

# Tri Valley Little Ballers

## Basketball League

Welcome to the world of early basketball learning, where fun meets fundamentals! In this foundational stage, tailored for our little ones aged 4 to 8, the focus is on nurturing their love for the game while honing essential skills. We believe in the power of play, fostering a safe and engaging environment for every child.

### Our Goals:

- **Fun and Safety:** We prioritize creating a joyful, safe space where kids can explore the game with enthusiasm.
- **Inclusive Participation:** Every child gets a chance to be a part of the action, fostering a sense of belonging and teamwork.
- **Skills and Sportsmanship:** Beyond basketball basics, we impart crucial life skills, emphasizing teamwork and sportsmanship.
- **Recreational Learning:** We believe in nurturing talent in a relaxed, recreational atmosphere, allowing young players to flourish.
- **Holistic Development:** Our program is designed to enhance social, motor, and movement skills, ensuring well-rounded growth.

So, let's lace up those sneakers, dribble with delight, and shoot for the stars together! Our little ballers are not just learning basketball; they're embarking on a journey of camaraderie, skill-building, and endless fun. Join us in this exciting adventure where every bounce brings a smile and every play shapes a future athlete!

### I. **Age Divisions:**

- a. Pre-K/K
- b. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### II. **Equipment:**

- a. Game balls will be provided by the host site of each week's games. A minimum of 3 basketballs/team will be provided on game day.
  - i. Game Ball Size: 27.5" Junior Ball
  - ii. Outside balls are prohibited for league play.
- b. Basket Height
  - i. Hoops will be 8 ½ foot.

### III. **Playing Rules:**

- a. **Number of Players:**
  - i. Pre-K/K: 3 members of each team will be on the court at one time. A team must have at least 2 players present for the game to be played. Each team will play with the same number of players (even if the opposing team has more players on the bench).
  - ii. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 4 members of each team will be on the court at one time. A team must have at least 3 players present for the game to be played. Each

team will play with the same number of players (even if the opposing team has more players on the bench).

**b. Playing Time:**

- i. Games will be played in two 15-minute halves with a running clock. There will be a 3-minute halftime. Coaches will be allowed 1 30 second timeout per half.

c. **Substitutions:** Substitutions can be made during a dead ball in the game.

d. **Start of Play:** The game will start at center court with a jump ball.

e. **Out of bounds:** The ball is out of play when it passes any sidelines or end line. The ball will be awarded to the opposing team of the last touch during play.

f. **Scoring:** Score will not be kept for any age group of this league.

- i. No free throws will be shot at any time throughout the game.

**g. Offense:**

i. **Lane Violation:**

- 1. **Pre-K/K:** No lane violations will be called on any offensive player in this age group. Players will be encouraged to move in and out of the lane by the official.
- 2. **1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Players will be allowed to remain in the lane for 5 seconds instead of the traditional 3 seconds. If a player should remain in the lane for longer than 5 seconds, the official will blow their whistle and possession of the ball will be turned over to the other team.

**h. Defense:**

i. **For all grade divisions:**

- 1. No full – court press is allowed.
- 2. Man-to-man defense is allowed. No zone defense is allowed. Colored wrist bands will be used for games. Each player on the court will be given a colored wrist band and will only be allowed to play defense on the player of the opposing team with the same-colored wrist band.
- 3. No double teaming is allowed.
- 4. After change of possession, defensive players must immediately retreat to the other end of the court. If the offensive player does not hold the ball but starts a fastbreak, the defense can immediately defend their assigned man.

i. **Stealing:** Reaching into the offensive player and physically taking the ball from him/her.

- i. **Pre-K/K & 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>:** Players will not be allowed to steal the ball from an opposing player at any time. However, players will be allowed steal from an opposing player only when the ball is being passed.

**j. Fouls:**

- i. Fouls will be called on players that push, kick, trip or exhibit any other unsportsmanlike behavior and/or profane language. Individual fouls will

not be kept on record, but players will be warned of rough play. The ball is awarded to the opposite team and will be thrown in from the sideline.

- ii. Unsportsmanlike behavior or profane language displayed by any spectator or coach will not be tolerated and they will be removed from the complex. If a child displays excessive unsportsmanlike behavior or continuous fouls, they will be asked to sit out for part of the game.

k. **Traveling:** A violation in which a player holding the ball illegally moves one or both of their feet. A player travels by illegally moving their pivot foot or taking too many steps without dribbling the ball.

- i. **Pre-K/K:** For the first **3** weeks of the season traveling violation will not be called. The official will stop the play, correct the violation and return the ball to the player. Starting week **4** through the remainder of the season when a player travels the official will call the violation and the change of possession of the ball to the opposing team will occur.
- ii. **1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** For the first **3** weeks of the season traveling violations will be called when a player takes more than 3 consecutive steps without dribbling the ball. This violation will result in the ball being given to the opposing team. Starting week **4** through the remainder of the season A traveling violation will be called for taking a single step without dribbling the ball will result in the ball being given to the opposing team.

l. **Double Dribble:** A violation in which a player dribbles the ball, clearly holds it with a combination of either one or two hands then proceeds to dribble again without first either attempting a shot or passing to a teammate.

- i. **Pre-K/K:** For the first **3** weeks of the season double dribble violation will not be called. The official will stop the play, correct the violation, and return the ball to the player. Starting week **4** through the remainder of the season when a player double dribbles the ball the official will call the violation and the change of possession of the ball to the opposing team will occur.
- ii. **1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Double dribble violations will be called resulting in a change of possession of the ball to the opposing team.

m. **Coaches:**

- i. **Pre-K/K:** A single coach from each team is allowed to be on the court helping the kids if they are not interfering with the game.
- ii. **1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Coaches must stay in the coach's box and will not be allowed on the court at any time unless there is an injury. There will be a max of 2 coaches per team. If a problem arises, the referee will ask the coach to remain seated and restricted to the bench. If problems continue, the game will be stopped, and the coach will be removed from the facility before the play will resume. If an assistant coach is not available to fulfill the role of the coach for the remainder of the game the game will end.
- iii. **Coaches are responsible for the behavior of the players of their team, the other coaches, and the parents of their players.**

**n. Game Schedules:**

- i. Game schedules for the Tri Valley Little Ballers League will be distributed to league directors to pass on to coaches at least 1 week prior to the start of games.

**o. Uniforms:**

- i. Each participant is required to wear the youth sports jersey from the agency they are participating in.
- ii. Non-marking tennis shoes are required.