

YOUTH BASKETBALL PARENT INFORMATION 2023 WINTER SEASON



The City of La Porte Parks and Recreation Department welcomes you to the Winter Youth Basketball Program! The City of La Porte Parks and Recreation Department's goal is for all youth sports participants, including both players and parents, to have an enjoyable sporting experience. Skill development is the main component of all Parks and Recreation Youth Sports, but a fun and friendly environment is characteristic of all Parks and Recreation programs as well.

This is the Youth Basketball Parent Handbook. It describes the Parks and Recreation youth basketball program. Please take a few minutes and read the information inside this handbook. This material will answer many of your questions concerning the program. Youth Sports programs are made possible by the dedication of volunteer coaches. If you are interested in volunteer coaching, please contact us!

Thanks for your participation. We look forward to serving you and your child(ren) in our Winter Youth Basketball Program. If you have any general questions after reading through this packet, please call the City of La Porte Parks and Recreation Department at 281-470-7275.



1. Coaches are needed on a volunteer basis. If you are interested in coaching, assisting, or have any questions about the league, please contact Chad Rickett, Athletic Recreation Specialist, by calling 281-470-6046, between the hours of 10:00am – 6:00pm, Monday – Friday, or email RickettC@laportetx.gov. If you are unable to reach Chad, please contact Jesse Baker, Recreation Programs Coordinator, by calling 281-470-5140, or email BakerJ@laportetx.gov.
2. This is a **recreational league** with 8 age/grade coed divisions. Teams in the Kindergarten and 1st Grade divisions will be formed by the Recreation Specialist using information criteria submitted via the player registration process. Teams in the 2nd – 8th Grade divisions will be formed using a tryout & draft process, scheduled for the week of November 14 – 18. The following tryout & draft schedule will be emailed to all parents & coaches the week prior to tryouts, and also posted online at Laportetx.gov/youthbasketball.

Tryouts & Draft held at the La Porte Recreation & Fitness Center, 1322 S Broadway, La Porte, TX 77571.

- **ALL PLAYERS (2nd – 8th Grade) MUST ATTEND THEIR SCHEDULED TRYOUT – EVEN COACHES’ KIDS.** Coaches may then "freeze" 2 players maximum including their own kid(s). All frozen players must be declared by the volunteer head coach prior to their tryout.
 - 2nd Grade: Tryout on Monday, Nov. 14, from 6:00–7:00pm; Draft (coaches only) on Thursday, Nov. 17, @6:00pm
 - 3rd Grade: Tryout on Monday, Nov. 14, from 7:00–8:00pm; Draft (coaches only) on Thursday, Nov. 17, @7:00pm
 - 4th Grade: Tryout on Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 6:00–7:00pm; Draft (coaches only) on Thursday, Nov. 17, @8:00pm
 - 5th Grade: Tryout on Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 7:00–8:00pm; Draft (coaches only) on Friday, Nov. 18, @6:00pm
 - 6th Grade: Tryout on Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 6:00–7:00pm; Draft (coaches only) on Friday, Nov. 18, @7:00pm
 - 7th-8th Grade: Tryout on Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 7:00–8:00pm; Draft (coaches only) on Friday, Nov. 18, @8:00pm
3. Official Team Rosters will be provided to all coaches and posted online at Laportetx.gov/youthbasketball by November 23rd.
 4. Volunteer Head Coaches will be asked to communicate with parents about practices, games, league rules and sportsmanship. If you have any issues communicating with your player’s coach, please notify the Athletic Recreation Specialist (Chad Rickett) by phone at 281-470-6046, between the hours of 10:00am – 6:00pm, Monday thru Friday, or by email at RickettC@laportetx.gov. You may also contact the Recreation Programs Coordinator (Jesse Baker) by phone at 281-470-5140, or by email at BakerJ@laportetx.gov.
 5. Parents, Coaches and Officials will be provided a copy of the Youth Basketball Playing Rules. Parents are expected to have good sportsmanship throughout the season to set an example for their children. Parents and Coaches are asked to treat the Officials with respect. If an Official (Referee), Program Coordinator or Athletic Specialist deems a coach, player, parent or other spectator’s behavior as inappropriate, they reserve the right to eject that coach, player, parent or spectator from the gymnasium or facility for the duration of the game. In addition, anyone ejected from a game will be subject to review by the Parks & Recreation Department and could face additional suspension from future games.



6. Game schedules will be posted online no later than December 15th. Games will begin on Saturday, January 14th, with the season ending on Sunday, March 5th. Game schedules & rules can be found online at: [Laportetx.gov/youthbasketball](http://laportetx.gov/youthbasketball)

NEW THIS SEASON: In order to accommodate more players into the league, games will be held on both Saturdays (9am – 4pm) and Sundays (1pm – 5pm).

7. Practice day & time for each team will be determined by the Volunteer Head Coach. Practices may be held Monday – Friday between 5:30pm – 8:30pm. All practices & games will be held either at the La Porte Recreation & Fitness Center gymnasium or next door at the Special Services Center gymnasium. Practices will begin the week of December 5th. Practices are typically scheduled in one-hour slots at 5:30, 6:30 or 7:30 PM. Coaches will finalize their practice day & time at the **Mandatory Coaches Meeting on Wednesday, November 30th**. Teams will have 4 scheduled practices prior to the first game, 2 in December and 2 in January. There will be NO PRACTICE during the 2-week Christmas Break (December 19 – 30) unless special circumstances arise which deem it necessary. (Example: A practice is cancelled due to a gym closure and a make-up practice is granted.)
8. For all practices & games scheduled inside the main gym (RFC Gym) at the Recreation & Fitness Center, everyone will be required to enter and exit through the separate gym doors located at the southeast corner of the building. Nobody should be entering through the main front door because the center will be undergoing major renovations during this basketball season. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!
9. Player jerseys will be provided by the league and ordered for each team based on the sizes each parent has provided during registration. Players cannot choose or request a specific jersey number. Jerseys will be given to each Head Coach to distribute to the team once received from the jersey vendor, prior to the first game.
10. Teams and individuals will have their pictures taken the weekend of January 28 - 29, prior to each team's scheduled game that day. Parents and coaches will be provided with an online link to order pictures through TSS Photography. Orders will be directly mailed to each household once ready. If you have any questions about picture day procedures or your picture order, you will need to contact TSS Photography directly at tsscustomercare@tssphotography.com. Pictures will be taken inside the Recreation & Fitness Center. Prior to picture day, a specific schedule of picture times will be provided to each coach/team. As always, ordering pictures is an optional service.



2023 YOUTH BASKETBALL RULES

Teams will be divided by GRADE. Players may request to play up in an older division but can never play down. All divisions are coed.

DIVISIONS:

Kindergarten
1st Grade
2nd Grade
3rd Grade
4th Grade
5th Grade
6th Grade
7th - 8th Grade

TEAM:

Each team shall consist of 10 players. Each player present is required to play two full quarters of each game. See **PLAYING TIME** rule below.

UNIFORMS:

All players are required to wear the provided official league jersey during all games. The color or style of a player's shorts does not matter. ***Home Team wears white side of jersey; Visiting Team wears dark side of jersey.***

BALL SIZE:

Kindergarten & 1st Grade will use a Youth Size 27.5 Basketball.
2nd – 6th Grade will use an Intermediate Size 28.5 Basketball.
7th – 8th Grade will use a Regulation Size 29.5 Basketball.

BASKET HEIGHT:

K – 3rd Grade: 8 feet
4th Grade and Up: 10 feet

FREE THROWS:

K – 1st Grade: 13'6" line
2nd Grade and Up: Regular 15' line
6th Grade and Under may jump across the free throw line while shooting.

GAME LENGTH:

All games will have a running clock with the exception of the last 2 minutes of the 4th quarter and any overtime period. During the last 2 minutes of the game, the clock will stop on every whistle by the officials. In addition:

- K – 3rd Grade will play 6-minute quarters.
- 4th Grade and Up will play 8-minute quarters.
- During running clock time, the clock stops only for timeouts and free throws.
- Each team is allowed 2 one-minute timeouts per half. Timeouts do not carry over. In case of overtime, each team is allowed 1 one-minute timeout.
- The game officials may use their own discretion to stop the game clock at other times such as for injuries, discussion, or to communicate to the players, coaches or scoring table.
- If the game is tied at the end of regulation play, K – 3rd Grade may play ONE 3-minute overtime period. 4th Grade and Up may play ONE 4-minute overtime period. Clock stops on all whistles during the last 2 minutes. If the game remains tied after the overtime period, the game is over.

SPREAD RULE:

If a team is ahead by 15 or more points during the last two minutes of the second half, the clock will remain a running clock, except for timeouts and free throws.

DEFENSE:

6th – 8th Grade may full court press at any time unless ahead by 10 points or more. 4th & 5th Grade may full court press during the last two minutes of each half and any overtime periods unless ahead by 10 points or more. Half-court man-to-man or zone defense is allowed at all times, as well as half-court traps.

K – 3rd may never full court press and must play man-to-man defense at all times unless the ball is in the lane/paint. No double teaming or trapping the ball handler unless he/she has the ball inside the lane area (includes the lane lines). Before each quarter begins, the coaches & officials should match up players to guard each other using jersey numbers. If an illegal double team, trap, steal, or backcourt defense occurs, the officials should blow the whistle for the violation, allow the defense to reset, and then have the offensive team inbound the ball nearest to the spot where the defensive violation occurred.

**LANE VIOLATIONS:
(3 seconds in the lane)**

K – 3rd Grade = NONE CALLED
 4th – 6th Grade = 5 SECONDS in the Lane called (instead of 3 seconds)
 7th – 8th Grade = 3 SECONDS in the Lane called.

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

For Kindergarten and 1st Grade, players that take more than 5 full steps without dribbling the ball should be called for traveling. Double dribble will NOT be called.

For 2nd and 3rd Grade, players that take more than 3 full steps without dribbling the ball should be called for traveling. Double dribbling by the ball handler multiple times should also be called and corrected.

For 4th Grade and Up, traveling and double dribble will be called more strictly.

FOULS:

In 4th Grade and Up, an official scorebook will be kept. Five (5) personal fouls during the game and the offending player is permanently removed (fouls out) from the game. If a flagrant foul is called on a player, that player will be permanently removed (ejected) from the game. A player or coach receiving 2 technical fouls is also permanently removed (ejected) from the game. All technical, intentional or flagrant fouls result in 2 free throws plus possession of the ball for the opposing team.

7 Team Fouls per half = 1 and 1 Bonus / 10 Team Fouls per half = 2 shot Bonus.

In K – 3rd Grade, an official scorebook will be kept to keep track of playing time, personal fouls, and the game score. While players cannot technically foul out, any player that is fouling excessively should be removed from the game for the remainder of that quarter. Any intentional flagrant fouls will result in player ejection.

To help the officials with creating a cleaner game, please talk to your players about playing defense without fouling and show them how!

PLAYING TIME:

Each player present is required to play 2 FULL QUARTERS of each game **without interruption** unless the player is injured, ejected, fouls out, or is removed by the officials. Free substitution is NOT allowed during the first 3 quarters of the game. Free substitution is only allowed during the 4th quarter and overtime, as long as the playing time requirement for each player will be met by the end of the game. (This means that a team with exactly 10 players present cannot free substitute at all.) The bookkeeper will keep track of the quarters played by each player, and coaches will be held accountable. It does not matter which 2 quarters each player plays in full.

COURT CONTROL:

Coaches are not allowed on the court during play in ANY division unless an official beckons the coach onto the court to help with a player injury, lining players up for free throws, or during a timeout.

Only ONE coach is allowed to stand up during games and act as the Head Coach of the team. Any assistants must remain seated throughout the entire game except during timeouts.

Only players and coaches may stand or sit on the bench/scoreboard side of the gym. Everyone else must stand or sit on the opposite side of the gym. **Nobody should be near the baselines of the court unless chairs have already been placed there.**

Players waiting for the next game MAY NOT bounce balls in the gym or go onto the court AT ANY TIME during the course of another game, including during halftime, quarter breaks, and timeouts.

YOUTH BASKETBALL FACILITY MAP



Practices and Games will be held at the La Porte Recreation & Fitness Center (RFC GYM), 1322 S Broadway, and the Special Services Center (SPORT GYM), 1302 S Broadway.

Practices are held once a week at one of these two gymnasiums. Your coach will inform you which gym your practices will be held at.

For Saturday & Sunday Games, teams will play in the following gyms:

Kindergarten – 3rd Grade: SPORT GYM

4th – 8th Grade: RFC GYM