

**HARRISON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION  
PEE-WEE AND YOUTH BASKETBALL INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUES**

**LEAGUE PURPOSE: To make the youth sports experience safe, positive and fun. To instruct young players in the proper skills and game conduct for basketball, and contribute to the physical and emotional development of the participants.**

1. The Pee-Wee Basketball Instructional League is for boys and girls in grades K – 5. The Youth Basketball Instructional League is for boys and girls in grades 6-8. We keep participants from the same school together when possible. After dividing teams according to the original registration, late registration is then taken to fill rosters only. League Divisions are determined by registration.
2. THESE ARE INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUES. In the Pee-Wee Leagues no standings will be tabulated – no official scores recorded. No first place awards. A scorebook is used by a supervisor to insure that all participants have equal playing time and to keep track of fouls, time-outs and possession rotation only. The league's purpose is to learn skills and have fun. Supervisors or referees will not discuss or be involved in score tabulations. ARGUMENTS OVER SCORES (SHOULD ANYONE KEEP THEM ON THEIR OWN) WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. In the Youth League scores will be kept but the instructional intent will still have importance with equal playing time, etc. The official scorebook is the only source for scores, fouls, etc.
3. There is a limit of ten (10) players per roster to insure sufficient playing time for each participant. The number of players on the rosters may vary due to the number of children registered from different areas. We attempt to have ten players on all rosters. All teams are to keep as near the ten player full roster as possible. CONTACT THE HCPR OFFICE IF YOU HAVE DROPOUTS AND TO ADD PLAYERS. Rosters are final except to fill shortages and to replace dropouts. All roster changes must go through the HCPR office and be approved by the HCPR Staff. Coaches are to contact the office with all openings, where a list is maintained of late registrations.
4. EACH PLAYER MUST PLAY IN AT LEAST ½ OF EACH GAME. No player can play the entire game.
  - a. Substitutions must be made at the mid-point of each quarter. Players are rotated at this time. You may start out each quarter with any combination you so choose, as long as the players on the bench go in at the quarter mid-point. The only exceptions are in case of injury, sickness, playing with only five (5) players, or refusal to play.
  - b. Playing in ½ of each game is the MINIMUM PLAYING TIME WITH TEN (10) PLAYERS PRESENT. If a team does not have ten players, they must make playing time as equal as possible among all players. If you need help, ask the League Officials.
  - c. There is no way to keep watch on all players in the League. However, if infractions are reported to us they will be checked. COACHES FOUND NOT FOLLOWING THE EQUAL PARTICIPATION RULE WILL BE DISMISSED.
5. Everyone (parents, coaches, players and staff) associated with our youth sports leagues must be held **ACCOUNTABLE** for their behavior. All volunteer coaches

and league officials will be screened with background checks conducted. Accountability begins with orientation and education.

- a. Coaches – required to take a training course conducted by the HCPR staff. The purpose of the training course is to enable the coaches to have a better understanding of organization, teaching proper techniques, safety and to make them more knowledgeable in the psychological and physical needs of dealing with young athletes. Coaches are also to attend a hand-on skills and rules clinic to aid in drills, practice and game organization.
  - b. Parents – an orientation meeting will be held to familiarize parents with program goals, rules and roles of the coach, league officials and parents in the league.
  - c. Officials – all league officials must attend the rules and goals clinics prior to the season and weekly staff meetings as part of ongoing evaluation.
6. **SKILLS CLINICS:** League action will begin with a series of skills clinics where HCPR Staff & Volunteers will begin instruction to the children. This is not an evaluation of talent. Skills Clinic Schedules will be mailed as soon as registration concludes. Practice schedules will follow.
7. **GAME LENGTH AND TIME RULES:**
- a. Pee-Wee: Four (4) eight-minute quarters will be played. The clock stops for time-outs and foul shots only.  
Youth: Four (4) ten-minute quarters will be played. The clock stops for time-outs only.
  - b. There will be two (2) 20-second time-outs per half, one (1) minute between quarters, and five (5) minutes at half time.
  - c. **GAMES MUST START AT THE SCHEDULED TIME.** There will be a five-minute grace period. If a team fails to arrive or does not have enough players, a refereed scrimmage can be played, if both coaches agree to a workable format. This game will be made to fit a time period so that the next scheduled game will start on time. If late arriving players show up to make a complete team, a shortened game may be played. Investigations may result if a team shows up for games with seven (7) or less players. Extenuating circumstances should be explained.
  - d. Pee-Wee: No overtime will be played.  
Youth: Three (3) minute overtime will be played in the Youth League if needed.
8. **FOUL & FOUL RULES:** (*Pee Wee may not shoot fouls due to time restrictions*).
- a. Two foul shots will be given only when the player was fouled in the act of shooting. Each team will shoot one and one on the 7<sup>th</sup> team foul of each half.
  - b. On the 6<sup>th</sup> personal foul the player will be eliminated from the game.
9. **BALL ADVANCEMENT – DEFENSE INSTRUCTIONS:**
- a. Pee-Wee: The ball must be brought into the forecourt within ten (10) seconds. THE DEFENSIVE TEAM CANNOT “PRESS”. Once a player gains control in the backcourt or after a throw-in, the team must be allowed to move the ball past mid-court. Defensive positions on the player with the ball may not be established until the offensive player has both feet in the fore court.  
Youth: Will be allowed a limited press in the second half. No full court press - press starts at half court. Teams cannot press if they have a 10-point lead.

- b. Pee-Wee: Defensive teams are to retreat to the key area (behind the 3 point line) immediately after change of possession. Teams must play 2-1-2 or 2-3 zone defense. Team defense must stay behind the 3-point line, while playing zone defense.  
Youth: Teams will be allowed to play man-to-man or any zone defense. Team defense must stay behind the 3-point line unless allowable “press” is in effect.
  - c. Referees will stop action and make teams on defense retreat to proper positions when necessary. Action will resume at the point where the game was stopped without an inbounds play. This call will be made on the referee’s judgment. The referee will be looking for situations that, in their opinion, are a definite attempt at a PRESS.
10. JUMP BALL SITUATIONS: A jump ball will start the game. After that, teams will alternate possessions whenever a jump ball occurs.
  11. LANE VIOLATION: Offensive players will be allowed five (5) seconds in the lane.
  12. If a coach is interfering with game action or progress THE REFEREE OR SITE SUPERVISOR CAN RESTRICT THE COACH TO THE BENCH, except during timeouts, injuries, and in between quarters. After this restriction, a technical foul will be called. TWO TECHNICAL FOULS WILL RESULT IN THE COACH BEING REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE FACILITY. If this happens twice, **he will be relieved of coaching duties.**
  13. Any arguments with referees, Site Supervisors or any HCPRC staff, by coaches, parents or players **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**
    - a. On the first offense a warning will result.
    - b. On the second offense a technical foul will be called.
    - c. On the third offense the coach, parents, or player will be expelled from the facility. If the person refuses to leave, the game will be forfeited. Remember – these procedures will be taken against any coach, parents, spectator or player. Any warning will be given to the coach because he/she has control of the team and must attempt to keep parents and spectators under control.
  14. FLAGRANT TECHNICAL FOULS WILL BE SEVERELY DEALT WITH – if on the coach, he/she will be relieved of all duties. If on a player, he/she will not participate in the next two regularly scheduled games. If it occurs again, he/she cannot participate the rest of the season. Threatening of league officials will be treated as FLAGRANT FOULS.
  15. In the case of severe or repeated confrontation with referees, Site Supervisors, or any HCPR staff; they do have the right to recommend expulsion for the offending coach or person involved for the remainder of the season. If this happens to a coach, the HCPRC Staff has the right to keep him/her from coaching in any HCPRC league in the future. In case of physical attack on any HCPRC staff or referee, appropriate action will be initiated. REMEMBER!!! NONE OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS SHOULD EVER HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN A CHILDREN’S INSTRUCTIONAL RECREATION LEAGUE.
  16. The Referees are in complete charge of the games. The Practice Supervisors are in complete charge of practices. Site Supervisors are in complete charge of the facility to which they are assigned. The HCPR Staff is in complete charge of the League. Decisions at the games or practices must be abided by all. ALL FINAL DECISIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE HCPR STAFF.

17. Coaches may discuss matters with referees and supervisors at appropriate times, i.e. time outs or in between quarters. Arguments will not be tolerated. Mistakes will be made and plays will be missed, but the coach and player will have to accept this in a sportsmanlike manner as a part of the game.
18. Referees will attend training sessions where their duties and our expectations of them will be outlined.
19. As part of accountability, The HCPR and staff want and appreciate your input. Any problems, compliments, etc., that you may have will be discussed. **THERE WILL BE NO GAME PROTESTS ALLOWED.** Please discuss your problems with the League Officials. All conflicts or problems will be handled promptly.
20. **FOR PLAYERS' SAFETY** – Jewelry of any kind is prohibited during games and players are not to have any objects in their mouths, i.e. candy, gum, etc. Braces are allowed.
21. Since Pee-Wee and Youth Basketball are designed as instructional leagues, players can be told what they are doing wrong and helped within reason. However, coaches cannot interfere with game play or take excessive time due to time restraints. Referees will also be encouraged to help **WAYWARD PLAYERS**, without interfering with play (i.e. showing them where to stand, or explaining what was done incorrectly).
22. **THE FIRST GAMES WILL BE DESIGNATED AS PRACTICE GAMES.** One referee will call these games while helping the players learn the rules. Coaches will be allowed on the floor with the players for instructional purposes. Practice games will have a time limit.
23. Teams will be involved in action twice a week (including practices, practice games and games). Whenever possible for areas with sufficient registration, local practice and possibly game facility arrangements have been made for outlying areas of the county. All other games will take place on Monday through Friday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday mornings (if necessary) beginning at 9:00 a.m. This is the most asked question by parents. The majority of parents do not want their children involved more than twice weekly during the school year. **THEREFORE, DISMISSAL OF COACHES WILL RESULT IF TEAMS TRY TO PRACTICE MORE OFTEN.** The HCPR office must schedule all games and practices.
24. Coaches and parents will have to assist in the close supervision of facilities. **NO ONE IS TO BE ALLOWED INTO THE PRACTICES EXCEPT PARENTS AND PLAYERS.** The janitor will open and close the facility. **ARRIVE AND LEAVE ON TIME. PLEASE LEAVE THE FACILITY IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRACTICES AND GAMES.** If the facility representative reports that any team abuses practice times by coming early or staying late, being in parts of the facility that they have no business in, causing damage, etc., **PRACTICE PRIVILEGES WILL BE LOST FOR THE SEASON.** You will be instructed on which exits, restrooms, etc. to use.
  - a. **Nobody is allowed in any part of the school other than the specified areas. Players/Parents/Spectators must use designated restrooms only and cannot be roaming the hallways.**
  - b. **No food or drink are allowed in the gym or school.**
  - c. **Strive to keep the school clean.**
  - d. **Do not use any school equipment**
25. If a participant cannot attend a game or practice, he/she should contact the coach. If a participant misses excessively, without a legitimate excuse, the coach is to contact the office for an investigation, which can result with the player

- being held out of games or dropped from the League. No refunds will be issued for a player dropped from the League for excessive absenteeism.
26. If there are any questions concerning the League, the HCPR office telephone number is 624-0481. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is located at 43 Recreation Drive, Clarksburg WV (Harrison County Recreation Complex/4-H Center).
27. **GAME CANCELLATIONS: (GAMES/PRACTICES ARE NOT CANCELLED IF SCHOOLS ARE ON A DELAY!!!**
- a. If the facility cancels us for their own activity, the coaches will be contacted and he/she WILL CONTACT THEIR TEAM MEMBERS. TEAM PARENTS ARE NOT TO CONTACT THE HCPR OFFICE IN REGARDS TO GAME CANCELLATIONS.
  - b. **Pee-Wee and Youth Basketball games and practices are automatically cancelled on weekdays if school is called off or dismissed early due to snow or other extreme conditions.** Coaches will not be contacted by the office in this case. **COACHES WILL ADVISE ALL THEIR TEAM PARENTS OF THIS CANCELLATION POLICY.**
  - c. Saturday games and practices will take place unless the coach is contacted by the HCPR staff.
  - d. Make-up game schedules will be issued as required.
28. INSTRUCTIONS TO REFEREES. The referees have been given the following instructions: the referees cannot call all the walking, double dribbling, lane violations, etc., which occurs because this would take away from the game. All that would be accomplished is taking turns at taking the ball out of bounds. If you take time to watch both teams, you will see that these violations could be called on nearly every team's possession. A referee will have to use judgment in determining how much of this to call – usually this is tied into the skill level of the player/team and how severe the occurrence is. The calls will get more frequent as the season progresses, but we will never reach the point where all are called. The referees are also to explain to players, whenever possible, and can also warn and show players what they are doing wrong before calling violations. On the other hand, the referees have been instructed to take a harder stance on rough play. They may reach a point that you may consider picky to keep the game under control. This is a result of past teams placing too much of an emphasis on stealing the ball. There is a major difference between playing defense on a player and constantly reaching in and over the player – you are going to end up with a lot more fouls than you are steals. The crowd has also played into this by constantly shouting for STEALING. There have been isolated cases in the past when coaches and/or parents have gone beyond the realm of what this League is intended. These people have gotten themselves caught up in the game to the point of yelling and complaining about officiating or yelling at their own or opposing players. **THIS CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Coaches or parents causing problems will be warned, and then if the problem continues, they will be asked to leave. If they refuse, or in severe cases, the game will be called off.
29. PROBLEM TO AVOID: When the parents start shouting instructions from the bleachers, the children quit listening to the coach and start listening to what their parents want them to do. This also adds pressure to the child's performance. **COACHES ARE ASKED TO TALK TO PARENTS ABOUT THIS PROBLEM.** We have had occasions when all five players were so intent on watching their

- parents the opposing team has taken the ball out of bounds and scored without being noticed by the players.
30. The HCPR provides scrimmage vests for the games. If a team wants to have game shirts it will be the **team's responsibility to obtain and pay for the shirts**. The decision was made by the HCPR staff to no longer provide game shirts in an effort to keep registration fees as low as possible.
  31. The HCPR does not provide trophies for any of its Pee-Wee and Youth Basketball Leagues. It does not pay for after-season parties. Participation certificates are available at the HCPR office and can be requested by the team coach for his/her team.
  32. The HCPR fully supports good, wholesome competition and the desire to excel. However, **THIS CANNOT MEAN WINNING AT THE EXPENSE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY**. All participants in the League are encouraged to constantly stress sportsmanship. If this is done, there will not be any real losers. **DO NOT OVEREMPHASIZE WINNING! !** Try to remember to let the kids enjoy themselves, because a game is intended to be fun and not a stress-filled experience. You will be teaching players to win if you teach them to always play to the full extent of their abilities. **COACHES WILL BE DISMISSED IF THEY FAIL TO FOLLOW THESE STANDARDS AND THOSE SET BY THE NYSCA TRAINING**. Sportsmanship extends off of the basketball court, too. Instruct your players in proper behavior in the restrooms, while changing clothes, at the water fountains, coming into and leaving the building, etc. There have been complaints on the language used by some, so try to curb this.
  33. Any questions concerning these rules can be brought to the HCPR Staff.
  34. **INSURANCE**: The HCPR carries liability insurance only. This covers if any HCPR facility or equipment is faulty. This policy does not cover people who are injured or property damaged while taking part in an HCPR league or program. This is the reason that the HCPR requires that all participants have signed accident waivers on file, which state that the HCPR will not be held responsible. Parents accept this responsibility upon signing the accident waiver.
  35. As a result of our concern for the safety of the children in our leagues we are asking that coaches make certain only parents/guardians or others authorized by parents/guardians on the participants registration form pick up children after games or practices. A sign out form will be available. Should any questions arise HCPR Staff will be available to assist. We realize that this is an added duty but we just can not be too safe in dealing with our children.