

2023 - 2024 Girls Basketball League Bylaws

Program Philosophy:

The Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department's Girls Basketball program is designed to provide a positive basketball experience for girls in 3rd-12th grade living within Ocean City and its surrounding communities. The philosophy "everybody plays" is put into practice through participation of all players regardless of their level of talent and skill. Individual skill development is encouraged and the playing hard to win is stressed over the winning itself. Feedback from the parents, coaches and players concerning potential problems, ways to improve the program, and positive encouragement is always welcome and appreciated.

General Information:

Equipment:

- Team jerseys will be given to each participant and should not be defaced in any way such as: cut, marked on, etc.
- Shorts, socks, and sneakers should be worn. Shoes that leave black marks on the floor will not be permitted.
- Players should come with their own refillable water bottle marked with their name.
- **No jewelry or hard hair accessories.**
- Synthetic leather balls will be provided.
- All personal basketballs should be left at home.
- All personal belongings should be left at home.

Team Organization:

- A maximum of five players will participate in a game at any one time. Teams with only four players present will be permitted to play. Five against four will be permitted, four against four will also be allowed.
- All players should receive equitable playing time. Coaches should make an attempt to play each player in every quarter.
- The league is split into four divisions.
 - Division I is for 3rd-4th grades
 - Division II is for 5th-6th grades
 - Division III is for 7th-8th grades
 - Division IV is for 9th-12th grades
 - Girls that play on high school basketball teams will not be permitted to play. If there are not enough players in the high school division they will be permitted to play in Division III (7th & 8th grades).
- Players should arrive 10 minutes before scheduled game time.
- Parents are encouraged to attend games and follow our league philosophy.
- League coaches and officials are required to be certified through NAYS and complete a background check.

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Playing Rules:

- National High School Federation Rules will apply in regard to all game procedures unless modified in these rules.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Profanity, fighting, and other such actions will result in IMMEDIATE ejection. Depending on the severity of the altercation the league coordinator will determine the penalty awarded. Any player or coach who is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will not be permitted to play or coach the next scheduled game.
- Players belong on the bench during the game unless the coach gives permission to be excused. No one else will be allowed on the bench except for players and coaches.
- Each game will consist of four eight-minute quarters for Division I. Division II, III, and IV will play four ten-minute quarters.
- The clock will stop during all foul shots in all divisions.
- In Division II & III the clock will stop the last two minutes of the fourth quarter on dead balls.
- Each team will receive four one-minute time-outs per game.
- There will be two-minute intermissions after the first and third quarters and a five-minute intermission at the end of the second quarter, if time permits.
- Any game that ends in a tie will remain a tie. No overtime periods.
- Substitutions must report to the scorer's table before entering the game. Failure to report to the scorer's table may result in a technical foul.
- The three-point shot will be in effect. If the player is fouled in the act of shooting, three shots will be awarded.
- Half court pressure will be allowed in divisions II and III. No full court pressure at any time.
- During the last 10 seconds of the game on a dead ball, the clock will not start until the ball comes over half court.
- Division I, 3rd & 4th graders will be allowed to shoot foul shots from the line in the key below the original foul line.

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NHSF Updated Rule:

- 2 Free Throws will be awarded for all fouls on the 5th team foul per quarter. There are no longer any 1 and 1 situations
- Fouls will reset at the start of each new quarter.
- During a free-throw, players on the lane may enter the lane on release of the ball. The free throw shooter and all others must wait until the ball hits the rim before entering the lane.
- The basket height will be 8 ft. for division I and 10 ft. for divisions II& III.
- **Division I specific:** must play a zone defense within the key area, not to extend past the three-point line (their feet must be behind the line). If there is a loose ball outside of the 3pt line players may cross over the line to retrieve the ball. The officials will determine what a “loose” ball will be and they have the final decision. The offense must attack the zone; no stalling will be permitted outside the three-point line to waste time. The official will call a violation if in his/her discretion thinks there is stalling. The offense will receive a penalty of a turn over and the defense may receive a technical foul. Both situations will receive warnings first, before penalty.
- A coach from Division I (3rd and 4th grade) age group may be on the court to help with offence, defense, lining up for foul shots, etc. up until the mid-point in the league. After that point coaches must remain on the sideline at the bench area.

*** Any information not covered in these by-laws will be under the discretion of the league supervisor.

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