

Elementary Basketball

League Guidelines

Updated 11/09/2023

Philosophy

School District #11's Elementary School Basketball League strives to provide an opportunity for all interested students to discover and grow within the sport. Students will compete at a level that is developmentally appropriate for most and in an atmosphere that strives for an overall positive experience for the student.

Goal

Provide an opportunity for all interested students to learn the basics, to develop skills and create a desire to continue to play basketball in the future within a developmentally appropriate arena.

League Divisions

Competitive

- For those schools who have the majority of their team with prior competitive experience and are focused on playing basketball at the highest level. If the numbers support it, the preference is that teams are divided by gender.

Developmental

- For schools that are focused on developing skills towards the competitive level, but student experience level is not as developed at the competitive level, yet. Teams should be divided by gender but can be coed and divided by ability. Coaches will make the determination based on the pool of students that participate.

Instructional

- For schools whose players are interested in basketball, but the majority do not have any prior game knowledge. Focus will be on experiencing the basics of the game and improving those skills necessary to play the game of basketball (I.e., dribbling without traveling, no double-dribbling, shooting with proper form, etc.). Teams will be coed and scorekeeping is optional.

Season

- The season will be up to 8 weeks long, to include practices and games.
- Practices will occur starting no earlier than the students' first day of second semester, on student contact days only.
- Practices – Teams will practice two times per week minimum before games start and once per week minimum once games start.
- There will be 6 -8 games per season starting on the third week of the season.
- Teams are allowed one non-scheduled scrimmage per season.

Team Makeup

- A minimum of 10 students on the roster per team with a recommended maximum of 12 players.
- Open primarily to 5th and 4th grade students. Special exceptions can be made for 3rd and/or 2nd grade students if there are not enough 4th and 5th graders. The opportunity should not be taken away from a 4th or 5th grader by a lower grade student.
- Schools competing in the Competitive and Developmental divisions should make every attempt to field a boys and a girls team. Based on the circumstances, teams can be: Boys/girls, Coed or a combination.
- Instructional League teams must be coed.

Team Selection

- There can be up to 3 hours of try-outs total prior to the start of the season.
- Try-outs can occur in the month of December or upon returning from Winter Break.
- Coaches will create a rubric or point system that will be available upon request.

Ball Size

- All teams will utilize an intermediate ball 28.5"

Hoop Height

- Hoop will be at 10' or nearest fixed height.

Uniforms

- All players will be in a similarly colored uniform (T-shirt, jersey or penny)
- Competitive and Developmental league will have numbers if available.

Coaching Requirement

- Coaches must be a D11 employee to receive a stipend.
- Coaches may choose to have volunteer coaches; those coaches must complete the online Volunteer Registration Process and the building principal must approve the volunteer coach. Volunteer coaches may not be alone with students unless they have completed the extensive background check.

Scheduling of Games

- Coaches must attend the scheduling meeting and scheduling of games between schools **cannot** occur prior to the meeting.
- Coaches will designate the league they will participate in.

League Rules

Timing

- Warm up (10 minutes) on ½ of the court
- Quarters (8-minute running clock)
- Substitutions at 4:00 (30 seconds)
- Half time (3 minutes)
- Between games (10 minutes)
- Time outs (two 60 second timeouts per half)
 - Official time out for line change
- Extra Periods (One 2 Minute OT)

Game Play

- Any game where there is a clear discrepancy in ability teams should play at a level that keeps the game competitive for both teams.
- Coaches will adjust the lineup to encourage the development of both teams rather than a blowout game.

Defense

- Defense must be man to man, players can switch but there will be no Zone Defense.
- No double teaming/trapping (defensive players may switch)
- Defensive players cannot attempt to take the ball from a player who is in possession of the ball and not dribbling (the non-dribbling player should pass or initiate a dribble within 5 seconds)
- Defensive play will be hands up/ hands out, no reaching in.
- A defender may not reach in on a dribbling player they may use their body to impede progress of the dribble.
- No Press, defense may only occur on the defending half of the court.
 - Once a defensive player gains possession the team that lost possession must retreat to defend their basket.

Officiating

- Every attempt to secure an official for Competitive and Developmental games will be made.
- If a certified official cannot be secured then coaches will officiate.

- Officiating will be focused on safety of the players with a developmentally appropriate focus on game rules.
- Before each game the officials and coaches must have a pregame meeting.

Back Court violation

- In gyms where each half of the court significantly smaller than a traditional court grace will be given on back court calls.
- Coaches and officials can designate an official back court line other than half court.

Shots that hit the ceiling

- In schools that have low ceilings a shot that hits the ceiling will not result in a turnover, play will continue.

Three Second Rule

- The three second rule in the lane will not be enforced.

Fouls

- Fouls will not be tracked during the game.
- Players committing fouls should be talked to by the official or coach.
- If a player is repeatedly committing fouls they should be subbed out of the game.
- If the opposing coach has a concern with a player committing fouls, they should call timeout and bring up the concern to the other coach and/or official who will then address the concern.
- If a player continues with to foul after being addressed one-and-one shooting opportunities should be given.

Free Throws

- During a free throw players may move following the release from the shooter's hands.
- Shooter must start behind the line at the start of the shot.
- A line closer than 15 feet may be used, coaches will agree prior to the game.

Keeping Score

- Score will be kept until there is a 20 lead, additional points scored by the lead team will not be added unless the lead drops below a 20 point lead.

Additional Information

Pregame

- Prior to each game the pregame announcement will be read along with the pledge or national anthem.

Player seating

- One side of the court should be reserved for player seating

Spectator Seating

- To the best ability of the venue seating and spectators should be kept to the sidelines.
- There will be **no chairs on the end lines**
- There will be **no spectating from the end-lines directly beyond the key, under the basket area.**

Player Expectations

- During the game athletes, are expected to conduct themselves with the utmost integrity and sportsmanship. This includes, but is not limited to, respectful behavior toward all opposing team members, officials, and other adult support staff. The expectation is that all participants will be courteous, honest, and maintain the integrity of the sport
- While on the bench athletes will support the players on the court and cheer the accomplishments made while refraining from coaching fellow players, questioning the officials calls, or criticizing the actions of players on the court.
- Players are expected to attend school for at least ½ of the school the day on the day of the game.
- Students who are suspended from school are not eligible to participate in practices or contests and should not be on any D11 campus.

Coach Expectations

- All coaches will exhibit the highest standards of sportsmanship and fair play, thus being positive role models for their athletes. Each coach will ensure that they and their teams exhibit the highest qualities of sportsmanship at all times.
- When officials are present, coaches will coach their team. They will not officiate from the sidelines, question, or try to influence the calls made by the officials.
- If the coach has a question of safety for players based on the officiating, they will call a time out. All other questions or concerns about officiating will be addressed at stopping points in the game.

Spectator Expectations

- While in attendance, spectators are expected to conduct themselves with the utmost integrity and sportsmanship. This includes, but is not limited to, respectful and courteous behavior toward all players, officials, fellow spectators and other adult support staff.
- Remain in designated viewing areas and refrain from impeding play or causing an unsafe situation with their viewing location.
- Realize that the goal of the league is to provide an opportunity for all interested students to learn the basics and to develop skills, spectators are not essential for this to occur and if an individual's presence impedes the game they may be removed.
- No intentional distraction during free throws, silence is not required.
- Spectators who cannot follow the league expectations will be asked to leave the event, those asked to leave the event will face a 365 day suspension from attending D11 athletic events.

Code of Conduct for Parents and Spectators

In order to establish a positive, sportsmanlike atmosphere at District Eleven events parents and all other spectators must:
Therefore, parents and all other spectators must:

- ◆ Remain in the designated viewing areas during competitions.
- ◆ Refrain from coaching athletes from the stands during games to allow players to hear their coach and maintain focus.
- ◆ Maintain self-control at all times.
- ◆ Encourage & model sportsmanlike conduct by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators.
- ◆ Respect the judgment of coaches and game officials.
- ◆ Refrain from disrespectfully addressing, attempting to influence a decision or indicating objection to official's decision
- ◆ Refrain from any booing, taunting, degrading comments, profane language or gestures.
- ◆ Expect your child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect both in person and online.
- ◆ Praise athletes, including your own, for their efforts and accomplishments, not their faults.
- ◆ Inform and monitor friends of the family or family members who are in attendance of these expectations.
- ◆ Know the rules of the contest (visit <https://www.d11.org/Page/18571> to view handbooks)
- ◆ Take 24 hours to reflect before contacting coach or AD with a concern. It is not appropriate to confront an official, coach or school administrator before, during or after a contest.
- ◆ Remember that children participate for the love of the game and to have fun and that the game is for youth- not for adults.

Colorado Springs School District 11 Fan Behavior Policy

Colorado Springs School District 11 and the Colorado High School Activities Association are committed to good sportsmanship, safety, and fair play. We believe respect for the opposing team, all coaches, game officials, and each other before, during, and at each contest is of the utmost importance. People participating in acts that conflict with good sportsmanship, safety, and fair play, are subject to ejection from our events and prosecution if appropriate. If you are asked to leave a District 11 contest, further actions will be taken, including suspension from future athletic events. Thank you in advance for making our events enjoyable for all parties. Your cooperation is appreciated, and we hope you enjoy our contests.

Data from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and the Colorado High School Activities Association shows that poor fan behavior is the leading cause of the national officials shortage. In Colorado Springs School District 11, we are taking a firm stance regarding poor fan behavior, and we will be a part of the officials shortage solution rather than continue to be a part of the problem.

If a fan and/or spectator is asked to leave a D11 contest by an official, administrator, or staff member for any reason, that fan will be suspended from D11 events for one calendar year, 365 days. If a suspended fan and/or spectator would like to appeal the suspension, they may call 719-520-2690 and set up an appeals meeting with the District's Director/Assistant Director of Athletics, the building-level athletic director, and the school's principal.

ANY PARENT OR SPECTATOR EJECTED FROM A CONTEST FOR COMMITTING AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACT SHALL BE INELIGIBLE TO ATTEND ANY FURTHER GAMES FOR 365 DAYS. ANY SPECTATOR IN ATTENDANCE TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WHO GETS EJECTED MAY JEOPARDIZE YOUR ABILITY TO REMAIN AT THE GAME OR ATTEND THE NEXT CONTEST.

Student Name _____

School _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____



Elementary Basketball

Pre-game Announcement

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to School .

Our goal for this event is to have the best possible experience for the players no matter the score.

As spectators and athletes, we would like to remind you this is a learning experience, which encourages participation by all players in a positive atmosphere.

Please realize that our league expectations may not align with yours, we ask that you enjoy the athletes' opportunity to participate and respect the efforts of the coaches and officials even if you do not agree with them.

Please remember that your actions, words, or behavior should only have a positive impact on players, coaches, officials and fellow spectators.

Please stand for the pledge/National Anthem

Good luck to both teams and enjoy the evening.