

# **YOUTH BASKETBALL PARENT / COACH INFORMATION 2021 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 or assisting, please contact the Youth Basketball Coordinator by calling (281) 245-5387, between the hours of 10:00am – 6:00pm, Monday thru Friday, or email [ShelleyM@laportetx.gov](mailto:ShelleyM@laportetx.gov). (Mary Shelley)
2. This is a recreational league. Players will be placed on a team by the league coordinator using information criteria collected through the player registration process. Special requests may be fulfilled depending on circumstances and at the discretion of the Youth Basketball Coordinator, but are not guaranteed.
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 [ShelleyM@laportetx.gov](mailto:ShelleyM@laportetx.gov). (Mary Shelley)
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 January 30, 2021 (Date subject to change). Parents and coaches will be provided with picture order forms and/or an online link to preorder pictures. If necessary, you may fill out order forms at the Recreation & Fitness Center on picture day. Picture orders will either be delivered to the Recreation & Fitness Center before the end of the season and distributed to each Head Coach, or directly mailed to each household depending on the company chosen. If delivered to the Rec Center, coaches will be responsible for distributing picture orders to parents. If you have any questions about picture day procedure or your picture order, you will need to contact the photography company whose contact information will be provided. Pictures will be taken in the Norman L. Malone Senior Center (inside the Recreation & Fitness Center) either before or directly after each team's scheduled game on January 30. 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 8, 2021. Games begin on Saturday, January 16. Depending on age division, games may range between 8:00am – 6:00pm each Saturday for 7 straight weeks with the season ending on February 27. An optional tournament may be scheduled for some divisions during the first week of March if enough teams wish to participate.
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 Recreation & Fitness Center gymnasium or next door at the Special Services Center gymnasium. Practices will begin the week of January 4, 2021.

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 printing company. This may not happen until the first game date.
9. During practices and games, all non-players are required to wear masks or face coverings while inside the facility. Players will not wear masks while participating in practices or games, but should wear them at all other times while inside the facility, including when entering and exiting the building. Coaches should wear a mask at all times with the exception of pulling it down to speak directly to his/her players. Spectators in the gyms should try to social distance as much as possible.
10. On game days only – 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 walking through the workout area unless they are going to the restroom.
11. Game schedules can be found online at: <http://laportetx.gov/993/Youth-Basketball>
12. A number of rule changes have been made for this season. Please review the playing rules carefully!



## 2021 YOUTH BASKETBALL RULES

Players will be registered by GRADE and some grades will be combined. Players may play up in an older age division but can never play down. Girls' divisions will be formed whenever possible.

### ANTICIPATED DIVISIONS:

(subject to change)

Kindergarten – 1st Grade (Coed)  
2nd – 3rd Grade (Boys, Girls, or Coed)  
4th – 5th Grade (Boys, Girls, or Coed)  
6th – 7th Grade (Boys, Girls, or Coed)

### TEAM:

Each team shall consist of 8 – 10 players. Each participant is required to play two full quarters of each game. **See new 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 – 5th Grade = 5 SECONDS in the Lane  
 6th – 7th Grade = 3 SECONDS in the Lane

**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 only be kept to keep track of playing time and the final score. However, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 either.** We will set out as many extra chairs as possible near the bleachers (if necessary) to try and accommodate everyone watching the games.

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 Recreation & Fitness Center, 1322 S Broadway, La Porte, TX 77571, and SPORT Complex, 1302 S Broadway, La Porte, TX 77571. Practices are held once a week on half court, A or B. Courts will be designated on the walls at each facility.

