



Smithville Parks and Recreation

Smithville Dribblers

Youth Basketball League Rules and Information

Revised 9/19/2024

Purpose

The purpose of the league is to create a healthy and safe environment that supports life lessons such as good sportsmanship, develop athletics, teach the fundamentals of basketball, and to intertwine competition and cooperation. We want everyone to remember the children are learning and we want to help enrich their skills to the best of our ability.

Consent and Registration

In order to participate in the league, each player must have a complete registration profile and the appropriate fee paid. By registering in and paying for the Smithville Dribblers League, parents/guardians are giving consent for their child(ren) to participate in said program. Parents/guardians are responsible for their own primary insurance; Smithville PARD will NOT be responsible for any accidents that happen during the league.

Rules

Basketball is very simple and very enjoyable. The program will follow the rules outlined in this packet. Additional league rules or division rules are specified on page 5. Volunteer coaches MUST read and understand these rules prior to the start of the season. If there are any questions, please contact the Smithville PARD so we can try to clear up any questions you may have. Parents are strongly urged to read the packet as well to better understand how the season runs.

Age Divisions

The league will be divided by the participant's current grade. Below you will see the preferred divisions. A child can play up to the nearest grade level. (ex: a Jr. Girl that is in 2nd grade can play up to Inter. Girl. But a Jr. Girl that is in 1st grade could not.)

Pee-Wee:	4yrs-Kinder, Co-Ed
Junior:	1 st -2 nd Grade, Boys and Girls Divisions
Intermediate:	3 rd -4 th Grade, Boys and Girls Divisions
Senior:	5 th -6 th Grade, Boys and Girls Divisions

Parents will be ultimately responsible to get program information. The Recreation Center will use email addresses to contact parents while coaches are suggested to call. Please make sure all contact information on your profile is correct. If you do not receive any contact from the Rec. Center staff OR program coach, please contact the Rec. Center for program information.

Coaches, Parents, and Volunteers

We will NOT be able to start the season until we have enough volunteer coaches. If interested in volunteering other than coaching (ex. Officiating) please contact the Smithville Recreation Center.

- Head coaches must be at least sixteen (16) years old or older.
- All other volunteers such as assistant coaches or officials must be at least twelve (12) years old or older.
- If the PARD chooses to pay officials they must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
- A coach at least sixteen (16) or older must be with the team at all times. Coaches will be chosen by Rec. Center staff on a first come basis and consideration of past volunteer experiences with the department.
- Teams will only be allowed to have one (1) head coach and one (1) assistant coach. Head coaches shall submit their volunteer form to Smithville PARD forty-eight (48) hours before the registration deadline. Assistant coaches must also complete a volunteer form and be approved by Smithville PARD once chosen by a head coach following draft. Only head coaches will be guaranteed a team shirt.
- No one may oversee and be responsible for participants without a current volunteer form on file.
- All volunteers must pass a background check. (Please see our Volunteer Packet for more information)

Player Assignments

A protected player is a player assigned to a team because his/her parent is a Head Coach. The registered child(ren) of a Head Coach will be placed on the designated team when the appropriate age level is being drafted. Registration forms have an area for each player to make specific scheduling requests, be it a sibling in the same division. **We will do our best to honor such requests but are unable to guarantee each request.** Names of the siblings requesting to be paired together for transportation purposes must have each other's names on their registration form (Example: Billy's name is on Joe's form, and Joe's form has Billy's name on it as well). Again, ONLY siblings in the same division will be allowed transportation requests, NO others will be granted. Once the form has been turned in there will be NO further requests allowed.

Draft Procedures

The City of Smithville PARD has the right to determine to hold a draft or randomly generate team rosters based on the player's date of birth and gender. The Smithville PARD will ONLY use information that is on the registration form, so it is extremely important that forms are filled out correctly.

The coaches meeting will be held soon after the league registration closes. Coaches will receive a team folder that will include a team roster, contact information, program information etc. and be responsible for calling each parent to inform them of their practice day and times. *Please Note:* There shall be NO changes made to team rosters after draft night.

Minimum Player Requirements and Playing Time

Smithville PARD will limit rosters to a maximum of ten (10) players unless we cannot get enough coaches to meet that number. A game is played between two (2) teams consisting of five (5) players on the court at a time. A minimum of four (4) legal uniformed players are needed to start and continue a game. If a team does NOT meet the minimum number of players, that team will forfeit the game. Only players on the official team roster are eligible to play. If both coaches agree, games may be played 3v3.

Playing Time:

- During the first quarter of every game there will be NO substitutions allowed. The five (5) players who start this quarter will be the same five (5) 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 have already played the entire first quarter.

- In the case 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 shall play a full quarter with no substitutions allowed in the second half.

Participants will need to be played equal amounts of time or to the best ability (ex. If you have 10 players of your team, each of them should be able to play half of the game/two quarters). However, if players miss two (2) consecutive practices or more, then the coach will have the decision to play the participant for only the one quarter. However, if a coach chooses to discipline a child for missing practice, they MUST contact the parents ahead of time (before the game day) to notify parents that their child will be playing significantly less on game day. Then on game day coaches MUST let the scorekeeper know so it can be noted in the scorebook beside the player's name as to why they played significantly less. This will be up to you as a coach and ONLY after two consecutive practices (the count starts over if the player shows up to practice). If a coach chooses to implement this rule, it must be consistent and applied to all team members fairly.

Length of Matches

All games are complete upon expiration of regulation time. NO overtime allowed during league play.

- **Pee Wee:** 1 game consisting of 4-minute quarters, 2-minute breaks, and a 5-minute half time.
- **Juniors:** 1 game consisting of 5-minute quarters, 2-minute breaks, and a 5-minute half time.
- **Intermediate:** 1 game consisting of 6-minute quarters, 2-minute breaks, and a 5-minute half time.
- **Senior:** 1 game consisting of 6-minute quarters, 2-minute breaks, and a 5-minute half time.

Ball Sizes

- **Pee Wee:** Rookie Ball (25.5")
- **Juniors:** Junior's Ball (27.5")
- **Intermediate:** Boys - Women's Ball (28.5") / Girls – Junior's Ball (27.5")
- **Senior :** Boys – Men's Ball (29.5") / Girls - Women's Ball (28.5")

Rim Height:

- **Pee Wee:** 8 ft. 6 in.
- **Juniors:** 8 ft. 6 in.
- **Intermediate:** 10 ft.
- **Senior:** 10 ft.

Free Throw Distance:

- **Pee Wee:** 13 ft. 6 in. (Approx. one step in front of standard line)
- **Juniors:** 13 ft. 6 in. (Approx. one step in front of standard line)
- **Intermediate:** 15 ft.
- **Senior:** 15 ft.

Equipment

Smithville PARD will have a limited number of practice balls and ONLY provide game balls on game days. We encourage players to get their own ball of the appropriate size for practices when possible. Everyone must respect all property and equipment used for the league. Failing to follow this policy can result in immediate removal from the premises and/or league participation. **NO hanging on the rim(s) or net(s) at any time.** Coaches and parents are responsible for overseeing player's behaviors. Parents and coaches can be financially responsible for equipment damages due to improper usage such as hanging on the equipment.

- **Game Days:** Game Day equipment will be provided by Smithville PARD. Smithville PARD will also supply the scorebook and materials for keeping game day records.

- **Practices:** A utility tub with practice balls, scrimmage jerseys (if needed), cones, first aid kit, etc. will be placed at all gyms outside of the Rec. Center. Coaches will be responsible for the use of this equipment and securing it when finished. If items are missing, please report the missing item(s) to the Smithville PARD immediately. This will help us keep track of equipment. Teams practicing at the Rec. Center may check out practice equipment from the front desk staff and shall return it when practice is over.

Practices and Games

Practice days and times will be determined by the coaches and gym availability. Coaches will be responsible for notifying players of the dates, time, and location for practices, games, and all other team activities. Coaches should distribute game schedules once they are received; however, they can also be picked up at the Rec. Center or found on the City of Smithville website.

Practices will start the week of **January 6, 2025**. Parents: if you have not heard from a coach or the Rec. Center by Monday, December 30, 2024, please contact us at 512.237.3282 x 7 so we can get you the team info.

Teams will only be allowed to practice and/or scrimmage for one (1) hour per week at the designated time and gym location assigned for the season. Changes to practice schedules are strictly prohibited unless coaches receive prior approval or notification by the Smithville PARD Recreation Supervisor and/or Director.

Games will be held on Saturday's beginning in January. A game schedule should be available soon after drafts. The league will last approximately six (6) weeks; however, post season tournament options may follow if time allows.

Coaches/parents of teams/players that arrive while games are in progress are responsible for keeping their team/child together and under control. Please DO NOT let your child(ren) run around the gyms, under the bleachers or in the foyer or hallways. Please keep a diligent eye on all children to ensure that they are always supervised and safe. Siblings of participants MUST remain in direct and constant supervision of their parents or legal guardian and remain seated in, NOT UNDER, the bleachers for the entire game.

Sportsmanship, Conduct, and Discipline

A goal of Smithville Parks and Recreation Department sports is to develop good sportsmanship within the program. **Coaches must display the highest level of sportsmanship at all times.** Players and parents tend to emulate the example set by the coaching staff. Coaches should address the team's sportsmanship standards at the first player/parent meeting and/or practice. We expect our coaches to WORK WITH EACH OTHER in order to provide the best program for the kids. Please remember, these kids will all be on the same team one day and we don't want them to be against each other simply because of a dribbler's game.

All games are in the hands of the officials. Each coach, player, parent, and team is required to respect the official's authority. Un-sportsmanlike conduct, including but NOT limited to profanity, threatening language, disrespect, gestures, apparent indulgence in alcoholic beverages before or during the game, verbally abusing, roughing up, or fighting with anyone will NOT be tolerated.

If an official witnesses any acts of elbowing or un-sportsmanlike act, the game may be stopped and the offending player will be ejected from the game. Any un-sportsmanlike conduct by coaches, parents or spectators will result in automatic removal from the facility and may be subject to additional sanctions for any conduct detrimental to the recreation program, which will be appropriately imposed by the Smithville PARD. Sanctions range from verbal warnings to termination from the league.

Uniforms and Appropriate Attire

Only Smithville Parks and Recreation Department provided team shirts may be worn during games. Any business, organization, or individual desiring to sponsor a team should contact the Smithville PARD and submit a sponsorship form. Names of the sponsoring party will be placed on the back of the selected team ONLY if forms are submitted prior to shirt orders.

Parents & coaches PLEASE help ensure your team is dressed appropriately prior to game time.

- Players should wear non-marking athletic shoes.
- Jewelry may NOT be worn by any uniformed players.
- Medical alert devices are an exception but MUST be taped down with NO metal showing.
- NO hard casts are allowed.
- No hard plastic or metal hair clips, etc.

Picture Day and Closing Ceremonies

Team photos will be scheduled during the league. Coaches will be provided further information and details once the date is set. Participants will be responsible for their own photo purchases.

Smithville Dribblers is a recreational league; every child is a winner and will receive an award at the end of season. An informal award ceremony will be held at the end of the season following each team's last game. Be sure to bring your camera to get pictures of your Dribbler(s)!!!

Coaches

- The Head Coach is only allowed in the scorekeeper area to identify substitutions or to prevent possession errors.
 - Penalty: One (1) warning, then technical foul.
- NO coaching at or below the free throw line.
 - Penalty: One (1) warning, then technical foul.
- Coaches may enter the court only after being signaled by an official for a player injury.
- Coaches must stay within the "box" while the clock is running.
 - Penalty: coach will sit while clock is running.
- Coaches are NOT permitted to dispute officials calls.
 - Penalty: Technical foul.

After receiving one (1) technical foul, coaches must remain seated for the remainder of the game. If any other rule is broken, technical foul is obtained, or unsportsmanlike conduct is displayed the coach will be asked to leave the premises and may be suspended.

General League Rules

- 1) Scheduled game start time is forfeit time; NO grace period.
- 2) Please show up 10-15 minutes prior to your scheduled game starting time.
- 3) If the schedule allows, teams may have up to a five (5) minute warm up prior to game.
- 4) ONLY coaches and players listed on the team's roster are allowed on the court and/or in the player bench area
- 5) Coaches, Officials and PARD staff should meet briefly prior to the start of each game for any instructions, questions, or ground rules.
- 6) Prior to the game, coaches are responsible to make sure each player is wearing the appropriate attire.
- 7) The minimum number of legal uniformed players must be met for each team to start and continue a game. If a team scheduled to play CANNOT maintain the divisions minimum number of players throughout the game, coaches are suggested to play 4v4 or 3v3 in order to keep the kids playing. The officials may call the game if there are still not enough players and if so, that team will need to forfeit.
- 8) Each team is required to have parents available to assist the league. Teams may be responsible for providing scorekeepers and/or scoreboard operators for each game, if needed.
- 9) Designated game day officials are assigned for all divisions except Pee Wee. If an official is NOT assigned to the game, the game will be postponed or rescheduled (Smithville PARD uses volunteers, coaches, or paid officials that may NOT be certified).
- 10) Late players can still play after the game has started; however, the official scorekeeper should be notified that a player is arriving late. (Late players do NOT account as a player for minimum requirements at game start time). Late players should be substituted in the same way.

Rules Regarding Gameplay

- 1) All divisions will perform a jump ball at the beginning of each game to determine initial possession.
- 2) **GAME CLOCK:** All games will have a running clock; the clock will stop only on timeouts and free throws. The game officials may use their discretion to stop the clock for injury, ball retrieval, etc.
- 3) **TIMEOUTS:** Each team shall be allowed four (4) one-minute timeouts per game. Timeouts may be made when the ball is in possession or there is a dead ball.
- 4) **SUBSTITUTIONS:** See 'Minimum Player Requirements and Playing Time'.
- 5) **MINIMUM PLAYING TIME:** Please see 'Minimum Player Requirements and Playing Time'.
- 6) **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. Smithville PARD will record all points and game records in the official scorebook; however, only a twenty (20) point difference should be displayed on the scoreboard.
- 7) **FOULS:** Both team and individual fouls will be kept for all divisions except Pee Wee and Junior. Players will foul out of the game after incurring five (5) individual fouls or two (2) technical fouls. After five (5) team fouls in each quarter is committed, the opposing team will then be allowed 2 free throws on the fifth foul and for each foul thereafter. The team fouls will RESET at each quarter.
- 8) **OVERTIME:** NO overtime will be played.
- 9) **THROW INS:** A player will have five (5) seconds to throw the ball in.
- 10) **FULL COURT DEFENSE VIOLATION:** Each team shall be issued one warning per half, in which the whistle is blown and the offended team brings the ball in play on their offensive front court at the mid-court opposite the scorer's table and team benches. Additional violations shall result in technical fouls. The Pee Wee and Junior divisions are exempt from this rule as full court defense is NOT permitted. (*see specific division rules for additional info)

Pee Wee Division Specific Rules

1. The game score and books will NOT be kept.
2. Officials are NOT provided for this division. Each Pee Wee team is allowed one (1) coach on the court to act as officials during games.
3. Wristbands of different colors will be worn by each player. Players will guard other players on the opposite team with the same color wristband.
4. LANE VIOLATIONS: None.
5. FULL COURT DEFENSE (PRESS): Not permitted; after a defensive player re-bounds the ball, the offense must clear the basket area and set up at the opposite end of the court.
6. FOULS: Both individual and team fouls will NOT be kept.
7. Each player on the team should be allowed the opportunity to play in all positions at some point during games.

Junior Division Specific Rules

1. LANE VIOLATIONS: None.
2. FULL COURT DEFENSE (PRESS): Teams may play full court defense during the last minute (1) of the fourth quarter only.
3. Each player on the team should be allowed the opportunity to play in all positions at some point during games.
4. No offensive plays will be taught during practice and/or used during games. Teaching defensive positions will be allowed.

Intermediate Division Specific Rules

1. LANE VIOLATIONS: Five (5) second lane violations.
2. FULL COURT DEFENSE (PRESS): Teams may play full court defense during the last two (2) minutes of the second quarter and fourth quarter. Full court defense will NOT be allowed if any team is 15 points or more ahead.

Senior Division Specific Rules

1. LANE VIOLATIONS: Three (3) second lane violations.

2. FULL COURT DEFENSE (PRESS): Teams may play full court defense at any time. If any team is 20 points or more ahead, no full court defense will be allowed.

The Smithville Dribblers league rules are subject to update without prior notice. The Smithville Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to add, delete, or amend its rules, regulations, and policies for the betterment of the program.