

YOUTH BASKETBALL GUIDELINES: 1st/2nd Grade



The playing guidelines below are set forth for the Brooks Family YMCA Jr. NBA Youth Basketball League.

- Each team is required to provide a scorekeeper for their team for each game.
- Prior to the start of each game, players from both teams and coaches will join the referee at mid-court to recite the Player’s Creed.
- Players must wear their YMCA issued Jr. NBA jersey and non-marking sneakers to participate in games.
- Players must play only for the team they are assigned. Players that are not registered for the program cannot play or be used as a substitute for an absent player.

EQUIPMENT & COURT SPECIFICATIONS

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION
Size of Ball	Boys and Girls size 5 (27.5")
Height of Basket	8'
Size of Court	50' x 42'
Distance of 3-Point Arc	Not Applicable
Distance of Free Throw Line	14'

GAME STRUCTURE

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION
Game Length	Four 8-minute periods
Time Between Periods	1 minute
Extra Period(s)	2 minutes
Scoring	Free throw: 1 point, all field goals: 2 points, no 3-point field goals
Timeouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Two 60-second timeouts permitted in the first half of play. Two 60-second timeouts permitted in the second half of play <input type="checkbox"/> One 60-second timeout granted for each extra period <input type="checkbox"/> Unused timeouts may not carry over to the next half or into extra periods
Start of Game Possession	The “away” team is awarded possession and starts with throw-in at half court

GAME TACTICS

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION
Playing Time	Equal playing time
Set Defense	Only player-to-player defense throughout the competition
Pressing Defense	Pressing is not allowed throughout the competition
Double-Team/Crowding	Double-team/crowding is not allowed throughout the competition
Stealing from the Dribbler	Stealing from a dribbler is not allowed throughout the competition

HIGHLIGHTED GAME PLAY RULES

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION
Backcourt Timeline	Not applicable
Shot Clock	Not applicable
5 Seconds Closely Guarded	Not applicable
Clock Stoppage	On any dead ball
Length of Time for a Free-Throw	10 seconds
Number of Players Permitted on Free-Throw Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Offense may have 3 players on the lane, including the shooter <input type="checkbox"/> Defense may have 3 players on the lane
Substitutions	Substitutions take place at the mid-way point of each quarter
Advancement of Ball after a Timeout	Not applicable

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DEFINITIONS

Player-to-Player Defense

- ▶ Each player is responsible for guarding and moving with one offensive player. This requires the defensive player to move according to the offensive player's movements with or without the ball.
- ▶ The defensive player must stay on the same side of the court as the offensive player, divided by the rim line.
- ▶ If an offensive player with the ball advances past their defensive player, another defender may rotate to guard that offensive player.

Pressing Defense: Defensive guarding, either on or off the ball, within the backcourt.

Double-Team/Crowding: Two or more defensive players guarding a single offensive player.

RATIONALE

Distance of 3-Point Arc: For 1st/2nd grade, although the 3-point arc may exist on the floor, all baskets made beyond this arc only count as two points. Therefore, the distance of the line is not applicable for these age segments. Eliminating the 3-point basket will encourage players to shoot from within a developmentally-appropriate range.

Distance of Free Throw Line: 1st/2nd grade should take free throws 14 feet from the basket to develop proper form and increase success.

Height of Basket: Utilizing a lower basket height for 1st/2nd grade allows children to develop proper shooting form and increases the opportunity for shooting success.

Scoring: All field goals for 1st/2nd grade are worth two points to encourage children to shoot within a developmentally-appropriate range. This allows for proper mechanics and form. While these age segments may attempt a shot behind the 3-point arc, any field goal made behind the arc will only count as two points.

Size of Ball: A smaller basketball for the younger age segments is advised due to the size of a child's hand as well as their developing skill level. A smaller ball allows for better control and success.

Size of Court: For 1st/2nd grade, a 50'x 42' court is contemplated to be a cross-court game on a full-sized basketball court. This dimension is more appropriate for younger children based on their relative size in space.

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Start of Game Possession: For 1st/2nd grade, a coin flip will determine the team that will start with the ball to mitigate significant differences in height and coordination among children. Alternating possession rules will then ensue throughout the game.

Timeouts: Managing the way timeouts are called allows for better game flow and decision-making by the player(s).

Double-Team/Crowding: Crowding the ball with multiple players (referred to as “double-teaming”) is not allowed for 1st/2nd grade due to skill and size discrepancies among children at these ages.

Playing Time: To ensure that all young children participating in the sport have an opportunity to experience the game, equal and fair playing time is recommended for 1st/2nd grade. Equal and fair playing time is encouraged throughout all segments.

Pressing Defense: Pressing defense is prohibited for 1st/2nd grade to help children develop principles of movement with and without the ball in a half-court setting.

Set Defense: The player-to-player requirement for 1st/2nd grade encourages physical activity and movement, and promotes the development of individual skill related to guarding a player both on and off the ball.

Stealing from the Dribbler: In 1st/2nd grade, players are not allowed to steal the ball from an active dribbler. This allows ball-handlers to develop dribbling skills and confidence with the basketball.

Backcourt Timeline: Not having a timeline violation for 1st/2nd grade allows coaches to communicate to players before they reach half court. This assists coaches in teaching children, particularly for those first learning the game.

Clock Stoppage: Fewer clock stoppages for 1st/2nd grade allows for a better game flow.

Advancement of the Ball after a Timeout: For 1st/2nd grade, the focus is on development over strategy. Therefore, there is no pressing defense at this level, and the ball will not automatically advance after a timeout.

BROOKS FAMILY YMCA

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