

YOUTH BASKETBALL PARENT INFORMATION 2022 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 some 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 in our Winter Youth Basketball Program. If you have any comments or questions, please call the City of La Porte Parks and Recreation Department at 281-470-9891.



1. Coaches are needed on a volunteer basis. If you are interested in coaching, assisting, or have any questions about the league, please contact the Youth Basketball Coordinator by calling (281) 245-5387, between the hours of 10:00am – 6:00pm, Monday thru Friday, or email RickettC@laportetx.gov. (Chad Rickett)
2. This is a recreational league with 4 age/grade divisions. Teams in the K – 1st Grade division will be formed by the league coordinator using information criteria collected via the player registration process. **NEW THIS YEAR: Teams in the 2nd-3rd Grade, 4th-5th Grade, and 6th-7th Grade divisions will be formed using a tryout & draft process, scheduled for the week of December 6 – 9. The following tryout & draft schedule will be emailed to all parents & coaches on December 2, and 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 – 7th Grade) MUST ATTEND THE TRYOUT – EVEN COACHES' KIDS.**
 - **2nd – 3rd Graders: Tryouts on Monday, December 6th, anytime between 6:00 – 8:00 PM.**
 - **4th – 5th Graders: Tryouts on Tuesday, December 7th, anytime between 6:00 – 8:00 PM.**
 - **6th – 7th Graders: Tryouts on Wednesday, December 8th, anytime between 6:00 – 8:00 PM.**
 - **Coaches will draft all teams on Thursday, December 9th, between 6:00 – 8:00 PM.**
3. 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 Youth Basketball Coordinator by phone at (281) 245-5387, between the hours of 10:00am – 6:00pm, Monday thru Friday, or by email at RickettC@laportetx.gov. (Chad Rickett)
4. Parents, Coaches and Referees 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 Referees with respect. If a Referee or the Youth Basketball Coordinator deems a coach, parent or spectator's behavior as inappropriate, the Referee or Coordinator reserves the right to eject that coach, 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.
5. Teams and individuals will have their pictures taken on Saturday, February 5th, 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. Pictures will be taken in the Norman L. Malone Senior Center (inside the Recreation & Fitness Center). Prior to picture day, a specific schedule of picture times will be provided to each team. As always, ordering pictures is an optional service.
6. Game schedules will be provided to all coaches and posted online no later than January 7th. Games begin on Saturday, January 22nd, with the season ending on March 5th. Game schedules & rules can be found online at Laportetx.gov/youthbasketball.



7. Practice day & time for each team will be determined by the Volunteer Head Coach. Practices may be held Monday – Friday between 5pm – 9pm. 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 January 3rd. Practices are typically one hour long each week.
8. 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.
9. During practices and games, all non-players are highly encouraged to wear masks or face coverings while inside the facility. Spectators in the gyms should try to social distance / spread out as much as possible.
10. **On game days only (Saturdays)** – For any games scheduled inside the main gym at the Recreation & Fitness Center, everyone will be required to enter and exit through the separate gym door located at the southeast corner of the building. Nobody should be entering through the main doors or walking through the workout area unless they are going to the restroom. (Picture Day is the only exception.)



2022 YOUTH BASKETBALL RULES

Players will be registered by GRADE and two grades will be combined. Players may play up in an older age division but can never play down. All divisions are coed.

DIVISIONS:

K – 1st Grade
2nd – 3rd Grade
4th – 5th Grade
6th – 7th Grade

TEAM:

Each team shall consist of 8 – 10 players. Each participant 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.

BALL SIZE:

K – 1st Grade will use a Youth Size 27.5 Basketball.
All other divisions will use an Intermediate Size 28.5 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
5th 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 each half. During the last 2 minutes of each half, the clock will stop on each 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 or to communicate to the players, coaches, or scorer's 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 – 7th Grade may full court press at any time unless ahead by 15 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 15 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:

K – 3rd Grade = NONE CALLED

4th – 7th Grade = 5 SECONDS in the Lane (instead of 3 seconds)

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

For K – 1st Grade, players that take more than 4 full steps without dribbling the ball should be called for traveling. Double dribble will NOT be called.

For 2nd – 3rd Grade, players that take more than 2 extra full steps should be called for traveling. Double dribbling by the ball handler more than once should also be called.

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 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 unless a team has more than 10 players present. Free substitution is allowed during the 4th quarter and overtime only, 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 games, teams will play in the following gyms:

- K – 1st Grade: SPORT GYM
- 2nd – 3rd Grade: SPORT GYM
- 4th – 5th Grade: RFC GYM
- 6th – 7th Grade: RFC GYM