

INTRODUCTION

The Radnor Youth Basketball League was formed in late 1989 under the sponsorship of Radnor Township's Parks & Recreation Department. The inaugural 1990 program had a roster of 120 boys and girls ages 9-11 on 12 co-ed teams in two divisions. The program has grown to as large as 1,300 players in grades K to 12. Radnor Youth Basketball (RYB) was established as an independent non-profit entity in late 2016 (501c3) and has been running the RYB programs since winter 2017.

The league's younger clinics and leagues use 8½ foot baskets through 3rd grade and play under modified school basketball rules. This coach's manual contains information on league policies and rules. Every coach should be familiar with it. Your volunteer efforts to coach these kids is sincerely appreciated. Without you we could not have a basketball league for our children.

Your comments and suggestions for improving the program are welcome. We hope you enjoy the program.

RYB GOALS & OBJECTIVES**TEACH KIDS BASKETBALL**

The league's primary objective is to teach kids fundamental skills and proper techniques. Small size teams give us the opportunity to demonstrate effectively and reinforce these skills through small half court drills and full court scrimmages depending on grade level. Weekly practices allow teaching time throughout the season without game time pressures.

TEACH FAIR PLAY IN COMPETITION

League games are intended to give kids the real sense of playing basketball. These games are competitive, but should not be to win at all costs. There are no "first place" trophies. We want the kids to try their best and have fun whether they win or lose.

DEVELOP TEAM SPIRIT & GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Good team spirit and sportsmanship are always admired but not easily taught. We must strive to give these kids a sense of team, a key element of this sport, while we consciously set the best examples of good sportsmanship that we can.

ENCOURAGE EACH & EVERY CHILD TO BE THEIR BEST

This league is mainly a recreational program. The kids don't have to make the team or get drafted. Consequently, the talents and skills of teammates will vary considerably. It's the coaches' job to encourage all players and recognize their efforts. Remember, by ignoring less talented kids you are hurting the team and the child. We want each kid to feel good about his or her efforts whether or not they are a good player.

ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO ENJOY THEMSELVES

We can have a lot of fun with this program. *This is not the place for disputes and controversies.* We want the players, coaches, referees, timekeepers, scorekeepers, and spectators all to enjoy the games. You have an obligation to keep things upbeat and positive. Your visibility is heightened due to the closeness of playing inside a gym. Remember, you want to have fun too.

RYB GUIDELINES ON COACHING

The league has established a few recommendations involving the selections and assignment of coaches. These guidelines are intended to keep the program well balanced and to keep the competition friendly.

1. League officers will select and approve all volunteer coaches.
2. League officers are permitted to coach.
3. All adult coaches must submit background checks – *REQUIRED BY STATE LAW* (good for 5 years)
4. HS student coaches who are under 18 years of age must be supervised at all team events by a registered parent of a player or a student coach and attend training offered by the league.

For Grades 4 and above:

5. Head coach for more than one team in the same season is discouraged due to scheduling conflicts.
6. Head coaches are permitted to select one assistant coach (volunteers may be needed for another team).
7. Coaches are discouraged from coaching together for consecutive years (to avoid stacking a team).
(Exception: Coaches not associated with a particular player.)

RYB COACHING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Our prime focus is the teaching and enjoyment of basketball for kids. Each coach must consider the significant impact that he or she can have on the children and spectators. The players should respect the coaches and the coaches must work to maintain that level of confidence and trust.

This league is committed to avoiding coaching excesses sometimes seen in youth sports. Therefore, all parents and coaches must monitor their conduct consistent with our goals and objectives. Please abide by the following policies:

1. Concentrate on the teaching of basketball fundamentals as your prime responsibility.
2. Foster team play and develop proper competitive spirit.
3. Restrain efforts to outcoach the other coaches in favor of helping them.
4. **NEVER** forget that the children are sensitive to your every word and action.
5. **NEVER** argue with the other coaches.
6. **NEVER** yell at or argue with the referees.
7. Handle disputes among coaches and/or referees quietly and to the side. Remember, however, the referees' decision is final.
8. Do not allow taunting of players by players.
9. Do not allow displays of temper by players.
10. Refer any unresolved disputes among coaches to the league officials.
11. Remember that while winning is a prime object of the game, the emphasis on instruction and enjoyment of the game by all participants and spectators is paramount.
12. Never embarrass anyone including yourself.
13. Remember that your conduct sets precedent for the players and other coaches.
14. Give every player a chance to develop and improve, especially for those players whose skills or athletic abilities are lower than average.
15. Give all players equal playing time. Spread the game time among all members of your team. Substitute all players from the bench mid-way as provided in the league rules.

RYB's Code of Conduct and No Tolerance Policies are in full effect for the entire season – both on and off the court. These apply to coaches, players, parents, and spectators.

Anyone who violate RYB policies and guidelines can be warned, ejected, suspended, or banned.

RVB Code of Conduct

It shall be the obligation of ALL program participants including, but not limited to, coaches, spectators, parents, volunteers, officials, and players to comply with the terms of the Code.

- Individuals attending RVB events, participating in RVB activities or otherwise representing RVB give implied consent to abiding by the Code.
- The Code is not presented as addressing every possible situation. Rather, it is a list of guidelines that shall serve as the standard for evaluating attitudes and actions in RVB.
- Any person violating the Code shall be subject to administrative action by the RVB board of directors, up to and including termination of privileges to participate in, or attend, any RVB sponsored activities.
- There will be no use of social media or electronic communications (texting, email, etc.) that is dishonest, misleading, or contrary to good sportsmanship or positive role modeling.
- There will be no vandalism, property damage, theft, disruption of property, misuse of facilities, trashing or other inappropriate behaviors.
- There will be no smoking (or vaping) at or around RVB locations at any time.
- There will be no alcohol, illegal drugs or legalized recreational drugs allowed on the premises.
- If a player, manager, or coach is found using such drugs, drinking alcohol, possessing alcohol, or in an intoxicated or impaired condition at or nearby the locations used by RVB, s/he shall be immediately banned from RVB.
- A permanent ban from participating in RVB, or attending RVB activities, may be imposed by the RVB Board on anyone violating this code.

All coaches, spectators, players, referees, and volunteers shall be positive role models in their attitudes and actions in RVB. Positive role modeling includes the following general guidelines:

- Displaying and teaching the principles of good sportsmanship and team play.
- Acting in a manner that best serves the interests and development of the players.
- Not ridiculing, demeaning, bullying or hazing of players, coaches, or referees.
- Not fighting, displaying offensive actions, speaking hatefully, inciting physical or verbal confrontations, or causing or threatening physical or other harm.
- Treating all players, parents, spectators, coaches, referees, and league officials with respect.
- Protecting players from behaviors by others that endanger the health or well-being of others.
- Accepting referee calls without verbal abuse, physical abuse, or abuse of any type.
- Complying with the decisions of league officials, e.g., only using registered players in games.
- Observing and complying with all rules, policies and procedures established or endorsed by RVB.
- Being drug and alcohol free while at any RVB sponsored event.
- Not using abusive or profane language.

All Players will display good sportsmanship and team play at all times. Good sportsmanship includes the following general guidelines:

- Following the direction of the coaches.
- Respecting all coaches, players, league officials, referees, and spectators.
- Not using abusive or profane language.
- Not taunting, demeaning, humiliating, or bullying any other player.
- Not questioning a ref's call.
- Not abusing, mistreating, or mishandling any equipment or property (throwing a ball or clothing).
- Accepting defeat with courage and dignity.
- Accepting victory with modesty, respect, and tolerance.

RYB COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to being good instructors, teachers and leaders, coaches should:

1. Know the league's rules, policies, guidelines and the coaches' and referees' responsibilities as described in this manual and as discussed and agreed at coaches' meetings.
2. Make sure that one or more coaches are managing your team during every practice and game.
3. Keep track of all your players during practices and games and see that every player gets picked up after the sessions. (No players should leave the gym without your knowledge.)
4. Set up, take down, store equipment, and lock any doors or equipment as instructed.
5. Make sure gyms are left clean and in good order. Keep food and trash out of the gyms and ask people to take food and drinks out of the building.
6. The coaches for the last game must store equipment, as may be needed, and clean up any trash. Report any problems immediately to league staff or a league officer.
7. Provide one referee (coach or parent) from your team to referee your team's game (Trained refs are assigned for grade 4th and older.) Parent-referees must bring their own whistles.
8. Line up a scorekeeper and timekeeper, if needed, in advance to avoid delay of games.

PARENT-REFEREES RESPONSIBILITIES

Referees have a very important role in this program and this is one reason that we have coaches rather than teenagers as refs for games at younger grades. As an official, you and the other referee are in charge of running the game. You should check the clock, control when substitutions are made, and whistle assertively on fouls and violations.

All contact fouls should be called tightly. Do not allow the more aggressive players to control the game physically by fouls. The weaker players should not be overpowered by pushing, bumping, and reaching in by their opponents.

In the 3rd grade divisions during the first half of the season (first 5 games), referees should call double dribbling, walking, free zone violations, lane violations and back court violations as follows:

If not blatant, do not stop play. (Ref should tell player to watch the walking, etc.)

- If blatant, blow ref should whistle to stop play, explain violation and return ball to same team.
- If blatant violation is repeated by same player shortly after explanation, ref should blow whistle to stop play and turnover the ball to the other team (throw in from the side).

Refs should use discretion at the 4th grade level for the first half of the season. Refs should keep the game moving but not let fouls and violations go unchecked. Our purpose is to instruct and improve the players.