



2020-2021 Youth Basketball League By-Laws Rules and Regulations

Mission Statement: “To provide high quality programs for all ages, while meeting the needs of the community through indoor and outdoor activities within our parks and recreation centers.”

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2020-2021 Youth Basketball Calendar

October 05, 2020	Team and Individual Registration Begins
October 11, 2020	Coaches Information Meeting at Downtown Civic Center 3:00 pm.
November 02, 2020	Basketball Practice Begins
November 13, 2020	Team and Individual Registration Ends
November 17, 2020	New Coaches Meeting at Downtown Civic Center 5:30 pm – New Coaches Meeting 7pm – Coaches Meeting All game day schedule conflicts, team rosters, birth certificates, medical releases, coaches certification must be completed and turned in.
November 27, 2020	Preseason Jamboree schedule released
December 4, 2020	City League schedules released
December 4-5, 2020	8U– 12U League Preseason Jamboree
December 8, 2020	Coaches Meeting for JV &Varsity at Downtown Civic Center 5:30pm
December 12, 2020	Games Begin for 8U – 12U
January 8, 2021	Games Begin for 6U, Junior Varsity, Varsity
February 26-27, 2021	ARPA District Tournament (Tentative)
March 5-6, 2021	In-House Tournament
March 12-14, 2021	ARPA State Tournament

Parks and Recreation Director: Jen Weathington

Athletics' Supervisor: Durell Richardson
drichardson@cityofgadsden.com or 256-546-3360

Athletics' Manager: Larry Howard
lhoward@cityofgadsden.com or 256-549-4709

Athletics' Manager: Chris Fagan
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Parks and Recreation Main Office: 256-549-4680

Article I. Governing Rules

The Gadsden Parks and Recreation Youth Basketball League is governed by the current rules and regulations of the AHSAA Rules with the exception of those found in these by-laws.

Article II. Coaches, Parents, and Spectators

The Gadsden Park and Recreation Department enforces “NO TOLERANCE POLICY” in response to inappropriate conduct shown by coaches or parents. Parks and Recreation reserves the right to forfeit any games to the opposing team in the event that a coach or parent exhibits behavior that disrupts the sportsman like atmosphere encouraged in the gym.

Section A. Guidelines for Coaches

1. Abide by all rules, regulations, policies and procedures of Gadsden Parks and Recreation.
2. Always be fair when enforcing team rules and when taking disciplinary actions.
3. Use constructive criticism.
4. Refrain from “Running up the Score” against an opponent. Do not get caught up in the “winning at all cost” mentality.
5. Be concerned with safety at all times. Report all safety concerns to staff promptly.
6. Abide by doctor’s decisions in all matters of a player’s physical health, injuries, and physical ability.
7. Any discussion with a game official should be made through the head coach. Assistant coaches should never engage officials in any way.
8. Only the head coach will be allowed to stand up and coach during games. The assistant coach must remain seated during the game.
9. Coaches must make sure the bench area is clean before leaving the game. Keep it clean for the next team who will be sitting there.
10. Refrain from use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol prior or during a practice or game.
11. Refrain from use of any profanity, abusive language or unsportsmanlike conduct during a practice or game.
12. A coach’s attitude needs to be positive. A coach should never provoke the spectators or players toward any official. A coach whose conduct is unbecoming will be relieved of all coaching duties for the remainder of the season.
13. Know a judgement call by an official cannot be protested.
14. Any coach ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior will be fined \$100 for 1st offense, \$300 for 2nd offense with one game suspension, and suspended for the remainder of the program for 3rd offense.
15. Coaches will be required to complete a background check and coaching certification approved by Gadsden Parks and Recreation to coach in the youth basketball league. All coaches’ documentation must be completed in order to practice a team.
16. Each team is only allowed three coaches, head coach and two assistants.
17. All Coaches must sign a Coaching Contract.

Section B. Guidelines for Parents and Spectators

1. Support, encourage, and respect all players, officials, staff, and volunteers.
2. Place the emotional and physical well-being of each player over the desire to win.
3. Refrain from coaching from the stands. This causes more confusion than good.
4. Be involved and promote a positive environment by practicing with your child before and after practices or games, assist coaches if requested, and participate with team events.
5. Knowing the following items/actions are not tolerated at any Parks and Recreation activities:
 - a. No alcoholic products, tobacco use in facilities, or use of profanity.
 - b. No unsportsmanlike comments toward staff, coaches, officials, parents, or children.
 - c. No yelling at, threatening, or physically attacking a league official, coach, parent, child, or staff.
 - d. No entering the game court without permission of the head coach or league official.
 - e. No mistreatment of property or facilities to include equipment, courts, and buildings.
 - f. No negative or derogatory cheering.
 - g. No yelling at another team players or coaches.
 - h. Parent must sign a Parent Code of Conduct for each player.

Article II. League Fees

1. 6U Registration Fee: \$50 per player.
2. 8U – 18U Registration Fee: \$60 per player.
3. Game Admission: There will be a \$1.00 daily charge, 6 and under children are free. Tickets will be good at all gyms on the day purchased.

Article III. Rules & Regulations

Section A. Age Divisions

1. Age control date is September 1, 2020. Whatever age the child is on that date, is the age division in which they should play.
2. No boy or girl in elementary school, middle school, junior high school, or senior high school may participate in the same sport of ARPA competition and interscholastic athletic activity during the same periods of times. This restriction applies to both public and private schools. "Periods of time" shall be interpreted to mean from the time school starts (approximately September 1st) until that school year ends (Approximately May 31st)
3. Player Birth Certificate must be on file to verify age.
4. Player's may play up a single age division but must remain in that age division throughout the season.
5. Age Divisions:

a. 6U	5 & 6 years	Co-Ed Instructional Teams
b. 8U	7 & 8 years	Individual Boys & Girls Teams
c. 9U	9 years	Individual Boys & Girls Teams
d. 10U	9 & 10 years	Individual Boys & Girls Teams
e. 11U	11 years	Individual Boys & Girls Teams
f. 12U	11 & 12 years	Individual Boys & Girls Teams
g. 15U	13 & 15 years	Junior Varsity Co-Ed Teams
h. 18U	16 & 18 years	Varsity Co-Ed Teams

Section B. Team Formation

1. Team Registration
 - a. Players identified with a team can register individually online at Gadsden.recdesk.com and list coaches name in the section.
 - b. All Players must meet the age requirements for the division the team is playing in.
 - c. Rosters have a minimum requirement of 8 players and a maximum of 15 players.
 - d. Players can be registered as a team with one lump payment or as an individual. This is up to the coach. If a lump payment is paid, players still must register on RecDesk and parents must complete the Parent Code of Conduct and Waiver.
2. Individual Registration
 - a. Players that are not identified with a team can register online at **Gadsden.recdesk.com** or at any Parks and Recreation Location.
 - b. Teams will be formed by individual registered players, as long as an age group has 6 players registered.
 - c. Volunteer coaches will be requested by the Parks and Recreation Department to coach the team. Any parent, family member, or awesome individual that wants to coach and has basic basketball skills knowledge is encouraged to volunteer.

Section C. League Divisions

1. If an age group has 12 teams or more, or if Parks and Recreation deems it necessary, an age group will be divided into different divisions.
2. Divisions will be classified as East and West.
 - a. East division will be considered a competitive division.
 - b. East division will have the chance to move forward to ARPA district, if the team meets the ARPA rules.
 - c. West division will be considered a developmental division.
 - d. Teams not considered City of Gadsden, will be placed in competitive division automatically.
 - e. If a team can participant at ARPA district tournament as a Gadsden Parks and Recreation team, then that team is considered a City of Gadsden team.
 - f. Gadsden teams will have the choice on East or West classification.

Section D. Practices Guidelines

Due to COVID restrictions, Coaches and players will be asked to follow the guidelines that are in place at this time.

1. All teams will be assigned one practice per week at a Gadsden Parks and Recreation facility upon request. These practices will continue until games begin.
2. All coaches and players are required to wear a mask when entering Gadsden Parks & Recreation athletic facilities.
3. Practice times will be from 5:30pm to 6:30pm and 7pm to 8pm. From 6:30pm to 7pm, gyms will be sanitized for next practice.
4. All players and coaches temperature will be checked staff using a contactless thermometer when entering the building.
 - a. If a coach or player has a temperature of 100.4 or above then they will not be allowed to enter the facility.
5. No parents will be allowed in facility for practice. All parents will be asked to wait in vehicles for practice to end.
6. All water fountains are closed at this time, all participants are ask to bring own beverage.
7. If a player or coach is sick or is experiencing symptoms, we asked that they remain out of practice activity.
8. Practice facilities will be Jack Gaston Coliseum, Carver, Mitchell, Raymond Hill, Thompson, and Walnut Park.
9. Each team will receive two sanitized basketballs from facility when practicing. Teams are asked not to share equipment with other teams.
10. Coaches who bring extra equipment must sanitize after every use.
11. No coaches or players will be allowed to enter gym prior to practice time.
12. Practice at school gyms and/or church gyms is encouraged, as space is limited.
13. Any additional practice request should be done the Friday prior, otherwise the facility will have other activities scheduled or could be closed that night.
14. Coaches should contact Durell Richardson to schedule practices, 256-546-3360 or drichardson@cityofgadsden.com.
 - If a practice is canceled, the head coach should contact Durell to report it canceled.
 - Not reporting cancelation practices can result in practice time forfeited.

Article IV. Game Specifications

Section A. Court and Ball Specifications

The following basketballs, goal height, and free throw shoot lines will be utilized:

Age Division	Ball Size	Goal Height	Free Throw Line
6U	27.5	6 ½ ‘	10’
8U Boys & Girls	28.5	8’	12
9U Boys & Girls	28.5	10’	12’
10U Boys & Girls	28.5	10’	12’
11U & 12U Boys	29.5	10’	15’
11U & 12U Girls	28.5	10’	15’
Junior Varsity	29.5	10’	15’
Varsity	29.5	10’	15’

Section B. Game Scheduling

1. Most 8U-12U games will be played on Saturday but teams need to be prepared to play on some weekdays.
2. 6U games will be played on Friday.
3. Junior Varsity & Varsity will play during the week
4. Coaches coaching 8U-12U must have scheduling request and team conflicts turned in by November 17.
5. Coaches coaching Junior Varsity and Varsity must have all schedule request and team conflicts turned in by December 8.
6. After schedules are released, Parks and Recreation will not do any rescheduling. If a conflict happens, the coach must work it out and have the adjustment approved by Parks and Recreation Athletic Department. The only reason Parks and Recreation will reschedule games is due to inclement weather.
7. There is no grace period for games. Players and coaches should be ready to play at scheduled game time.
8. Teams will be scheduled 10 regular season games, except in 6U who will be scheduled 6 regular season games.

Section C. Scorekeeping and Officiating

1. The official scorebook in all age division is the official game record.
2. Parks and Recreation will keep the official scorebook and provides the scorekeepers and clock managers.
3. A judgement call by an official is NOT questionable.
4. The game official shall judge the degree of strictness or rule interpretation during the season.
5. Game protest are not permitted.
6. Officials are in charge of the game from the time they come onto the court until the time they leave.
7. Officials will eject any coach or players from the game and/or vicinity for misconduct. Failure to leave will result in forfeiture of the game.
8. The official has the right to discontinue a game anytime conditions are warranted with the approval of the Athletic Department.

Section D. Length of Games

1. 6U = Four 6-minute quarters with a running clock. The clock will stop on timeouts.
2. 8U = Four 6-minute quarters. During the last (1) one minute of the fourth quarter & overtime, the clock will stop on every made basket or following a dead ball until the ball crosses half-court.
3. 9U, 10U, 12U, Junior Varsity, Varsity = Four 6-minute quarters.
4. Half time is 5-minutes
5. Overtime is 2 minutes.
6. Team timeouts per game consist of three-60 second timeouts and two 30-second timeouts.
7. A team cannot press (apply full court pressure on defense) if ahead by 20 or more points. This rule applies to all age divisions.
8. Mercy Rule: Any time a team leads by 20 or more points at any point in the second half of a game the clock will run and only stop on timeouts and end of quarter.

Section E. Age Group Special Provisions

1. 6U Division
 - a. Game will start with a jump ball.
 - b. No traveling or double dribbling violations will be called. Because this is an instructional league, play may be stopped so it can be corrected.
 - c. No fouling out.
 - d. No backcourt press. When a team gets a defensive rebound the other team must go back to at least half court.
 - e. Substitutions are made in the middle of each 6-minute quarter. This is not considered a timeout. Players sitting on the bench must enter the game to finish that quarter.
 - f. Every player must play at least half of the game.
 - g. Score will be kept unless team is up by 20 plus points, standings will not.
2. 8U Division
 - a. There will be no full court press. Full court press is defined as any pressure applied on an offensive player in the backcourt, either on an inbounds or after change of possession while the ball is live.
 - b. Teams will be given two warnings concerning backcourt pressure. After the second warning if a violation occurs, a team technical will be assessed to the coach.
3. 9U and 10U Division
 - a. There will be no full court press until the 4th quarter. Full court press is defined as any pressure applied on an offensive player in the backcourt, either on an inbounds or after change of possession while the ball is live.
 - b. Teams will be given two warnings concerning backcourt pressure. After the second warning if a violation occurs, a team technical will be assessed to the coach.
4. 11U, 12U, JV, V Play Ball.

Section F. Uniforms

1. Teams provide their own uniforms. Except in 6U Coed league, a uniform top will be provided.
2. Players should have legal numbers as described in the National Federation of State High School Rules Handbook. Jersey numbers must be 0-5 (do not use 01, 02, etc.), 10-15, 20-25, 30-35, 40-45, and 50-55. No other numbers are allowed.
3. No two players on the same team may wear the same number.
4. Numbers must be on front and back of jerseys.
5. All players are required to wear rubber soled athletic shoes.

Section G. Awards

1. 6U – All participants will get a medal at their last scheduled game.
2. 8U and above – 1st and 2nd place teams in each age group will receive individual trophies at the end of season banquet or party.

Section H. ARPA District Basketball Tournament

1. Top two eligible teams in competitive league will qualify to go to ARPA District tournament.
2. Teams that are eligible to go to ARPA District can add eligible players from other teams to their district roster. Athletic Supervisor must approve this.
3. Standings are kept by team records. If a team's ties for first or second, ties are broken by the following ways between tied teams.
 - Head to Head
 - Points allowed
 - Point differential
4. If a team cannot play in both the District and State tournament then they do not need to accept the invitation. If a team participates in ARPA District Tournament and receives a berth to ARPA State tournament this team must go to ARPA State Tournament
5. Any team wanting to play up in age division must get approval from Gadsden Parks & Recreation athletic department.
6. Gadsden Parks and Recreation has final decision on when to send teams to ARPA district tournament.

Coaching Contract

- I _____ hereby pledge to follow the Code of Ethics for Coaches by Gadsden Parks and Recreation.
- I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players, team and opposing teams.
- I promise to review and practice basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will not cheat or engage in any form of unethical behavior that violates league rules.
- I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sporting events.
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and I will teach these rules to my players.
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for all of the skills that I teach.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach and that the game is for children and not adults.

Signature _____

Date _____

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in the Gadsden parks and Recreation Basketball Program by following this Parent Code of Conduct:
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all participants, coaches, and officials.
- I will do my best to make this program fun for my child.
- I will keep winning in perspective. A child usually forgets the outcome of the game: it is the adults that tend to stress the win/loss record.
- I will ask my child to treat other participants, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators with respect regardless, of race, age, sex, creed, or ability.
- I will treat officials and coaches with respect. They are there to provide children with a safe and healthy learning environment. Officials and coaches deserve the same type of environment from the parents and spectators.
- I will strive to be a good role model for my child and the other children in the program. I will encourage my child to learn to lose with dignity and win with grace.
- I will respect my child's coach and do my best to have my child at all practices and games on time.
- I will recognize the importance of volunteer coaches.
- I realize coaches are important to the development of my child and the program.
- I will communicate with coaches and support their decisions.

Parent's Signature

Date

Child's Name

Age

2020-2021 Gadsden Parks and Recreation Basketball Official Roster

TEAM NAME: _____ Age Division: _____ Male () Female ()

Player's Name	Age	DOB	Address (City, St)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
Coach			
Coach			
Coach			

I, head coach, certify that the names/participants are eligible to represent my team in Gadsden Parks and Recreation youth basketball league and I understand the rules regarding this event.

Signature of Head Coach: _____ Date: _____