



# B O T E T O U R T

## Parks, Recreation & Tourism

### Youth Basketball Rules and Regulations

The purpose of Youth Recreational Athletic Leagues is to provide an enjoyable organized experience under capable adult supervision for youth in Botetourt County. The program is organized to promote sportsmanship, cooperation, and fair play at all times while developing knowledge and skills of the game.

The Botetourt County Youth Basketball Leagues are governed by the "**High School Federation**" and will apply except as modified herein.

Any team participating in leagues outside of Botetourt County will be required to adhere to that area's rules and regulations.

**Age Classification:** Playing age is that age attained by a player prior to September 30<sup>th</sup> of the current basketball season.

League	Ages	Ball Size	Length of Game
Instructional	6 only	27.0	Four (4) – eight minute quarters
Biddy	7 & 8	28.5	Four (4) – eight minute quarters
Pigtail & Pee Wee	9 & 10	28.5	Four (4) – ten minute quarters
Ponytail & Little	11 & 12	28.5 (Pony), 29.5 (Little)	Four (4) – ten minute quarters
Shag Girls	13-15	28.5	Four (4) – ten minute quarters
Junior Boys	13 & 14	29.5	Four (4) – ten minute quarters
Senior	15-18	28.5 (Girls), 29.5 (Boys)	Governed by separate regulations

#### **I. Player Eligibility**

- A. The eligibility age for participation is a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eighteen (18) years of age. Eighteen year olds must be enrolled in school.
- B. Players must be a Botetourt County resident or attend a Botetourt County Public School to be eligible to participate in any Botetourt County Youth Athletic League. If a player moves out of the county, they may continue to participate in the program until they age out, as long as their participation is continuous in that specific sport with no breaks between the age classifications.
- C. A child must play for the booster club that represents the elementary school district in which they live or school they attend.
- D. Players wishing to play when their designated club is not fielding a team may choose to play for the next nearest club that is fielding a team in that league.
- E. All players must be registered with the Recreation Department and/or Booster Club before he or she is allowed to practice or play in a game.

#### **II. Team Rosters**

- A. Rosters are limited to a maximum of ten (10) and a minimum of eight (8) players per team.
- B. Any booster club fielding more than one team per age group must place players on teams by using the County drafting procedures.
- C. Rosters will be due to the Recreation Department by the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the practice season. No roster additions will be accepted after rosters have been submitted to the Recreation Department. Exception: the player moves into the county after the roster deadline.

- D. Each registered player can only appear on one team roster, although players may be borrowed based on borrowing rule explained below. Transfer of players during the season is prohibited.
- E. All teams must be sponsored by an existing recreation club. Each club will be responsible for providing sign-up information, safe playing equipment, and securing coaches.
- F. A parent or guardian of each participant must initial and sign the Parents Code of Ethics before their child is eligible to participate in games. The signed Code of Ethics is only good for that sports season.
- G. Coaches must be certified through NYSCA (National Youth Sport Coaches Association) before he or she is allowed to coach a team during a practice or game. Certifications are current for one year from date the certification was received.
- H. Coaches must consent to a background screening and be cleared to coach before he or she is allowed to coach a team during a practice or game.
- I. Any coach found to be using an ineligible player may be suspended from coaching for a period of one year. The suspension is applicable to any and all sports from the date formal action was taken.

### **III. Children Playing Up**

- A. At the Booster Clubs discretion, children are allowed to be moved up in order to field a team in a given age group.
- B. The parent or guardian of a child who is in the upper age of an age group may also request to play up to the next age level by requesting such permission through the Booster Club. The Club will then make their recommendation to the Recreation Department, who will make the final determination. Once a player is moved up they may not move back down for the duration of the playing season.

### **IV. League Rules**

- A. Practice may begin the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October for Instructional and Bidy League and the 1<sup>st</sup> week in December for all winter leagues.
- B. Before games begin, a maximum of two (2) practice sessions per week, at 60 exclusive minutes per session.
- C. After games begin, a maximum of three (3) sessions per week.
- D. Two officials and two scorekeepers will be assigned per game for ages nine and up. Instructional and Bidy leagues will be scheduled one official and one scorekeeper.
  - 1. No team shall have the right to refuse an official or scorekeeper.
  - 2. One official shall be sufficient to play a game for Pigtail and Pee Wee Leagues.
- E. Officials and scorekeepers are authorized and required to enforce all rules and may order a player, coach or spectator to refrain from interfering with his/or her ability to administer these rules. The official has the authority to disqualify any player, coach or spectator from participating or observing the game for objecting to calls, using abusive language, improper gestures, physical contact or other unsportsmanlike conduct not specially listed in these rules.
- F. Instructional league will use a (27) size basketball. Bidy, Pee Wee, Pigtail, Ponytail and Shag Leagues will use an intermediate (28.5) size basketball. Little, Junior and Senior leagues will use a (29.5) regulation size basketball.
- G. Instructional and Bidy leagues will play on eight (8) foot goals.
- H. Uniforms must consist of matching jerseys with a number on the front and the back. No single digit can be larger than 5.
  - 1. Example: 55 is ok, 56 is not.
- I. If two teams have the same color jersey, the home team will be responsible for wearing mesh pullovers.
- J. Each coach must submit a line up card with players' names and numbers in numerical order to the scorekeeper ten minutes before scheduled start time.

- K. A team must have five (5) players to play a game.
- L. Teams will be given ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time to produce the minimum number of players to begin the game.
- M. **BORROWING RULE:** The intent of the Borrow Player Rule is to limit forfeits, not provide adequate substitutes.
  - 1. The Borrow Player Rule will limit teams to only borrowing up to two players per game in order to field a team of no more than 5 players.
  - 2. Teams needing to borrow 3 or more players will be forced to forfeit the game in question.
  - 3. The Borrow Player Rule is limited to **ONLY** borrowing players that are currently on an existing Botetourt County Youth Basketball Roster and must be of the same age group or below.
    - a. Example: A coach may not borrow a player from an older age group.
    - b. Example: A coach may not borrow a player that is not currently playing for a Botetourt County Rec team. (i.e., a coach **CANNOT** borrow a player from Roanoke or elsewhere in Botetourt if he/she isn't already playing on another Bot Co REC Team.)
  - 4. The Borrow Player Rule requires that the borrowed player wear their current uniform from their original team, so that all know who the borrow player is. A penny will be allowed over the uniform to prevent issues with a conflicting uniform color.
- N. Teams forfeiting two or more games may be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- O. Each team must be supervised by a certified coach of at least 18 years of age at all times while in gym for practice or games.
- P. A maximum of two (2) coaches are allowed on the team bench during games.
- Q. Coaches should remain seated at all times except to provide instruction to their players, to request a time out or to attend to an injured player after referee stops play. **Exception: 6U and 8U only – coaches may stand underneath the goal to instruct children during regular season games as long as their instruction does not interfere with the game in progress. During tournament play – 8U coaches will have to instruct from the bench.**
- R. The Recreation Dept. will handle all cancellations and makeup games will be determined and announced as needed.
  - 1. Games will only be rescheduled for teams falling under the number of 10 games.
  - 2. Teams are required to play games when school conflicts occur if sufficient numbers of players are available.
- S. When schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather, all games and practices will be cancelled. School closings or cancellations on Friday do not necessarily mean that gyms are closed on Saturdays.
- T. Game cancellation information can be obtained by calling 992-0012, after 4:00pm on weekdays and 7:30am on Saturdays.
- U. All jewelry is prohibited.

## **V. Game Play**

- A. Games shall consist of four (4) quarters with a five (5) minute halftime between the second and third quarters. Halftime may be reduced to 3 minutes if needed.
- B. Length of Quarters.
  - 1. Instructional & Bidly League- Four (4) - eight minute quarters with a running clock except timeouts and last two minutes of each half. Games will be scheduled every 60 minutes and includes a **10 minute pre-game practice** and 45 minute game. **Teams may waive pre-game practice but both teams must agree.**
  - 2. Pigtail / Pee Wee Leagues- Four (4)- ten minute quarters with a running clock except for timeouts and the last two minutes of each half.

3. Ponytail / Little / Junior and Shag Leagues- Four (4) - ten minutes quarters with a running clock except for timeouts and the last two minutes of each half.
  4. Senior Leagues governed by separate set of regulations
- C. Foul shots will be awarded as a one and one after a teams seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) and as two shots after a teams tenth (10<sup>th</sup>).
  - D. Instructional and Bidy League will shoot foul shots from the bottom of the foul circle.
  - E. Pigtail and Pee Wee Leagues will attempt foul shots from the foul line; however, momentum may carry them over the line.
  - F. Any shot attempted outside the three point line and made in Instructional, Bidy, Pigtail or Pee Wee Leagues will only count as two points.
  - G. Each team will be allowed three- one minute timeouts per game. Each team will be given one extra timeout in the event overtime occurs. There is no thirty-second timeouts in Botetourt County Leagues.
  - H. A mercy rule will take affect when a team reaches a 20 or more point lead at the start or anytime during the fourth quarter.
    1. A running clock for duration of quarter, stopping only for an official or coaches time out.
    2. The losing coach may request that the score be turned off. The clock will continue to be displayed. The official score will continue to be kept in the scorebook.
  - I. No score or standings will be kept for Instructional or Bidy leagues.
  - J. In the case of a tie at the end of regulation play, one extra 3 minute overtime (extension of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter-no running clock) will be played. If after 3 minutes, game is tied, GAME IS FINAL.
  - K. Pressing Rules for Instructional League.
    1. No full or half court pressing at any time.
    2. Line of defense is behind the three-point line. Once ball is crossed into three-point area, the defense may then play the entire half court.
    3. Technical foul after one warning.
  - L. Pressing Rules for Bidy League.
    1. No full or half court pressing at any time during the regular season.
    2. Line of defense is behind the three-point line. Once ball is crossed into three-point area, the defense may then play the entire half court.
      - a. **Note:** For tournament play only, the defense may press half court the last two minutes of each half if not ahead by ten or more points.
    3. Technical foul after one warning.
  - M. Pressing Rules for Pigtail and Pee Wee Leagues.
    1. May full court press the last two minutes of each half if not ahead by ten or more points.
    2. When ahead by 20 or more points, the winning team must drop back and play defense inside of the three-point area. Once ball is crossed into three-point area, the defense may then play the entire half court.
    3. Technical foul after one warning.
  - N. Pressing Rules for Ponytail, Little, Junior and Shag Leagues.
    1. May full court press at any time if not ahead by ten or more points.
    2. When ahead by 20 or more points, the winning team must drop back and play defense inside of the three-point area. Once ball is crossed into three-point area, the defense may then play the entire half court.
    3. Technical foul after one warning.
  - O. All Play Rule.
    1. A coach must substitute all players within the first and third periods.
 

**Exception:** A coach may remove a player in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the **first** quarter if they have received 4 fouls. They still must be put in and

play their required time in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the **third** quarter or until they foul out.

- a. Players 1-5 must play the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters.
  - b. Players 6-10 must play the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters.
  2. The first and third periods will be split in half and the horn will sound. The coach will have 15 seconds at the sound of the horn to insert substitutions. Substitutes must check in with scorekeeper.
  3. In the event a team has eleven or more players in attendance.
    - a. A coach may substitute the additional players at any time within the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> periods, providing they still receive their full allotment of consecutive paying time in each half.
    - b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters will be split to allow for the extra substitutions and to assure the players receive their required time.
  4. The split quarters will restart with an alternating possession jump ball.
  5. The opposing team will be awarded a technical foul shot for each player not playing ½ of a quarter within the first and second halves, subject to the player being present and on time at the start of the game.
- O. An opt-in season ending tournament will be offered for Bidy leagues and above.

#### **VI. Standings**

- A. Standings will be determined by the team's win/loss record.
- B. Medallions will be awarded to the team in first place in each division at the end of the regular season. In the event of a tie for first place, co-champion medallions will be awarded to each team that is tied.
- C. Tournament seeds will NOT be set by regular season standings. Seeds will be set by a blind draw.

#### **VII. Protest**

- A. Protests on a rule interpretation, not a judgment call must be filed with your athletic director who will then submit the protest in writing (within 48hrs of the game) to the Parks and Recreation Dept.
- B. A \$15.00 protest fee, which will be refunded if the protest committee upholds the protest, should accompany the following information: Date, time and location of game. Names of officials, scorekeepers, teams, coaches and others involved and the rule interpretation being protested, along with a detailed explanation of the circumstances.

#### **VIII. Sportsmanship**

- A. The purpose of the Youth Recreation league is to provide an enjoyable experience for each youth participant, while developing character, skills, sportsmanship, and to promote good will among all players, coaches, parents, officials and recreational staff.
- B. Any person involved in or taking part in any event, practice or game sponsored by the Recreation Department that damages or destroys property while using the facilities will be suspended indefinitely, and will be responsible for the cost of required repairs.
- C. Any coach found to be using illegal player, using an assumed name, falsifying a roster, or giving false information to an official or recreation department staff may result in the individual being suspended for up to one year. The suspension is applicable to all sports from the date of the suspension.
- D. Misconduct by players, coaches, spectators, officials, scorekeepers or supervisory personnel will not be tolerated. Misconduct can be defined as improper gesturing, aggressive verbal or physical contact and the use of alcohol, smoke or smokeless tobacco and illegal substances.
- E. Founded misconduct will result in the following actions and/or penalties:

#### NON-PHYSICAL MISCONDUCT

Any player, coach or spectator who gestures or verbally abuses an official, coach, player, spectator or supervisory personnel will be removed from the game and is subject, upon the written report, to suspension. If the official recommends suspension, Botetourt County Parks and Recreation Department will suspend the player, coach or spectator from one (1) to three (3) games or in severe cases, a ban from the league. A suspended player, coach or spectator is on probation for the period of one (1) year after the violation. Any further abuse will result in being banned from the league.

#### PHYSICAL MISCONDUCT

Any player, coach or spectator using aggressive or improper misconduct such as striking or pushing a player, spectator, official or supervisory personnel will be subject to being banned from the league. Any player, coach or spectator fighting among each other before, during or after a game or anytime on Botetourt County property will be banned from the league. The officials or recreation club's report will determine the length and severity of the penalty.

#### PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Any personnel such as officials, scorekeepers or supervisory personnel under the direction of the Botetourt County Parks and Recreation Department or a specific recreation club acting in an official capacity, must act in a professional, ethical or unbiased manner. They are also prohibited from misconduct of improper gestures, verbal or physical abuse. The penalty is automatic suspension or dismissal for as long as the Botetourt County Parks and Recreation Department deems necessary.

#### USE OF ALCOHOL, SMOKE OR SMOKELESS TOBACCO AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

It is misconduct for coaches, players, officials, recreation volunteers or Botetourt County employees to use any of the substances listed above in the presence of children. Penalty for using substances may result in suspension or being banned from the program.