



## Every Question You Could Possibly Ask about Basketball. 2023 Edition

### **Note about the 2023 season:**

We are making some changes to the 2023 season that hopefully will be for the better. First off, we are lowering the fees to play. Our fees are so low our competitors think we've gone crazy! Well, we have gone crazy! Crazy for low fees! But these deals can't last forever, so sign up now! Or at least by October 15<sup>th</sup>. More on that later.

We are also trying to move all of our first and second grade games to Saturday instead of Sunday afternoons. Not because of any expectations we have about the success of any local professional sports teams that play on Sunday, it's just simpler to get all the games done on the same day.

And, our season will be starting sooner and ending sooner than in years past. More on that below.

Now, on to the questions:

#### **1. Who are you?**

Me? My name is Gary Diehl and I am the Athletics Manager for the City. I run all the sports programs and have been doing this going on 13 years. Because of that I have probably been asked every possible question that can be asked – probably. So I put together this handy little guide to hopefully answer your questions in advance. So, let's go ...

#### **2. When does registration start and end?**

It's already started. Technically registration will close October 31<sup>st</sup>. But you'll want to register by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Read on.

#### **3. What does it cost to register?**

Here is what it USED to cost: Members: \$105, Residents: \$110, Non-residents: \$120  
Here is what it costs now: Members: \$85, Non-Members: \$105

But here is the good news: If you register on or before October 15<sup>th</sup> you'll get a \$20 discount. SO, Register on or before October 15<sup>th</sup> and the fees are: Members: \$65, Non-Members: \$85.

#### **4. Do you have to be a resident to play?**

Nope, everyone is welcome

#### **5. What are the age groups?**

Boys 1<sup>st</sup> grade

Boys 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Boys 3-4<sup>th</sup> grade

Boys 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade

Boys 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade

Boys 9-10<sup>th</sup> grade

Boys 11-12<sup>th</sup> grade (these are team registrations and the kids coach themselves)

Girls 1-2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Girls 3-4<sup>th</sup> grade

Girls 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade

Girls 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade (we do not always have a 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade girl's team)



**6. When do practices start?**

We are going to try for the week of November 14<sup>th</sup> but if we don't have enough coaches by then it may be later. Since our season is starting earlier, practices will as well.

**7. When and where are practices?**

Coaches pick their own practice times. There is a section on the registration form asking for conflicts you may have. We try to put you on a team that does not practice on your conflict days but that is not always possible. Practices are held at the Broadview Heights Rec Center.

**8. Do practices continue once the games start?**

For a while but probably not all season.

**9. When does the season start and end?**

This is new. The season will probably begin the weekend of December 10<sup>th</sup> maybe the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The season ends Mid-February.

**10. When and where are the games?**

Part of this is new. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade games will now be on Saturdays. Boys and Girls 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade games will also take place Saturdays at the rec center with the younger ages starting at 9:00 AM and games running through 7:00 or 8:00 PM.

Boys 9<sup>th</sup> /10<sup>th</sup> grade leagues play Friday nights.

Boys 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> grade league plays Friday nights.

**11. I want my child to play in a different league. How do I go about doing that?**

The ONLY reason, let me repeat, the ONLY reason you should be requesting to play in a different league is because of your child's skill (or lack thereof). Carpooling, convenience, to play with siblings, to play with neighborhood kids or to play for a particular coach are NOT valid reasons for a league change. If that is the case, you must fill out a league change form. An online version of that form is located here:

<https://broadview-heights.org/FormCenter/Parks-Recreation-4/League-Change-Form-57>

League changes are not guaranteed and players playing in the age appropriate league will get priority over kids asking to play in a different league.

NOTE: If you fill out a league change form requesting that your child be moved up because of his or her skill level, and conveniently that happens to be the same league as his or her sibling, or car pool pal, or neighbor, and it turns out that the player's skill level is NOT the same as the players in that league, that player will be moved back down to where they belong. It is not fair to the other players on the team to have to play with a player whose skill level is not on par with the other players in the league simply because it's convenient for the family.



**12. Oops! I forgot to register before the deadline. What do I do now?**

First, make sure you are on a wait list. You can register on the wait list online if you have ever registered for anything here before.

Then, keep your fingers crossed that there are openings on teams after the registration ends. If there are, we can get you on. If not, you have to wait until someone drops out, breaks a leg, or moves out of town. It does happen.

It is also highly unlikely you will be able to request to play on a particular team if you register late. Take home message: Don't register late!

**13. My child is trying out for a school or travel team and we won't know if he made until after your registration deadline. What do we do?**

You need to register before the deadline to be guaranteed a spot of a rec team if he does not make the school or travel team. Notify us when you find out and we will issue a refund if he made the team.

**14. What is the maximum number of players on a team?**

Double the number of players on a side.

Most teams will have 10. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teams will have 8. New this year is that 9-10<sup>th</sup> graders will be playing 4v4.

**15. When will I hear from a coach?**

Before Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> I hope, maybe sooner. If we do not have enough coaches in the age group however, it may be later as I won't release rosters until I have all the coaches.

**16. I have not heard from my coach yet and I am freaking out!**

Try not to freak out. It will be OK. I'll try to let everyone know when to expect to hear from a coach. If you haven't heard from your coach by the time practices start, you can freak out and email me. [GDiehl@broadview-heights.org](mailto:GDiehl@broadview-heights.org). Email is a lot quicker and easier than calling me by the way.

**17. I indicated that my child cannot practice on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and now I see she has practice on Wednesday. What's up with that?**

Although we do have a place on the registrations for practice conflicts, sometimes there is only so much we can do. We try to avoid conflicts but do not always have a team that practices on the most convenient day for a player, particularly when they have multiple days of the week that are conflicts. Sometimes there are conflicts that just can't be avoided.

**18. How long are games?**

Games start on the hour or half hour. Most games play 4 x 8 minute quarters.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders play 8 x 4 minute periods.



**19. When will game schedules be available?**

Late November? If we are dependent upon other communities we are playing with it's hard to say.

**20. Where are the game schedules?**

I don't know yet, that is still up in the air.

NOTE: Game schedules are subject to change for a variety of reasons. Always check with your coach about your upcoming game.

**21. What does my child need for basketball?**

Just tennis/basketball shoes. If you spent a bunch at the orthodontist, maybe a mouth guard. If he/she wears glasses, a strap is a good idea.

**22. When will uniforms be ready?**

Usually a week or so before the season starts. Coaches will be told when uniforms are ready and will distribute them to their teams.

**23. What do I do if the uniform is the wrong size?**

Bring it to the rec center and they will swap it out for one that fits.

**24. When is picture day?**

Usually mid-January. Your pictures will take place before your games on that day. There is not a make-up day.

**25. What do I do if we are out of town that day?**

Contact the photographer and ask if there they have any other sessions nearby where you can go to get your individual pictures. If you are not there the day of your team pictures there is no way to reshoot them.

**What about earrings and jewelry?**

Almost certainly someone will show up week one with earrings. She (or I suppose he) cannot play with earrings. There is no way around it. They have to come out, even if they were just pierced. No, you cannot put tape over them. I have actually seen a kid's ear get ripped up because she was wearing earrings. It was gross.

And why isn't this question numbered like the rest? I don't know. It's a Microsoft Word thing and I couldn't figure it out.

**26. Do we get trophies/medals at the end of the season?**

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders get ~~participation medals~~ commemorative medallions, they are NOT participation medals! The other leagues get season champ trophies. We used to give out runner up trophies, but realized that "runner up" is just the first loser. So no runner up trophies.



**27. Is there an end of season tournament?**

Oh boy, I'm going to get some heat over this one. NO. Most communities around us have come to the realization that end of season tournaments are not worth the hassle. It is almost always during these tournaments that coaches and parents lose their minds over winning a tournament and a \$3.00 plastic trophy. For four years straight we had coaches try to get creative with the rules to win a tournament, usually by not playing his worst player or in once case not telling the worst player that they had a game that day. Then they get caught and have to forfeit the game and the parents start yelling at me saying "Why are you penalizing the kids because the coach cheated?" What? You don't think that they won the game BECAUSE the coach cheated? Really? Sorry, this kind of stuff burns me up. Just have fun, it's rec league basketball.

**28. Do you ever cancel games because of the weather?**

Not usually but it does happen. If the city says to stay off the roads we will cancel but otherwise games are always on.

**29. I want my child to play for a specific coach.**

Don't ask. Please don't ask. And coaches, don't send me a list of players that you want on your team. I know, I know, he's played for coach so and so for years and he will be devastated if he doesn't get him this year. Well, what if that coach isn't coaching this year? What if he moved away? You have no idea how many times I hear the word "devastated" in conjunction with a child's placement on a particular team. Really? "Devastated?"

**30. OK then smart guy, how ARE teams made up?**

It's tough. You are not allowed to request to play for a coach and a coach cannot request players. But your child wants to play with his buddies, one of whom is the coach's child. So 9 kids all request the coach's child (thinking that I am so dumb I don't see what is going on here).

But the thing is, you also want all the teams to be even. But all your child's buddies are in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and the league is made up of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders and there is an opposing team made up of all 6<sup>th</sup> graders who all requested to play with that coach's kid. So you complain, "Hey that team is all sixth graders and ours is all fifth graders. Not fair!" But you all wanted to play together, so the math just doesn't work out.

Oh, and then a third of your team can't practice on Mondays and Wednesdays and another third of them can't practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the final third of your team can't practice after 6:00 PM on any night. AND, everyone must play on the same team with so and so because of ride sharing, even though you live on complete opposite sides of the city.

One year we tried to not allow any request. A mob of pitchfork and torch wielding angry youth sports parents then stormed the rec center demanding my head on a pike. So yea, it's tough. All I can say is we do the best we can and try to make everyone happy which I know is a fool's errand.



**31. The blue team is made up of all sixth graders and ours is all fifth graders, that's not fair!**

See above

**32. That other team is stacked! It's not fair!**

There is a longer answer to that question located here:

<https://broadview-heights.org/DocumentCenter/View/6217/These-Teams-Are-Not-Fair>

**33. Why don't you do a skills evaluation before the season?**

We used to. It didn't work. Only about a 5<sup>th</sup> of the kids showed up. Bear in mind we have over 600 kids in the program to evaluate. And they want to play with their friends.

**34. Why don't you have coaches rate their players after the season?**

We used to. It didn't work. Not all the coaches would do it and the ones that did evaluated their best players low so they could get them back and their worst players high so they would be put on another team.

**35. Why don't you just (insert whatever good intentioned suggestion you have about how to do it better here)?**

I know you're trying to help and occasionally people do come up with some good ideas that we implement. So, thank you.

**36. My son or daughter wanted to play with friends and will be absolutely devastated if that doesn't happen.**

There is that word again, "devastated." We are usually able to put kids together who want to play together. But not always. If it is going to be a problem I will usually contact the parents ahead of time and try and address it.

**37. We specifically indicated that we wanted to play with this friend and that friend and I just heard from a coach and we are NOT on the team that we specifically requested to be on. Why bother to ask if you are not going to honor our request. I am so angry right now and I want a full refund plus an additional 20% as punitive damages.**

People always use the word "specifically" when they are really mad. Like was stated above, we try to put kids together and make all the world a happy place. But it is not always possible. Often people don't "specifically" make a request and then later decide they want to play on a certain team. Something that we should have psychically known somehow beforehand. If we know what you wanted and can make it happen, we will. If we can't, sorry, but we just can't for whatever reason. But we will never offer a refund because a player didn't get on a team they wanted.



## Things Basketball Coaches (or Potential Coaches) Might Ask

### **I volunteered to coach, why did I do that?**

Because you are a wonderful parent and you and your child will cherish this time for the rest of your lives. And you get a free coaches shirt!

### **What is involved in coaching?**

Typically there is one practice per week lasting about an hour. Before the season begins sometimes we have extra practice time available on weekends. Then one game a week once the season starts.

It helps if you know a little something about basketball but it is not absolutely necessary. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are pretty easy to coach, just focus on the basics. Same goes for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders for the most part.

Through our partnership with the Cleveland Cavaliers we have a lot of coaching resources and we also try to provide you with as much info as possible.

Don't hesitate to coach because you don't know a lot about basketball. We'll help you.

### **I travel for work, can I get a practice time that fits my schedule?**

Probably. You pick your own practice times and coaches who have time and day constraints usually get priority for specific days.

### **My Neighbor, Friend, Brother, Conjoined Twin and I want to coach together. Can we do that?**

Sure

### **Do we get game balls?**

No. All the balls will be provided at the rec center for games and practices.

### **Do we get cones?**

No

### **Do you have pinnies we can use for practices?**

I used to. But I gave them to coaches to use at practices. Now I don't have them anymore. So no. Fun Fact though: Pinnie is actually short for Pinafore which is a sleeveless apron like garment.

### **What size balls do we use**

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders use 27.5 balls  
3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders use 28.5 balls  
9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders use regulation balls



**What are the rules?**

Each league has specific rules for the age group. Those rules will be posted online somewhere but I'm not sure where yet as our website has changed some.

If a rule is not addressed in the league specific rules we follow Ohio High School rules.

**Where can I get a copy of the rules?**

Same as above. Sit tight and I'll get them to you soon.

**I don't like the rules. Can I change them?**

No.

**How do I reschedule a game?**

You don't. We cannot reschedule games.

**Can I have an extra practice?**

Maybe. Practice space is really tight. There may be some extra time available but we won't know that until we know how many teams we have and when they are practicing.

**The Browns are playing in the Super Bowl, but we have a game scheduled during that time. What do we do?**

I originally put this in here as a joke a few years ago. Now I'm thinking it may not be a joke anymore. So, this may be the only reason we would postpone games. Hopefully we will have to!

**I want to yell at the referee. Can I?**

No. Absolutely not. I will have a lot more to say about this as the season approaches.

**How many coaches can I have on the bench?**

There is to be only the head coach and one assistant and the assistant needs to stay seated during play.

**What if our jerseys are the same color as our opponents?**

Ask me for pinnies. The home team has to change color if they are the same. But make sure I get them back because they're expensive.

**What is Gary Diehl's home address so I can go to his house and yell at him?**

It's easier to just send me a nasty email. I have a file for them.

And remember, it's a recreational basketball league for kids. It's just for fun. Enjoy it! Thanks!