

CITY OF SANTA MARIA RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT
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YOUTH BASKETBALL RULES

Section A – Mission

The mission of the Recreation and Parks Department is to provide boys and girls with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of basketball in a safe and fun environment. The goal of the program is to instill good sportsmanship and teamwork concepts through physical activity. The well-being of the participants will remain our highest priority.

Section B - Competition Requirements

- 1) **Divisions** - The following divisions shall reflect a participant's grade level for the current 2022-23 school year. A co-ed format will be used in all divisions.
 - **Division 4:** Grade Levels 1-2 will use a 27.5" size basketball (8ft Basket)
 - **Division 3:** Grade Levels 3-4 will use a 28.5" size basketball (9ft Basket)
 - **Divisions 1 & 2:** Grade Levels 5-6 & 7-8 will use an official size basketball. (10ft Basket)
- 2) **Team Formation** – Division 4 participants will be placed on a team by the League Director. Participants in Division 1, 2, and 3 will be drafted during the designated "Skills Days". The head coach's child is the only player guaranteed in the draft. The league director will make the final decision when special requests are submitted. **NO GUARANTEES.**
- 3) **Uniforms & Attire** – All team members shall wear the league issued shirt during games. Players shall wear black shorts without pockets, zippers, or other attachments. Players should wear appropriate footwear and have all jewelry removed. Players that have earrings may place tape over them or remove them during games and practices. **Altering of uniforms is not allowed.**

Section C - General Rules & Modifications

- 1) A team may start a game with a minimum of four (4) players to avoid a forfeit. When the fifth player arrives, he/she may enter at the next dead ball. If a team is unable to fulfill the minimum players required, a forfeit will be assessed after 10 minutes grace period.
- 2) **Time of Game** – A game shall consist of four 8-minute quarters, with regulation clock the last two (2) minutes of the second and fourth quarters. Clock will stop for timeouts and technical fouls. In **Division 4 game will consist of four 6 minute quarters. Division 4 clock** will stop when lining up players for free throws. Clock will start once referee hands ball to shooter. There shall be a one (1) minute break between quarters and four (4) minute break at half time (**Division 4 (3) min**). If at any time during

the game, a team has a fifteen (15) or more point lead, running time shall be used. If the score differential falls below fifteen (15) points, the regulation clock will be in effect. In **Division 4**, the score will not be kept during the season.

- 3) **Minimum play rule** - In all competition, a minimum play rule shall be enforced.
 - Each player must play a minimum of one (1) full quarter (eight minutes) each half. No player may play all 4 Quarters. The only exception is if a team only has 6 eligible players. In this case 4 players must play 3 quarters and 2 may play 4 quarters.
 - Exceptions to the minimum play rule are allowed for players who are unable to participate due to injury, illness, or disqualification.
 - The ultimate accountability for compliance of the minimum play rule is the head coach's responsibility.
 - Penalty for non-compliance will be forfeiture of the game. In the event of a question regarding minimum play rule compliance, the site director upon consultation with the official scorekeeper, shall render the final decision on the spot.
- 4) **Overtime Period – Divisions 1, 2:** The overtime period shall consist of three (3) minutes, with the last two (2) minutes regulation clock. The second overtime period will be sudden death. First team to score wins. In sudden death, no clock or time outs will be used. **Division 3:** One (3)-minute overtime period with the last (2) minutes regulation clock. If still tied, the game will end in tie.
- 5) **Timeouts – All Divisions:** Each team may use two (2) timeouts of one (1) minute in duration per half. Each team may also use one (1) timeout in the first overtime period. The coach is allowed to call time outs.
- 6) **Player Substitutions** may **ONLY** take place during the quarter breaks. Injury related or player disqualification substitutions will be permitted during the game.
- 7) **Fouls – All divisions:** A player is considered disqualified from a contest once he/she has committed 5 personal fouls.
- 8) **The Bonus Rule** - (1 + 1) shall be indicated on the 6th team foul each half with player shooting on the 7th team foul. **Double bonus:** Teams will shoot two free-throws beginning on the 10th team foul of each half.

- 9) **Defense** –All Divisions may play man-to-man or zone defense. **Division 4** may not use back-court press at any time and must retreat behind the defensive 3 point line after each change of possession.
- 10) **Half-Court & Full-Court Press - Divisions 3 No full-court pressing allowed.** May use half-court press, but must allow ball and player to cross the plane of the mid-court line. **Divisions 1 & 2** the defensive team may use full-court press at any time if it does not have a fifteen (15) or more point lead. **Penalty:** A warning to the team on the first offense and a team technical foul for all other offenses.
- 11) **Key Violations** - A five (5) second violation will be enforced in **Divisions 3 & 4**. A three (3) second violation will be enforced in **Divisions 1 & 2**.
- 12) **Coaching Rule** - Coaches shall be seated on the bench except to:
- Substitute a player, signal players to request a timeout, replace a disqualified or injured player, attend to an injured player when beckoned onto the court by an official, or rise during a timeout or intermission between quarters and extra periods. The Department's Coaching Rule is subject to enforcement upon official's discretion or when a coach receives his/her first technical foul.
- 13) **Free-Throws** - All players along the lane are prohibited from moving until the ball is released by the shooter. Shooter must wait for ball to hit rim. **Division 4** may shoot from the designated line closest to the basket. **Division 3** shooters feet may land in front of free throw line after ball is released.
- 14) The three (3) point shot is only in effect in **Divisions 1, 2, 3**.
- 15) **Ten (10) Second Rule** - In all Divisions, a player shall not, nor may his/her team be in continuous control of the ball that is in his/her backcourt for ten seconds.
- 16) **Sportsmanship Rules**
- a) To maintain a recreational atmosphere, no divisional standings will be kept for the entire season.
- b) In **Divisions 1, 2, 3** if a team has a lead of fifteen (15) points or more, all the following will go into effect:
- After change of possession, the leading team may not backcourt press and must retreat behind the 3 point line. A shot or pass may be contested as long as defender has both feet behind the 3-point line. **Penalty:** A warning to the team on the first offense and a team technical foul for all other offenses.

- Running time shall be used. If the score differential falls below fifteen (15) points, regulation clock will be in effect.

Section D - Coaches Eligibility (The following are coaching pre-requisites for all SMRPD youth programs.)

- 1) All head coaches and assistant coaches must be over the age of 18.
- 2) All coaches will be required to complete a volunteer application form.
- 3) All coaches shall comply with the Department's life scan/background check procedures before their team's first game.
- 4) All coaches should be mature, in good mental and physical health and knowledgeable about teaching basketball and its techniques. Coaches should have no criminal and social-oriented personal problems. **The well-being of the participants must always come FIRST!**
- 5) Coaches will be limited to a maximum of coaching two (2) teams per season.

Section E - Team Practices

- 1) The Department will schedule a one (1) hour indoor practice per team/per week. Teams will have access to at least a half of gym during their allotted time.
- 2) Teams can also practice outdoors at any of the local schools on a first come-first serve basis.
- 3) At least one adult, other than the team's head coach, must be present at every practice.

Section F - Proper Conduct

- 1) Player Conduct: Unsportsmanlike conduct or disrespect for the opposing team and game referees will not be tolerated. Players will refrain at all times from arguing with officials. The game referees will be instructed to eject any player for abusive and unwarranted disruptions.
- 2) Coaches Conduct: Each coach will be responsible for the conduct of himself/herself and his/her players. Absolutely no abusive or inappropriate language will be tolerated towards players, spectators or game referees.

NOTE: If any coach receives a 2nd technical foul for un-sportsmanlike conduct during a contest, he/she will be ejected from the game and shall immediately leave the facility. The ejected coach will also be suspended for the following game.

- 3) Spectator's Conduct: It is imperative that proper conduct be always a requirement of parents and spectators. Neither swearing nor harassment of game referees will be permitted. At no time shall spectators use gestures or degrading comments toward opposing coaches, players, spectators, or game referees. Spectators will be asked to leave the facility for un-appropriate behavior. If the offending spectator refuses to leave upon request, the game will be called.

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Section G - Parent's Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child and those participating in the Summer Youth Basketball Program by following this Parent's Code of Ethics Pledge:

I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, parents, and coaches during all team events.

I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.

I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.

I will support coaches and officials working with my child in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

I will refrain from using improper language and name-calling towards coaches, players and other parents during team events.

I will remember that the basketball games are primarily for our youth – not adults.

I will do my very best to make this youth sports activity fun for my child.

I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, spectators, and parents with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.

I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a positive youth sports coach.

Youth development is the primary focus of this sports program. Please help provide a safe, positive, and meaningful sport experience that contributes to the total development of our participants.