the game due to injury will be allowed to re-enter the game. Their decision will be determined by the seriousness of the injury.
3. No player may enter the game in either half as a substitute unless there is an injury or foul trouble.
4. Every player must play the minimum of 8 minutes per half. No player shall play four complete quarters except as may be necessary to field a team due to cases of illness, injury or foul-outs. EXCEPT for the 7th/8th grade league, no player shall be allowed to play the entire 4 quarters - they must come out of the game at some point during a dead ball situation.
5. The only exceptions to the minimum playing requirements and player substitution requirements are in cases of injury, players fouling out or late arrivals.
6. Failure to obey these rules may result in forfeiture of the game.

PRACTICE ATTENDANCE:

Practices are an important part of youth recreation programs, but cannot be made mandatory. It is usually not the child's fault when they miss practices and the child shouldn't be punished by not playing. If a player on your team is consistently absent from practice without an excuse, try to talk to the parents and see why the child hasn't been at practice. If it continues to be a problem, make sure the program coordinator is aware of it.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

Team members, coaches and spectators shall exhibit appropriate behavior towards other players, officials and spectators. Unsportsmanlike conduct from team members and/or associates, including spectators, will result in one or more of the following:

- 1) Player, coach or spectator ejection from the game.
- 2) Player, coach or spectator ejection from the league.
- 3) Player, coach or spectator suspension.
- 4) Forfeiture of game.

During the game, the officials have the authority to eject players, coaches or spectators. Anyone that is ejected from a game will be suspended a minimum of one game. The Parks and Recreation Department has the final authority on determining the duration of the suspension or other penalty. Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game must leave the gymnasium. Failure to do so may result in the forfeit of game.

PROTESTS:

Officials' decisions in all matters are final. There shall be no protests except in cases of violation of the minimum playing requirements. Intent to protest must be so noted in the score book by an official at the request of the coach within the conclusion of the game. The protest must then be reported to the Parks and Recreation Department by the protesting coach the next working day. Report may be made in person or by phone.

AWARDS:

All players in the Youth Basketball Program shall receive a participation award.

PLAYING RULES:

1. There shall be no three- point field goals, except for the boys and girls 5th-8th grade divisions.
2. For Boys and Girls K-2nd, no zone defense is allowed - man-to-man defense only. Violation of this rule may result in a technical foul being assessed to the bench. Wristbands will be provided and required in K-2nd grade divisions, and kids will guard the opposing player with matching color wristband. **There is no stealing or setting picks allowed.**
3. Boys & Girls 3rd-8th grade leagues will be allowed to play High School Basketball Rules (i.e. trap, double team, man-to-man, zone, etc.) The league recommends, especially to the younger divisions, they attempt playing man to man for player development purposes.
4. Full court press allowed as follows:
K-4th grades - No full court press allowed. Boys & Girls: 5th-8th grade divisions - Full Court press allowed the last two minutes of each half.
BOYS & GIRLS: 5th-8th grades, during full court press players can play regulation High School Rules (trap, double team, man-to-man, zone, etc.). If a team is ahead by 10 points or more, that team may not press. Violations of the full court press rule may result in a technical foul being assessed to the bench.
5. If an offensive player beats his/her defender, another defensive player can pick him/her up until the first player recovers. DOES NOT APPLY TO 3rd-8th grade boys and girls divisions.
6. In addition to the instances allowed in the High School Rule Book, a coach will be allowed to come up off the bench to provide instruction to players in a constructive manner. The Head Coach will be required to sit next to the score table so that the officials know who to refer to as Head Coach. Coaches are not allowed to come up off the bench to argue a call or in any manner harass the official(s).
7. The free throw line for the K-4th grade leagues will be moved in three feet closer to the basket. A line will be marked on each end of the court.
8. Once the ball has been brought over the half court line, or spike line in some gyms, (either by pass or dribble) the defense may now pick up their offensive player (man on man defense only).
9. In K-4th grade divisions, the point guard needs to be a different child every quarter; this is to encourage other children the opportunity to touch the ball, not the same 1 or 2 children every time.
10. Unless the gym is closed for school functions, practices are cancelled at the coaches' discretion.
11. In case of inclement weather on game days, call **816-735-4700**.