



## Youth Basketball 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade: League Rules

The Warrensburg Parks and Recreation (WPR) Youth Basketball League is designed to give all youth equal opportunity to play in a formal basketball program. For the 1st through 4th grades, league is set up as a recreational activity and is intended to teach and improve basic skills of the game, and official standings will not be kept during the season. For the 5th and 6th grade age division, there will be more emphasis on raising the level of play, while still maintaining an effort to maintain equal opportunity for all players. For this division, official standings will be kept throughout the season, with a single elimination end-of-season tournament.

Participation, fun and a positive learning experience are the primary goals. We ask each coach, parent, and player to keep this in mind on the hardwood whether at practice or in games. Decisions rendered by the Warrensburg Parks and Recreation Department are final. Official basketball rules as established by the USA Basketball Youth Basketball Guidelines apply except where superseded by the Warrensburg Parks and Recreation Program Rules.

### COACHES:

The coach is the primary link between their team and the league management. It is the coach's duty to obtain all information regarding league play. Responsibilities of the coach include:

- A. Having the safety and welfare of each child as his/her main objective
- B. Possessing reasonable knowledge of the game
- C. Acting as an example of good conduct and sportsmanship to his/her team in all league matters
- D. Understanding that the emphasis of the program shall be to participate, enjoy and learn the fundamentals and skills of basketball within an environment of fair play.
- E. Reading rules and park policies prior to starting league play and informing the players of the rules.
- F. Obtaining league information pertaining to cancellations, make-up schedules, photo schedules, and general league information
- G. Maintaining control over his/her players in all circumstances including disputes on the court. Referees will discuss disputes on the field with the manager/supervisor only. Players are not to question a call or ruling.
- H. Making sure both the head and assistant coach sign and turn in the codes of conduct prior to the start of the season.

### GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- There shall be no food or drink allowed in any gymnasium during practices or games. The only exception allowed is water bottles.
- Parents & children who are not participating 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 walls and walk around the court.
- 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.



## **BALL SIZE & GOAL HEIGHT**

Little Hoopsters (6U) Rookie Ball (25.5) 8 ft.

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Boys & Girls - Size 5 (27.5) 8 ft.

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Girls - Size 5 (27.5) 9 ft.

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Boys – Size 6 (28.5) 10 ft.

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Girls – Size 6 (28.5) 10 ft.

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Boys- Size 7 (29.5) 10 ft.

*Game balls will be provided by the official at the start of each game.*

## **LOCATION OF GAMES**

Games will be played at the Warrensburg Community Center and Warrensburg Middle School Gymnasiums, with Maple Grove Elementary School being reserved for special situations.

## **GAME TIME:**

- Games will consist of 4 quarters of 8 minutes each. In the 1st- 4th grade divisions, the clock will run continuously. The game will be stopped around the 4-minute mark of each quarter for mandatory substitutions (if applicable). There will be intermissions of 1 minute between quarters and 4 minutes between halves.
- 1st - 4th grade - There will be no overtime period, and games will end in a tie.
- 5th and 6th grade - If the game is tied at the conclusion of the 4th quarter, there will be a 2 minute extra period. If the game remains tied after the 2 minute period has concluded, the game will end in a tie.
- 5th and 6th - If a team is 20 or more points ahead going in to the fourth quarter, the clock will continue to run.

## **TIME-OUTS**

- 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.
- Time outs will be 1 minute each.

## **PLAYING TIME REQUIREMENTS & SUBSTITUTIONS**

- All players in uniform will play a minimum of time equal to 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.



- 5th and 6th Grade - Players should receive equal playing time through the end of the 3rd quarter, with the 4th quarter and extra periods having playing time decided at the coaches discretion.
- A minute tracking sheet will be used by the site supervisor at all games to monitor player minutes in games. Failure to meet the minutes requirements may result in a technical foul, coach suspension, or forfeiture of the game.

### 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 for 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.

### PLAYING RULES:

- There shall be no three-point field goals in the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade leagues. Baskets made from behind the three-point line will be counted as two points.
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade 3-point field goal will count as 3 points.
- For Boys and Girls in **ALL AGE DIVISIONS**, zone defense is NOT allowed. Only player-to-player defense is permitted. Violation of this rule may result in a technical foul being assessed to the bench.
- For the 1st - 4th grade divisions full court press will **NOT** be permitted. For the 5th and 6th grade, full court press will **only be permitted in the 4th quarter and extra period** if the winning team **IS NOT** ahead by 20 or more points. Continued violation of this rule may result in a technical foul being assessed to the bench.
- For **ALL AGE DIVISIONS**, stealing the ball **off the dribble** will **NOT** be permitted. Continued violation of this rule may result in a technical foul being assessed to the bench.
- For **ALL AGE DIVISIONS**, double-teaming and crowding the ball by defenders will **NOT** be permitted. Continued violation of this rule may result in a technical foul being assessed to the bench.
- Defenders **CANNOT** begin defending until the offensive players are 5 feet across the half court line.



### GAME RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- If an offensive player beats his/her defender, another defensive player can pick him/her up until the first player recovers.
- In addition to the instances allowed in the Youth Basketball Guidelines, for the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade division, a coach will be allowed to come off the bench to provide instruction to players in a constructive manner. For all divisions, 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 off the bench to dispute or argue a call or in any manner harass the official(s).
- The free throw line for the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade leagues will be moved three feet closer to the basket. A line will be marked on each end of the court.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade free throw line will be standard.
- In the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade division, the defense may not pick up their offensive player until the ball has penetrated the 3-point line (man on man defense only).
- In the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade divisions, players may pick up their offensive player when the ball has moved 5 feet past the half court line.
- In the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade divisions, the point guard needs to be a different player each half; this is to encourage other children the opportunity to touch the ball and improve their dribbling. (Rule does not apply in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up).
- Unless gyms are closed for school functions or weather, practices are only canceled at the coach's discretion.

*Warrensburg Parks & Recreation reserves the right to interpret any and all rules and situations. Further, Warrensburg Parks & Recreation reserves the right to insert, delete, or change rules at any time and make decisions retroactive should it be deemed necessary for the benefit of the leagues.*