



2008-09

*New Rules for the 2008-09 Season are in bold & italic style*

## **2008-09 YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE RULES**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The Whitfield County Youth Basketball Program is organized to provide a recreational activity for boys and girls ages 9-12. The program is designed for the following purposes:

1. To aid in the physical development through fun and exercise.
2. To teach the basic fundamental skills of the game of basketball.
3. To aid in the social development through good sportsmanship and moral character with adult guidance.
4. To teach good attitudes and discipline to our youth participants.

### **II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

#### **A. Governing Authority**

1. The governing body of this league will be composed of one representative from each community forming an Executive Committee with the Athletic Coordinator as Chairman.
2. The program will be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Recreation Department and the Executive Committee, with recommendation from the Recreation Commission.

#### **B. Governing Rules**

1. The Whitfield County Recreation Department Youth Basketball League will be governed by the current rules and regulations of the National Federation of State High School Association, with the exception of the local league rules which supersede the National Federation rules.
2. The League Rules will be developed by the Executive Committee and the Whitfield County Recreation Department.

#### **C. Coaching Requirements**

1. A person of high moral character who is a respected member of the community.
2. A coach should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of basketball.
3. A coach should never incite their players or parents by criticizing an official.
4. A coach should never use profanity, drink alcoholic beverages, smoke, or use tobacco in any form during any activity.
5. A coach should never be overly concerned with winning, but more concerned that each child on the team has fun and learns the fundamentals while participating.
6. A coach is expected to be present at all practice sessions, games, and meetings; or have an approved coach present.
7. A coach should try to the best of their ability to keep each player (especially the weaker players) interested and participating throughout the season.
8. Each coach must submit to a background check conducted by the Whitfield County District Attorneys office.
9. Each coach must be Certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association online at [www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinics/](http://www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinics/)

### III. LEAGUE RULES

- A. Team Rosters will consist of no more than 15 players per team. No additions will be made the last two weeks of the regular season.
- B. The game will consist of four quarters of six minutes each with a five minute halftime.
- C. *Uniforms must have legal numbers. No numbers can include 6,7, 8 or 9's. See your NFSHA Rule Book for list.*
- C. If both teams are wearing similar colored uniforms, **must have legal numbers**, the Home team will wear the pullovers.
- D. Each coach should have a line-up turned into the scorekeeper's, ten minutes prior to game time.
- E. Each coach is responsible for having a scorekeeper available at each game. The scorekeeper's should not be emotionally involved in the game; i.e.: coaching, disagreeing with officials, screaming and yelling etc. Any scorekeeper that does not comply will be removed from the score table. Scorekeepers should complete the publicity sheet provided for each game.
- F. The ball will be 28½ inches in circumference as outlined for high school girls in the National Federation of State High School Rules books.
- G. The goals will be set at 8½ feet high for the Mite 9-10 Division and at regulation 10 feet for the Midget 11-12 Division.
- H. The participation rule is as follows: Each participant must play a minimum of three to four minutes per game. The penalty for violation of this rule will be forfeiture of the game upon an upheld protest, and the coach will be replaced for the remainder of the season.
- I. There will be three full 45 second time-outs and two 30 second time-outs permitted for each game. A warning will sound at 30 seconds of a full timeout, and at 15 seconds on a 30 second timeout.
- J. If the game ends in a tie there will be a three minute overtime. If the game is still tied, there will be additional two minute overtimes until a winner is determined.
- K. A full court press will only be allowed in the 4th quarter of each game. Any Midget Division team that has a 15 point or more lead must play defense inside the three point line. Any Mite Division team that has a 15 point or more lead must play defense with at least one foot inside the free throw lane (painted area). The first violation will be a team warning and all subsequent violations will constitute a team technical.
- L. The clock will run in the fourth quarter when a team has a 20 point lead, and will continue to run until the losing team pulls to within 10 points. The clock will stop for timeouts.
- M. Foul shots – Both age divisions will shoot from the regulation free throw line (15 feet).
- N. Free throw Lane Violation and area - 5 seconds for Mite Division - 3 seconds for Midget.
- O. There will be a ten minute grace period for the first game only.
- P. There will be three activities allowed per week, including games and practices, plus one activity on the weekend. Practice sessions should be limited to 90 minutes and finished by 9:00 p.m. No practice on Wednesday after 5:00 p.m. Games will be scheduled on Wednesday nights during the Post Season Tournaments, if necessary.
- Q. If a player is being disciplined and not permitted to play, the coach must advise the opposing coach and scorekeeper before the game begins.
- R. Ties for standings of first or second place in league play will be broken as follows:
1. Head to head regular season competition.
  2. Play-off game or games (if more than two teams).
  3. Co-champions recognized with first place trophies. (Coin toss to determine seed in tourney).

#### **IV. TOURNAMENT RULES**

- A. All teams with a .500 winning percentage or better will participate in the end of season Tournament Championship.
- B. Teams will be seeded by their regular season record and league placement. The top seeds will receive byes, if available, or will play lower seeds. The division champions will be placed in separate brackets.
- C. During post season tournament there will be no restrictions concerning participation for each player.
- D. During post season play the Midget Division (11-12 age group) may press any time during the game. The Mite Division (9-10 age group) may press only in the 4th quarter.
- E. All other rules will be the same as league rules.
- F. There will be a gate admission fee to all tournament games. Adults \$1.00 .50 Students 5 & Under Free

#### **V. ELIGIBILITY**

- A. The age divisions are: Mite 9 & 10 - Midget 11 & 12
- B. The age control date is prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- C. Participants must attend school in the Whitfield County School system or reside in Whitfield County.
- D. Participants must play in the Whitfield County Elementary School district in which they live or attend school. If a community does not have a team, participants may go to the next nearest elementary school community within the same middle school district. The participant must return to their elementary school community when a team exits.
- E. Any Whitfield County resident living and attending school outside the Whitfield County Elementary School boundaries may choose any community to participate in the Whitfield County Recreation Program. Once this community is selected, the participant must stay in that community for all sports in the youth program. If the participant moves to a Whitfield County Elementary School District he/she must participate in that community.
- F. If a participant changes residence to a new Whitfield County Elementary School district and does not change schools, the participant may participate in either community, but can only change communities once. The same rule will apply if the participant changes Whitfield County Elementary Schools but does not change residence.
- G. To be eligible to participate each participant's name must be on a roster, must have a parent's signature on a registration card (green card), must have a copy of their birth certificate on file at the Recreation Department, and must have insurance whether private or the supplemental policy available through the Recreation Department.
- H. Players in the 7th grade are required to try out and be cut from the Middle School program and have a release (Attachment A) signed by their Middle School Coach, in order to participate in the Whitfield County Recreation Department Basketball Program. Players participating on any school team are prohibited from participation with the Whitfield County Recreation Program.
- I. Playing ineligible players will result in the forfeiture of all games in which illegal players participated. Any coach that allows an illegal player to participate will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season and for a one year time period.

#### **VI. PROTESTS**

- A. The only protest allowed will be for eligibility or violation of the participation rule.
- B. The protest committee will consist of the Athletic Coordinator and uninvolved Executive Committee Members.
- C. Protests must be filed within 24 hours after completion of the game, in writing, to the Whitfield County Recreation Department.

## VII. CONDUCT

A. The penalty for fighting, or flagrant conduct such as profanity is ejection from the present game and the following game. Any ejection will constitute a one game suspension. On the 2nd offense the player or coach is suspended from the program.

B. Problems with coaches or spectators:

First - Warning or technical foul

Second - Technical foul or ejection-Officials Judgment

Third - Removal from Gym or Program

## VIII. GAME POSTPONEMENT

A. For Inclement Weather - The Whitfield County Recreation Department will notify all local radio stations of game postponement due to inclement weather (snow, sleet, school closings etc.) Also, the cancellation will be posted on the rain-out cancellation hotline 281-2588.

B. Postponement for Other Purposes

1. Any scheduling conflict should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Coordinator before season schedules are complete.

2. Games will not be rescheduled after the official schedule has been published.

## IX. AWARDS

League Trophies: 1st & 2nd Place Individual

County Tournament: 1st & 2nd Place Individual

## X. ALL-STAR SELECTION

A. *The Executive Committee will choose the All-Star Coaches. A ballot (Attachment B) will be completed by each executive member interviewing the coaches from their community, to cast votes for the All-Star coach in each age group. The ballots will be tallied by the Recreation Department and results will be available at the All-Star Coach selection meeting.*

### B. Team Selection

1. *Each coach in the Youth League will bring a nomination list to the All-Star selection meeting. The list should include: players name, points scored, positions played.*

2. *If a coach is not present, other coaches may nominate players from that team.*

3. *The #1 All-Star team will be selected first then the #1 team coach picking as many as ten players. The #2 All-Star team will then be chosen in the same manner. No more than five (5) players may be chosen from any one team.*

4. *After both teams have been picked, the #1 All-Star coach may pick two additional players and then the #2 All-Star coach may pick two.*

5. *No more than 12 players can be selected for any one All-Star team.*