

RECREATION BASKETBALL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Question #1: How are assistant coaches assigned and how many assistant coaches can be on each team?

Answer #1: Assistant coaches are not assigned ahead of time, but if you are a head coach you can reach out to any one or more of the assistants ahead of time to see if they want to assist for you. In turn, you would have to draft their kids at the draft. One caveat, however, is that you cannot have "contracted" with more than 2 assistant coaches in advance of the draft. We don't want a situation where somebody has 5 assistant coaches -- and a multitude of talented players --- while somebody else has none.

Question #2: How is the player draft conducted?

Answer #2: The purpose of the draft is to DISTRIBUTE THE TALENT EVENLY among all teams in a division. No matter how hard we try to do this (and we have tried several different methods over the years), however, there will be one team that is better than the others and one team that is worse than all the others. Prepare the parents for that ahead of time. Be cognizant of the fact that while placing a lot of kids from the same grade on one team may be good from a "everybody gets to play with their friends" perspective, it may not necessarily be good for the morale of the team if the team can't compete week in and week out. This is especially true in the younger divisions. The OBA Board of Directors has the ability and, indeed, the responsibility to ensure that talent is distributed evenly and Board has the right to move players around subsequent to the draft to ensure that the teams are evenly matched.

Question #3: What should be done if, during the season, it turns out that one team is markedly better than another?

Answer #3: Given the fact that there will be good and bad teams, it is our jobs as coaches to make sure that the games remain competitive. Coaches of the good teams should do everything in their power to make sure the games stay close. There are many options available to a basketball coach in this regard. Some of the more common tactics are directing players to pass a certain number of times before shooting, pulling your better players from the game, pulling back on defense. Again, this is especially true in the younger divisions. Opposing coaches should coach against each other in a collegial fashion and should collaborate to keep the games as close and as competitive as possible.

Question #4: What are the differences between Rookie League, Junior Division, Intermediate Division and Senior Division?

Answer #4: Only second graders (with two exceptions) play in the Rookie League. In the Rookie League, a co-ed program which is centered on the basics of the game of

basketball, we only have one game at the end of the year. This game is played at the end of the year (late February or early March) on the big court at Maple Place. Each team practices one night a week at Wolf Hill School for an hour. Practice slots are from 5 to 6 pm, 6 to 7 pm and 7 to 8 pm, Monday thru Thursday. The team's head coach chooses the practice time slot. Gym time is usually shared with another team. As such, we want to limit the number of players on each team to a maximum of seven. As the year progresses and the children have grasped the basics, most practices are comprised of a 1/2 hour of instruction and then a 1/2 hour of scrimmaging against the team that shares the practice slot.

Junior Division teams are comprised of 3rd and 4th graders in gender specific divisions. Practice slots will be available Monday through Thursday at Wolf Hill School. Practice slots are from 5 to 6 pm, 6 to 7 pm and 7 to 8 pm. The head coach chooses the practice time slot. Games are every Saturday morning at the Monmouth Beach Grammar School. Games are played on 8 foot baskets. Basket height is increased throughout the year, at the discretion of the OBA, based on overall player development.

Intermediate Division teams are comprised of 5th and 6th graders in gender specific divisions. Practices are once a week at Maple Place or Frank Antonides for an hour. Practice slots run from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, 6:30 to 7:30 pm, 7:30 to 8:30 pm and 8:30 to 9:30 pm, Monday thru Friday. Games are on Saturdays at Maple Place. Games are played on regulation baskets.

Senior Division teams are comprised of 7th and 8th graders in gender specific divisions. Practices are once a week at Maple Place or Frank Antonides for an hour. Practice slots run from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, 6:30 to 7:30 pm, 7:30 to 8:30 pm and 8:30 to 9:30 pm, Monday thru Friday. Games are on Saturdays at Maple Place. Games are played on regulation baskets.

Question 5: Are the rules of play different for each division?

Answer #5: Yes. The rules are updated each year. You can find the most recent version of the rules on the OBA website.

Question #6: Are first graders allowed to play Rookie League basketball?

Answer #6: First graders, **with two general exceptions**, are not allowed to participate in Rookie League basketball.

The two general exceptions to this prohibition are as follows:

a. If a first grader has an older sibling, of the same sex, who is playing in Rookie League AND the older sibling's parent is a head coach or an active assistant coach on the team that the older sibling plays for, then the first grader can play in the Rookie League on that

same team. The reasoning behind this exception is that our coaches put in a lot of time for the betterment of our program and we don't want to increase their burden whatsoever.

b. The second exception would be a situation where a first grader is older than his classmates and would otherwise qualify to be a second grader. In either case, the Board has to be placed on notice of a proposed exception to the rule. The exception request must be made to and approved by the Board.

Question #7: What do I need to do to become a basketball coach?

Answer #7: You just have to volunteer for a position on the registration form AND you must have completed the three hour R.U.T.G.E.R.S. safety certification course.

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