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YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE RULES

I. PURPOSE

The Whitfield County Youth Basketball Program is organized to provide a recreational activity for boys and girls ages **5-12**. 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 (1) Community Leader or representative from each community forming a rules making body with the Whitfield County Parks and Recreation Department (W.C.R.D.)
2. The program will be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Recreation Department and the Community Leaders.

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 and **Georgia Parks & Recreation Association (GRPA)**.
2. The League Rules will be developed and governed by 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 Attorney's office.
9. Each coach must be certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association online at www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinics/
10. A coach is now required to report suspected child abuse to their local authority. This is a State Law HB1176.
11. A coach must have a **Back Ground Check** on file with the Whitfield County Recreation Department.
12. Coaches need to be considerate of their social media.

III. LEAGUE RULES

- A. The Whitfield County Recreation Department will determine team rosters. No additions may be made unless a team drops below the recommended number of eight players. No player will be added after Christmas break unless a team falls below 5 players after the break. In this case the Recreation Department will consider adding. A team may start a game with four players and can end with two in a game.
- B. No more than (3) three coaches allowed on the bench
- C. Quarters/Game Clock:
 1. 8U Division: Four quarters of 8 minutes of running clock
 2. 10U & 12U Divisions: Four quarters of 10 minutes of running clock
 3. Halftime: 5 minutesNotes: Last two minutes of the fourth quarter will be ran by regulation play. The clock will stop for timeouts and injuries only.
- D. If both teams are wearing similar colored uniforms, the Home team must wear white side of jerseys. Home team listed bottom on schedule.
- E. Each coach should have a line-up turned into the scorekeeper's, ten minutes prior to game time.
- F. 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.

G. Ball Size:

1. 6U Division: 27.5
2. Girls Divisions and 8U/10U Boys Divisions: 28.5
3. 12U Boys Division: 29.5

H. Goal Height:

1. 6U: 8 feet or 8 ½ Feet
2. 8U & 10U: 8 ½ Feet
3. 12U: 10 Feet

- I. The participation rule is as follows: Each participant should play five minutes per half. The penalty for violation of this rule upon an upheld protest shall be the suspension of the protested coach for the next scheduled game. If a player is being disciplined and not permitted to play, the coach must advise the opposing coach and scorekeeper before the game begins. Any player suspended or absent from school should not be allowed to participate in a Whitfield County Parks and Recreation activity during the period of suspension or absenteeism.

- J. Timeouts Per Game: Two 30 Second Timeouts and Two 60 Second Timeouts
Overtime: One 60 Second Timeout

- K. In 10U & 12U divisions if the game ends in a tie there will be a two (2) minute overtime. If the game is still tied, there will be additional one (1) minute overtimes until a winner is determined. No overtime for 8U Division, game can end in a tie.

- L. All divisions except 6U can play a half court defense throughout the game. 8U will be allowed to full court press the last two mins of the 4th quarter. In 10U divisions you can full court press in the 4th quarter. In 12U you can full court press the entire 4th quarter. Anytime a team has a 10 point or more lead team must play half court defense. The first violation will be a team warning and all subsequent violations will constitute a team technical. Defense must stay 3 feet from half court line to allow ball handlers to cross half court line. 14U Division can full court press entire game.

- M. The clock will run the last 2 minutes of the game 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 and injuries.

- N. Foul shots –12U divisions will shoot from the regulation free throw line (15 feet). 8U and 10U will shoot from 12 feet. If shooting from 12ft line you will fill bottom block. Teams may not scream or yell on the foul line and arms must be straight up. Players cannot make contact with other players on the foul line.

- After 5 team fouls you shoot 2 foul shots. This will reset after each quarter. 4th quarter rolls over into overtime periods.

- O. Free Throw Lane Violation: 5 seconds for 8U and 10U Division and 3 seconds for 12U Divisions.

- P. There will be a ten minute grace period for the first game only.

- Q. 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.

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. Points Allowed in Division Play

IV. TOURNAMENT RULES

- A. Tournament formats will be determined at end of Regular Season.
 - a. All tie breaks will go to Head to Head then Points Allowed then Points Scored
- B. During post season play the 12U division may press any time during the game.
- C. All other rules will be the same as league rules.

V. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The age divisions are: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12.
- B. The age control date is on or before September 1st. (5-6 Division is on or before November 1st)
- C. Participants must play with-in their Middle school district.
- D. Participation will be determined by what school one attends. (Not where one lives)
- E. Participants in Dalton schools, out of County participants and Home schooled participants will be Placed where they sign up, but must continue to play their throughout their youth careers.
- F. To be eligible to participate each participant's name must be on a roster, must have a parent's signature on parent code of ethics and must have a copy of their birth certificate on file at the Recreation Department.
- G. 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.
- H. Drafts will be conducted to separate teams. Participants are not allowed to switch teams after Drafts are concluded.

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 W.C.R.D. Athletic Coordinator and uninvolved Community Leaders.
- 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. Scorekeepers are also included in the rule.

B. Problems with coaches or spectators:

1. Warning or technical foul
2. Technical foul or ejection Officials Judgment
3. Removal from Gym or Program

C. Second Technical/Ejection on Coach

1. Sits out for next game – 1 game only
2. Ejection of Coach – Sits for next 2 games
3. Second Ejection of Coach – Suspended for (1) One year in all recreation sports.

VIII. GAME POSTPONEMENT

A. 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

Awards will be given out at Post Season Tournaments to 1st and 2nd place in each bracket.

X. ALL-STAR SELECTION

A. Whitfield County Parks and Recreation Department will choose the All-Star Coaches. Criteria for coaching an All-Star team are:

- (1) **NYSCA Certified**
- (2) **Coaching Experience**
- (3) **Coaches Poll**
- (4) **Basketball Officials Poll**
- (5) **Final season League position**

WCRD 5-6 Coed Rules

- ❖ 8 minute running clock
- ❖ No timeouts
- ❖ Coaches determine substitute changes. (Ex. Substitute every 2mins or 4mins)
- ❖ Every player must participate 50% of the game
- ❖ Every player must take a shot
- ❖ Every player must dribble down the court
- ❖ Players on defense must have TWO foot in the paint
- ❖ Coaches are to referee and coach at the same time
- ❖ 1-2 coaches may be on the floor. Defensive and Offensive end.
- ❖ Coaches are encouraged to help at all times
- ❖ NO VIOLATIONS
- ❖ NO FOUL CALLING
- ❖ HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!