

HARRISON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION YOUTH BASKETBALL INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUES

LEAGUE PURPOSE: To make the youth sports experience safe, positive and fun. To instruct young players in the proper skills and game conduct for basketball, and contribute to the physical and emotional development of the participants.

1. The Youth Basketball Instructional League is for boys and girls age 5-6 and 7-8. We keep participants from the same school together when possible. After dividing teams according to the original registration, late registration is then taken to fill rosters only.
2. THESE ARE INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUES. No standings will be tabulated – no official scores recorded. No first place awards. A scorebook is used by a supervisor to insure that all participants have equal playing time and to keep track of fouls, time-outs and possession rotation only. The league’s purpose is to learn skills and have fun.
3. GAME CANCELLATIONS
 - a. Youth Basketball games and practices are automatically cancelled on weekdays if school is called off or dismissed early due to snow or other extreme conditions. Players will not be contacted by the office in this case. **COACHES WILL ADVISE ALL THEIR TEAM PARENTS OF THIS CANCELLATION POLICY.**
 - b. Games/Practices are **NOT** cancelled if schools are on a delay.
 - c. If the facility cancels us for their own activity, players will be contacted.
 - d. Saturday games and practices (if needed) will take place unless players are contacted by the HCPR staff
 - e. In the event of late afternoon inclement weather (i.e. snow/ice) please check our website to see if games/practice will be held or canceled. VISIT <http://www.hcparks.org> and select announcements from the menu bar.
 - f. Announcements of whether games or practices will be held or cancelled will always be posted on our website by 3:00pm.
 - g. Make-up game schedules will be issued as required.
4. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE YELLOW OR BLOCK DRIVEWAYS.** Neighbors will call the police and you will be ticketed and/or towed.
In addition to street parking, you may park:
 - On the school sidewalk in front of the school – If car is completely off of the road.

- In the gravel lot at the back end of the playground on N 18th st.
- In the parking lot on the corner of N 18th and Pride Ave.
(Both lots are only a block from the school)

5. We attempt to have a limit of ten (10) players per roster to insure sufficient playing time for each participant. The number of players on the rosters may vary due to number of children registered from different areas. We will not leave a child out. Rosters are final except to fill shortages and to replace dropouts. It may be necessary to change players on a team before the season begins in the case of multiple dropouts.
6. EACH PLAYER MUST PLAY IN AT LEAST ½ OF EACH GAME. No player can play the entire game.
 - a. Substitutions must be made at the mid-point of each quarter. Players are rotated at this time. You may start out each quarter with any combination you so choose, as long as the players on the bench go in at the quarter mid-point. The only exceptions are in case of injury, sickness, playing with only five (5) players, or refusal to play.
 - b. Playing in ½ of each game is the MINIMUM PLAYING TIME WITH TEN (10) PLAYERS PRESENT. If a team does not have ten players, they must make playing time as equal as possible among all players. With enough players no participant will play the entire game.
 - c. There is no way to keep watch on all players in the League. However, if infractions are reported to us they will be checked. COACHES FOUND NOT FOLLOWING THE EQUAL PARTICIPATION RULE WILL BE DISMISSED.
7. Everyone (parents, coaches, players and staff) associated with our youth sports leagues must be held **ACCOUNTABLE** for their behavior. All coaches and league officials will be screened with background checks conducted. Accountability begins with orientation and education.
 - a. Coaches – required to take a training course conducted by the HCPR staff. The purpose of the training course is to enable the coaches to have a better understanding of the organization, teaching proper techniques, safety and to make them more knowledgeable in psychological and physical needs of dealing with young athletes. Coaches are also to attend a hand-on skills and rules clinic to aid in drills, practice and game organization.
 - b. Parents – an orientation meeting will be held to familiarize parents with program goals, rules and roles of the coach, league officials and parents in the league.

- c. Officials – all league officials must attend the rules and goals clinics prior to the season and weekly staff meetings as a part of ongoing evaluation.
8. SKILLS CLINICS: League action will begin with a series of skills clinics where HCPR Staff will begin instruction to the children. This is not an evaluation of talent. We will start January action with skill clinics. Practice and game schedules will follow.
9. GAME LENGTH AND TIME RULES:
 - a. Four (4) ten-minute quarters will be played. The clock stops for time-outs only.
 - b. There will be two (2) 20-second time-outs per half, one (1) minute between quarters, and five (5) minutes at half time.
 - c. **GAMES MUST START AT THE SCHEDULED TIME.** There will be a five-minute grace period. If a team fails to arrive or does not have enough players, a refereed scrimmage will be played. Coaches will agree to a workable format. This game will be made to fit a time period so that the next scheduled game will start on time. If late arriving players show up to make a complete team, a shortened game may be played.
10. FOUL & FOUL RULES: (All foul shots will not be taken due to time restrictions) Teams will be awarded possession.
 - a. When used, two foul shots will be given only when the player was fouled in the act of shooting. Each team will shoot one and one on the 7th team foul of each half.
 - b. On the 6th personal foul the player will be eliminated from the game.
11. BALL ADVANCEMENT – DEFENSE INSTRUCTIONS:
 - a. To begin the season: The ball must be brought into the forecourt within ten (10) seconds. THE DEFENSIVE TEAM CANNOT “PRESS”. Once a player gains control in the backcourt or after a throw-in, the team must be allowed to move the ball past mid-court. Defensive positions on the player with the ball may not be established until the offensive player has both feet in the fore court.
 - b. The 7-8 age division will be allowed a limited half court press and can play a 2-3 zone defense at the midpoint of the season. Officials will limit the “press” if game conditions are too one sided. Practices will be held at this half way point to teach additional skills such as the press and zone defense. Defensive teams are to retreat to behind the 3-point line immediately after change of possession. Teams must play man-to-man defense at the start of the league. Team defense must stay behind the 3-point line.

The 7-8 age division teams will be allowed to play man-to-man or any zone defense at mid-season. Team defense must stay behind the 3-point line unless allowable “press” is in effect.

- c. Referees will stop action and make teams on defense retreat to proper positions when necessary. Action will resume at the point where the game was stopped without an inbounds play. This call will be made on the referee’s judgement.
12. JUMP BALL SITUATIONS: A jump ball will start the game. After that, teams will alternate possessions whenever a jump ball occurs.
13. LANE VIOLATION: Offensive players will be allowed five (5) seconds in the lane.
14. If a coach is interfering with game actions or progress THE REFEREE OR SITE SUPERVISOR CAN RESTRICT THE COACH TO THE BENCH, except during timeouts, injuries, and in between quarters. After this restriction, a technical foul will be called. TWO TECHNICAL FOULS WILL RESULT IN THE COACH BEING REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE FACILITY. If this happens twice, **he will be relieved of coaching duties.**
15. Any arguments with referees, coaches, site supervisors or any HCPRC staff, by parents or players **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**
 - a. On the first offense a warning will result.
 - b. If it happens again, the coach, parents, or player may be expelled from the facility. If the person refuses to leave, the game will be forfeited. REMEMBER – these procedures will be taken against any coach, parents, spectator or player.
16. FLAGRANT TECHNICAL FOULS WILL BE SEVERELY DEALT WITH – If on a player, he/she will not participate in the next two regularly scheduled games. If it occurs again, he/she cannot participate the rest of the season.
17. In the case of severe or repeated confrontation with referees, Site Supervisors, or any HCPRC staff; expulsion of the offending person for the remainder of the season will result. In the case of physical attack on any HCPRC staff or referee, appropriate action will be initiated. REMEMBER!!! NONE OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS SHOULD EVER HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN A CHILDREN’S INSTRUCTIONAL RECREATION LEAGUE.
18. Coaches may discuss matters with referees and supervisors at appropriate times, i.e. time outs or in between quarters. Arguments will not be tolerated.

19. FOR PLAYERS' SAFETY – Jewelry of any kind is prohibited during games and players are not to have any objects in their mouths, i.e. candy, gum, etc. Braces are allowed.
20. Since Youth Basketball is designed as an instructional league, players can be told what they are doing wrong and helped within reason. However, coaches cannot interfere with game play or take excessive time due to time restraints. Referees will also be encouraged to help WAYWARD PLAYERS, without interfering with play (i.e. showing them where to stand, or explaining what was done incorrectly).
21. THE FIRST GAMES WILL BE DESIGNATED AS PRACTICE GAMES. Coaches will be allowed on the floor with the players for instructional purposes. Practice games will have a time limit.
22. Teams will be involved in action twice a week (including practices, practice games and games). All games will take place on Monday through Thursday evenings, beginning at 5:30pm and 6:30pm, and on Saturday mornings (if necessary) beginning at 9:00 am.
23. WE MUST ABIDE BY THE SCHOOL OR FACILITY RULES! Coaches and parents will have to assist in the close supervision of facilities. ARRIVE AND LEAVE ON TIME. PLEASE LEAVE THE FACILITY IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRACTICE AND GAMES. You will be instructed on which exits, restrooms, etc. to use.
 - a. **Nobody is allowed in any part of the school other than the specified areas. Players/Parents/Spectators must use designated restrooms only and cannot be roaming the hallways.**
 - b. **No food or drink are allowed in the gym or school.**
*(Water in "lidded" containers only are allowed in the gym. **NO sports drinks.**)*
 - c. **Strive to keep the school clean.**
 - d. **Do not use any school equipment.**
24. INSTRUCTIONS TO REFEREES. The referees have been given the following instructions: The referees cannot call all the walking, double dribbling, lane violations, etc., which occurs because this would take away from the game. All that would be accomplished is taking turns at taking the ball out of bounds. If you take time to watch both teams, you will see that these violations could be called on nearly every team's possession. A referee will have to use judgment in determining how much of this to call – usually this is tied into the skill level of the player/team and how severe the occurrence is. The calls will get more frequent as the season progresses, but we will never reach the point where all are called. The referees are also to explain to players, whenever possible, and can also warn and show players what they are doing wrong before calling violations. After stopping action and explanations, the referee will award

possession as appropriate. Instead of foul shots, possession will be awarded to the team instead of taking the ball out of bounds. The referee will start action outside the 3-point line.

25. The HCPRC does not provide trophies for any of its Youth Basketball Leagues. It does not pay for after-season parties. Participation certificates are available at the HCPRC office and can be requested by the team coach for his/her team.
26. The HCPRC fully supports good, wholesome competition and the desire to excel. THIS INCLUDES SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY. Try to remember to let the kids enjoy themselves, because a game is intended to be fun and not a stress-filled experience.
27. INSURANCE: The HCPRC carries liability insurance only. This covers if any HCPRC facility or equipment is faulty. This policy does not cover people who are injured or property damaged while taking part in an HCPRC league or program. This is the reason that the HCPRC requires that all participants have signed accident waivers on file, which state that the HCPRC will not be held responsible. Parents accept this responsibility upon signing the accident waiver.
28. As a result of our concern for the safety of the children in our leagues, staff will make certain only parents/guardians or others authorized by parents/guardians on the participant's registration form pick up children after games or practices. Parents /guardians are required to sign children in and out on the appropriate form. Should any questions arise HCPRC staff will be available to assist. We just cannot be too safe in dealing with our children.
29. If there are any questions concerning the league, contact the league supervisor Jack Cann at 304-476-0381 or HCPRC office at 304-423-7800. The HCPRC & Staff wants and appreciates your input.