

Lakes League Youth Basketball League – General Policies, Procedures and Guidelines 2018-2019 Season

The purpose of the Lakes Youth Basketball League is to provide an enjoyable and safe program for children with a wide range of ability levels. It is essential that participants are provided with good supervision, instructional coaching, and officiating that is knowledgeable, demonstrates a positive attitude and has the children's best interest as its primary focus. The league strives to create an environment that promotes fundamental skill development, sportsmanship, teamwork and fun. Players must be offered the opportunity for equal playing time during all regular season games and end of season tournaments or jamborees.

General Rules & Season Format

1. League administration is a coordinated effort of recreation administrators from each participating town who coordinate scheduling, rules, policies, procedures and provide primary league oversight.
2. Participating towns share equal responsibilities with planning, scheduling, jamboree, tournaments and upholding all league rules, policies and procedures.
3. 2017-2018 participating towns include; Ashford, Bolton, Coventry, Hebron, Mansfield and Willington.
4. Towns that would like to request to participate may file a request to the Lakes League no later than September 1.
5. Scheduling: A nine game season plus jamboree/tournament is the goal each season. The nine game season includes potential in-house play the first few weeks of the season.
 1. The 2017-2018 season will run from first weekend of December until February 11.
 2. Make ups will be held on February 17/18, 2018.
 3. Jamborees/Tournaments will take place the weekend of February 24/25, 2018.
 4. All towns are expected host one or more grade/gender divisions jamborees/tournaments.
6. Divisions -Boys and Girls Grades: 3&4, 5&6, 7&8
7. All teams must have adequate liability insurance from their respective organizations.
8. The Grade 3&4 Boys division will utilize 28.5 basketballs.

Player Eligibility

1. Players must enrolled in the school grade for the corresponding grade division.
2. Players cannot play both travel/competitive division and recreation division in the same season.
3. Players cannot play up more than one grade (i.e. 4th grader could request to their individual town to play up to the grades 5&6 division. However, a 3rd grader would not be permitted to play up to the 5&6 division).

League Website

1. The town responsible for a master division game schedule is the only one authorized to change the master game schedule for the assigned division. In-season updates will be posted to the website

Guidelines for Games

1. Game rules will be distributed to all coaches and posted at the home game gym.
2. Game rules are not to be modified by coaches.
3. Posting of sportsmanship guidelines in at all home sites is highly encourage.
4. The home team is responsible for providing two (2) qualified referees.
5. Responsibilities for Coaches
 - Coaches must view themselves as role models and conduct themselves properly at all times. If a problem arises with either the coaches or the referees, the town they represent should be informed immediately to promptly address the problem.

- Coaches are responsible for the conduct of his or her players and coaching staff, and to support the home site supervisors and/or referees.
 - Fans are here to support the players. If a fan becomes problematic, the coach will be informed immediately to help address the issue. Furthermore, the fan must be removed from the building, and if the fan refuses to vacate, the game will end immediately and result in a forfeit win for the opposing team.
6. Game Cancellations
 - If a game must be canceled due to gym availability, the host team should provide the visiting team at least two (2) day notice.
 - Make ups are to primarily be held the weekend of February 17&18, 2018
 - In the event of inclement weather, the host team should provide at least 3 (three) hour notice regarding game status. When practical, cancellations due to weather will be made throughout the league.
 7. The host team must have a medical kit, ice packs, and a phone available for emergencies.
 8. Every effort will be made for division schedules to be prepared and available to all towns at least 10 days in advance of the first league game. Games will not be rescheduled due to conflicts with the head coach or players. If a town feels they have a unique situation, town administrators may agree to a make-up date. No changes to the game schedule can be made without the approval of the administrators of the towns directly involved.

The Review Committee

1. The Review Committee is made up of the designated administrators from all participating towns. Issues may include areas such as; conduct, suspensions, expulsions, forfeits, and make up games. Coaches, parents, or players should submit their concern to their town administrator. The town administrator will then bring the concern to the Review Committee for discussion.
2. Discussion rights are limited to the Review Committee and those involved.
3. After discussion of the issue, the Review Committee determines its final decision. The town administrator of the town from which the complaint was initiated will communicate the decision back to the involved party.
4. **Disciplinary Guidelines or Ejections**
 - a) All ejections will be reported to the home team league administrator, who will in turn report them to the Review Committee.
 - b) Any coach, player or fan that is ejected from a game must leave the gymnasium and building immediately.
 - c) This individual may not enter the gymnasium as long as the officials are still on site.
 - d) Ejection from a game will automatically result in a one-game suspension. This individual will NOT be allowed to be present at the next scheduled league game.
 - e) The one game suspension may not be appealed.
 - f) If the ejection occurs in the last week of the season, the suspension will automatically carry into the playoffs/jamboree if the offending team is eligible.
 - g) Any coach, player, fan, etc involved in a physical confrontation of any kind during a league event, whether it is prior to, during, or after a game shall be suspended until further review by the league.
 - h) Any person suspended may appeal to the league to have his/her case reviewed. The one game suspension for ejection may not be appealed.

Coaches Background Screenings and Training Requirements

1. All head and assistant coaches are strongly encouraged to complete, at minimum, a basic entry level coaches training offered by National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) or an equivalent agency.
2. All coaches are strongly encouraged to complete a basic CPR and first aid training.
3. Annually, all head and assistant coaches are required to complete a mandatory background check coordinated and results confirmed by the town administrator.
4. Annually, all head and assistant coaches are required to complete concussion awareness training offered by NYSCA, the Center for Disease Control, or an approved equivalent.
5. Annually, all head and assistant coaches are to be provided with Bloodborne Pathogens training or provided with Bloodborne Pathogen information coordinated by their town administrator.

Safety Guidelines

Each coach should carry a roster that includes health and emergency information provided by the players parents/guardians. Have this information readily available should an emergency arise.

1. Coaches should carry their own first aid kits and cell phone but home sites are also required to provide backup first aid supplies, including ice packs, and have an available phone for 911 calls.
2. Each team should carry an extra shirt in the event that someone would get cut and excessive blood should get on their shirt. If this should happen they must change their shirt (to one that is similar to their game shirt) or they will not be able to continue to play.
3. At no time should you offer medical diagnosis or express personal opinion beyond your level of training as to the extent of the injury. Make no public comment as to the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Sportsmanship

1. Good sportsmanship is essential to the program and is expected from coaches, players and spectators. The league is committed to providing players, coaches, referees and fans with a safe environment to develop skills, and to pursue healthy, respectful competition. It is our goal to promote sportsmanship by establishing and enforcing high standards of behavior.
2. All coaches are required to read, sign and return the league sportsmanship pledge to their town administrator prior to the first game of the season.