



## **2025-2026 CITY OF WACO** **YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE RULES**

### **I. General Provisions:**

The purpose of the league is to provide an organized association to promote the fundamentals of youth basketball.

### **II. Organization:**

The league is sponsored by the City of Waco Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation.

## **AGE GROUPS**

### **5 & under Developmental Boys and Girls**

7 & Under Boys – Division I, II & III

7 & Under Girls – Division I, II & III

9 & Under Boys – Division I, II & III

9 & Under Girls – Division I, II & III

11 & Under Boys – Division I, II & III

11 & Under Girls – Division I, II & III

13 & Under Boys

13 & Under Girls

**Any team that does not participate in the draft will be considered a Division I or II team regardless of Age Group.**

***\*\*\* Age will be determined as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year. All games will be played under the National Federation rules and UIL rules with the exception of T.A.A.F. rules and City of Waco league rules. City of Waco league rules will take precedence over all other rules. The 2025-2026 T.A.A.F. Cavalcade will govern all rules not covered in the City League rules.***

## **PLAYING RULES**

- 1. Team Size:** The regular playing roster shall not exceed twelve (12) players for Division I & II and ten (10) players for Division III. Division I teams will not be required to qualify through a regional tournament and can advance directly to the state tournament. Division II teams may pick up 1 player for post season play if those players participated in the league. Pick up players are not allowed for post season play in Division III. Switching and/or trading of players is prohibited. All rosters must be complete and turned into the Athletic Office before any team can practice or play in a City of Waco Facility. The deadline to make changes to a roster is Monday, January 4, 2026, at 4:00pm.
- 2. Game Length:** All Divisions are to play with a running clock except for the final two minutes of each half. The 5U and 7U divisions will play 4 six-minute quarters. The 9U, 11U, 13U divisions will play four (4) eight (8) minute quarters. The clock only stops on timeouts and free throws. The game officials may use their discretion to stop the clock for injury, ball retrieval, etc.

3. **Basket Specifications:** The basketball goal height will be eight feet six inches (8'6") from the floor for all 7U divisions. The basketball heights for all other divisions will be regulation height, ten feet (10'0") from the floor.
4. **Free Throw Line:** The free throw line will be thirteen feet six inches (13'6") for the 7U divisions and 9U Division III. The free throw line for all other divisions will be regulation, fifteen feet (15'0").
5. **Ball Size:** A 29.5 size ball will be used for the 11U and 13U boys' divisions. All girl divisions and boys 7U and 9U divisions will play with a 28.5 ball. The 5U division will use the 27.5 ball.
6. **Timeouts:** Four (4) one-minute time outs per game will be permitted. In case of overtime, each team shall be allowed one (1) additional one-minute timeout, as well as any timeouts remaining from regulation.
7. **Half-Time:** A five (5) minute half time will be observed.
8. **Forfeits:** A forfeit game will be scored as 10-0 in favor of the team that does not forfeit.
9. **Overtime:** If a game is tied at the end of regulation in the 7U & 9U divisions teams will play a two (2) minute overtime period. All other divisions will play a three (3) minute overtime period. The clock will stop on each whistle.

**Uniforms:** Each team must have closely matching jerseys with a permanent four-inch (4") number on the front and a six-inch (6") number on the back. Jersey numbers must be either one or two digits with each digit being "5" or less. Numbers will **not** be the base color of the jersey. Numbers **must** be permanently affixed to the jersey, not taped, pinned or handwritten on jersey. **T-shirts worn under the jersey must be matching for any players who wear undershirts. Tights and kneepads must be a single closely matching color for any players who wear them.**

1. **Equipment/Apparel:** Equipment/apparel that is made of hard plastic, metal, or in the opinion of the referee are considered dangerous or inappropriate will **NOT** be permitted.
2. One flagrant foul on a player constitutes automatic ejection of that player from the game. If a player is ejected from a game for any reason the player is subject to a minimum one game suspension to be determined by the Athletic Supervisor.
3. The Athletic Supervisor reserves the right to make the final decision on all interpretations and application of the Youth Basketball Rules.

## **FULL COURT DEFENSE**

1. **Defense:** Any type of half-court defense is allowed.
2. **Full Court Defense:**  
The 11U and 13U divisions may play full court defense at any time.  
**9& Under Division III only;** may play full court defense during the last two minutes of each half and any overtime period(s). **9& Under Division I & II only;** may play full court defense until a 15-point lead is obtained. The trailing team may continue to press.
3. In the 7U division, full court defense is only allowed during the last one (1) minute of each half and at all times during any overtime period(s).
4. **All Divisions:** If any team is 20 points or more ahead, no full court defense (press) will be allowed.
5. **Point Spread Rule:** If one team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more points during the last two (2) minutes of each half, the clock will remain a running clock, except for timeouts and free throws.
6. Violations of this rule will result in one (1) warning per team per half. All other violations will be subject to technical fouls. In all divisions full court defense can be played in any overtime periods.

## **SUBSTITUTIONS AND PLAYING TIME**

### **Minimum Playing Time:**

**Division I & II** have free substitutions throughout the game and no minimum playing time.

**Division III** teams must abide by the following minimum playing time rules:

- During the first quarter of every game there will be no substitutions allowed. The five players who start this quarter will be the same five players who finish the quarter.
  - During the second quarter any remaining players who did not start the first quarter will be required to start the second quarter and play the entire quarter without substitutions.
  - During the second quarter, if a team has less than 10 players on their roster then the coach may substitute only for those players who already played the entire first quarter.
  - In the event of an injury to a player who is playing their required full quarter a medical substitution will be allowed. However, if a player is not able to finish their quarter during the first half, then that player will be required to play a full quarter with no substitutions allowed in the second half.
  - If a player is medically unable to complete their full quarter in either the first or second half, then that player will be disqualified for the remainder of the tournament/day.
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1. When making substitutions, coaches must inform each player of the number or names of the player whose position they are replacing.

2. Substitutions must check in at the score table before entering the game.
3. All substitutions must wait at the score table until the official signals the player to enter the game.

### **LANE VIOLATIONS**

Five (5) seconds will be observed in the 7U and 9U divisions. Three (3) seconds will be observed in all other divisions.

### **LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**

- In the case of two teams ending up with the same record at the end of the regular season the first tiebreaker will be head-to-head.
- The second tiebreaker will be the number of points scored between the tied teams. If more than two teams are tied – winner will be determined by total number of points scored between tied teams if teams have played each other the same number of times.
- If teams are still tied, then the Athletic Supervisor will schedule a playoff game.

### **LEAGUE AWARDS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in each age division will receive team and individual awards.

### **POSTSEASON**

#### **Regional Tournament**

- In order to compete in the TAAF Regional Tournament Division II & III teams must have participated in a TAAF affiliated league. All City of Waco league teams are eligible to participate in the Regional Tournament if all registration requirements for the Regional Tournament are met.
- It is the responsibility of each individual team to complete the necessary registration paperwork and provide the tournament registration fee for the Regional Tournament by the deadline. Once brackets are posted no refunds will be given.

#### **State Tournament**

- In order to qualify for the TAAF State Tournament Division II & III teams must register to compete in the TAAF Regional Tournament and qualify for one of the state births. Division I teams will register directly with the state tournament host.
- The City of Waco Parks & Recreation Department will pay the entry fee to the T.A.A.F. State Basketball Tournament for the City of Waco league teams that finish first or second (if first declines) in their division in the T.A.A.F. Regional Tournament. The team requesting to advance must be in good standing throughout the season to advance. If the qualifying team guarantees entry to the State Tournament and fails to participate the team will reimburse the state entry fee to the City of Waco PARD.

## **DRAFT RULES**

Any team that does not participate in the draft will be considered a Division I or II team.

Teams may return no more than 4 players from the previous year's roster to be considered Division III team.

The draft procedures are as follows for all Division III teams:

- All players new to the league will be placed in the draft.
- Teams with the least number of returning players will draw first.
- Coaches will randomly draw a numbered ball to determine who will draft their player first if there is more than one team with the same amount of returning players.
- All teams participating in the draft will draft players until their roster reaches a maximum of 10 players or until all players have been drafted.
- Head coaches with children participating in the league will automatically have their own child placed on their team; this will not count as the coach's first draft pick. If a **brother or sister** within the same age group is in the draft they will play on the same team and count as one draft pick. Any assistant coach's children will be counted as draft picks.
- Any player not present at the draft on draft day will be assigned to a team by the Athletic Supervisor.

**NOTE: The number of teams will determine the number of league games. Not all divisions do necessarily play the same number of league games. The coach should explain the league format to all parents prior to the start of the league season.**

## **GENERAL RULES**

1. Wearing shorts below the waistline, "sagging", will **NOT** be tolerated during games. Skid resistant shoes must be worn.
2. Jewelry is not allowed during games.
3. On game days, players should report to their game session and sit in the bleachers until the coach calls them to begin game. **Leave personal basketballs at home. Outside balls will not be allowed to be brought into the facilities.** Basketballs will be provided for the games and practice.
4. Jerseys must be tucked in shorts for the duration of each game.
5. Exits should always remain clear.
6. Loitering or talking around the score table is strictly prohibited. **Only staff are allowed at the score table!**

7. Protests on eligibility must be brought to the attention of the scorekeeper before game time has expired. A \$50 protest fee and written statement must be submitted within 48 hrs. to the Athletic Office.

*Note: Teams are only allowed to practice in assigned gyms on designated days. Each team is guaranteed one (1) hour of practice per week in one of the City of Waco's recreation centers.*

### **COACH CONDUCT**

1. No coach is allowed on the court at **any time** during the game; a technical foul may be assessed for failure to adhere to this rule. No parents or spectators are allowed on the court during or after the game. Violators may be removed from the facility for a time to be determined by the League Administrator.
2. If there are two (2) coaches on one team, only the head coach is allowed to stand during the game. Any technical foul assessed to the assistant coach will automatically be assessed to the head coach. In the event that a coach receives two (2) technical fouls, he/she will be removed from the facility and is automatically suspended from the facility for the next game.
3. The coach is responsible for calling an official time-out if he/she wishes to confer with an official concerning a correctable error. (Anything other than score, time, or fouls will be a time-out charged to the team, not an official time-out).
4. **Profanity** by any coach is cause for immediate ejection and an automatic one-week suspension from coaching and from entering any City of Waco Recreation facility and will be reinstated only after review by the League Administrator.
5. The coach must remain in the coaches' box. No coach is allowed at the score table until an official time-out is given.
6. The Bench area may **ONLY** consist of **two (2)** coaches and the players on the team. Any team that has more than 2 coaches or people other than players on the bench will receive a **technical foul**.
7. All coaches are required to submit and pass a criminal background check. Anyone assisting with practices or games must submit and pass a criminal background check if using a City of Waco facility.

### **POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

*As coaches and parents, we assume the responsibility of doing everything possible to ensure that the youngsters we are charged with have a fun, safe and meaningful time, in every aspect of their sports experience.*

- **Drinking alcoholic beverages or smoking in or on City of Waco property or facilities utilized for city programs is prohibited. This includes the parking lot.**

- **Abusive language or profanity from players, coaches, parents and spectators will not be tolerated. Any person removed from a facility for these actions will face an automatic one-week suspension from all City of Waco Recreation centers pending review by the League Administrator.**
- **Anyone exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct is subject to the removal from the facility and further suspension from said facility to be determined by the League Administrator.**
- **Coaches and parents should set a good example for the players by showing restraint in their disagreements with officials and staff.**
- **Any coach not conducting themselves in a positive manner is subject to removal from the program and no refunds will be given.**
- **Please follow all facility rules while in each facility.**
- **Please keep an eye on your children for safety purposes and do not allow them to deface city property.**