



SOUTH MILWAUKEE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

3RD – 8TH GRADE REC BASKETBALL

2026-27 LEAGUE RULES AND GUIDELINES

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & POLICY

This instructional program allows players to have fun while learning and developing skills. This program's primary objective is to offer boys and girls an opportunity to participate and enjoy a recreational experience in a healthy competitive setting. Emphasis is placed upon participation, character development, good sportsmanship, and enjoyment.

REGISTRATION AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A team must have a minimum of 6 players listed on its original team roster. Every player must be properly registered and pay the appropriate registration fee. A Concussion Form must be signed/submitted for a player to be eligible to play. This registration fee is not transferable or refundable.

New players may be added to rosters after the deadline, provided there is room on a roster. The Recreation Department will approve all roster additions. Non-residents are eligible to participate in this program and will pay the NR fee.

If, at any time during the season, a player is expelled or suspended from school or is medically excused from PE class, this player will automatically become ineligible to participate in practices or games. The coach must receive a written note from the PE teacher or school administrator to reinstate the player. The player will be reinstated when returning to school.

A player may not play on more than one (1) team.

Only registered coaches and players may be on the bench.

COACHES

All coaches serve in a voluntary capacity.

It is the coach's responsibility to be acquainted with all the rules and regulations and to inform the players and parents of these rules and regulations as set forth in the following pages.

A coach or adult assistant (18 years of age or older) must be present with their team at all team practices and games.

The coach of record must be 18 years of age or older and out of high school. Each coach must know all the league and playing rules. Coaches must complete an application form, pass the background check, and then submit the coach's concussion agreement form before coaching at practice and games.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of players and parents during practices and games and must cooperate in ensuring that spectators do not interfere with the conduct of the game.

Only approved coaches will be allowed on the bench during the game. Only the head coach may stand during the game while coaching the team. Negative comments towards the officials, staff, players or spectators will not be tolerated—if this occurs the coach is given a warning and told to sit. A second offense will result in ejection.

Coaches are reminded that their place is with their team on the team bench. One (1) coach may stand (within the bench area) and provide instructions to players but may not harass officials. Once a coach is warned

about unsportsmanlike behavior, he or she and all other coaches must remain sitting on the team bench for the remainder of the game. Coaches and players must abide by the program rules.

OFFICIALS

Game officials will be in complete charge during a game and are given express authority to remove a player or coach who, in their judgment, is unsportsmanlike in his/her conduct. Officials have been instructed to deal harshly with profanity and unsportsmanlike conduct.

GYM SUPERVISORS

The gym supervisor has the authority to do whatever he or she deems necessary to keep things under control and may eject any coach, player, or spectator or forfeit the game at any time if circumstances warrant.

LEAGUE STANDINGS AND AWARDS

League standings will be kept and posted online. League awards will NOT be presented. However, in the season-ending Schmidt Tournament, 1st and 2nd place medals will be awarded.

GRACE PERIOD & FORFEITS

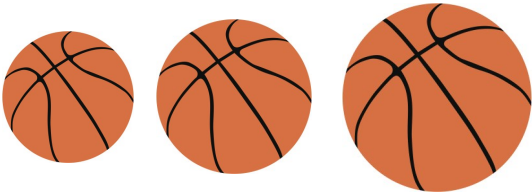
A team will be given a five (5)-minute grace period without penalty. When a team cannot field a team of 5 players after 5 minutes after the regularly scheduled game time, a forfeit will be declared; however, all players present should combine to form two teams to play a scrimmage game. Any team that accrues two forfeits may be dropped from the league.

TEAM DISBANDED OR DROPPED

In case a team disbands or is dropped before the season’s schedule is completed, all eligible remaining players will be assigned to a team by the Recreation Director, provided there are openings.

POSTPONEMENTS

The Recreation Department positively does not permit the postponement of a game nor any schedule adjustments after the official schedule have been printed. Postponements will **NOT** be granted. Also, games canceled due to weather, or any other condition will **NOT be rescheduled**.



Division	Free Throw Line	Basketball Size
3 rd & 4 th Grade	12' Optional	Junior 27.5"
5 th & 6 th Grade	15'	Regulation 28.5"
7 th & 8 th Grade	15'	Regulation 29.5"

FREE THROWS

Ten (10) Second Time Limit for Free Throws will be in effect. Violation will result in the opposing team getting the ball.

LENGTH OF GAME

All grades will play eight (8) minute quarters. There will be one (1) minute between quarters and three (3) minutes between halves. A running clock will be in effect, stopping only for time-outs and for substitution. The clock will run during free throws and will operate according to regulation rules during the last **30 seconds of each quarter**.

TIME-OUTS AND OVERTIME

Each team is allowed two (2) one-minute time-outs per half. Timeouts do not carry over from the first half to the second half.

If the game is tied at the end of regulation play, a two (2) minute overtime period will be played. The overtime period will begin with a jump ball. We will repeat the 2-minute overtime period until a winner emerges. Each team is entitled to a one (1) minute overtime time-out. Carryover timeouts from the regulation game may NOT be used.

OFFICIAL RULES

Other than the exceptions herein stated, - the official WIAA Basketball Rules and the South Milwaukee Recreation Department Rules will govern the league and tournament play. We recommend all coaches have the rulebook.

DEFENSE—3rd - 4th GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS LEAGUES

Players must play a **man-to-man defense** all four quarters (the entire game). After a change of possession or out-of-bounds play, players must drop back to half-court. Pressing will only be allowed in the final minute of the game; however, pressing is not allowed when a team has a 10 - or more-point lead.

DEFENSE—5th - 6th GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS LEAGUES

Players must play a man-to-man defense during the first half. Any type of defense is allowed during the 2nd half. After a change of possession or out-of-bounds play, players must drop back to half-court. Pressing will only be allowed in the final minute of the game; however, pressing is not allowed when a team has a 10 - or more-point lead.

DEFENSE—7th & 8th GRADE BOYS & GIRLS LEAGUE

Any type of defense is allowed, but pressing is not allowed when a team has a 10 - or more-point lead.

MAN-TO-MAN GUIDELINE

To assist you and help you better understand man-to-man defense, the following principles and guidelines will apply:

- Each player must guard another player. As a rule, double-teaming will not be allowed.
- It is the intent of the Recreation Department to include all players on the court in both the offense and defense.
- Clear-out plays that isolate certain players or involve only 2 players is a violation.
- Switching may occur, but double-teaming may not. For example, a player may switch with another defensive player if one is being screened or loses control of the person, he/she is guarding. The key is that no one player with or without the ball may be double-teamed. Coaches must find the time at practice to teach this procedure.
- A player may temporarily leave the player they are guarding to help-out on a drive or block a shot.
- Officials will enforce the man-to-man rule.

1. **DRESS & UNIFORMS** (Players should have the (uniform t-shirts w/numbers) by the 1st game of the season. Players must wear gym trunks and a suitable numbered T- shirt (jersey) while competing in the basketball program. All players must wear tennis shoes.
2. *The following numbers are legal: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 00, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, and 55.*

COACH SUPERVISION

Coaches must remain with their team during all practice sessions and league games.

During practice and league games all school rules will be in effect and must be enforced without exception. Do not permit the players to roam through the building. You have been granted permission to use the gym area only. All coaches who use public school facilities for practice are again reminded that they should exercise extreme care and thoroughness before leaving the gym after practice. Please double check and make sure your gym and building are completely secure - doors and windows must be locked, and all lights turned off.

CONDUCT, ACTION, DISCIPLINE AND SUSPENSION

- It shall be the responsibility of the manager/coach to control the actions of his/her players on the bench and on the court. Managers, coaches and players are responsible for their conduct from the time they reach the gym until they leave.
- Only official members of a team are to sit on the bench; this includes coaches and players.
- The head coach shall be the only person to confer with an official on a disputed play. Such conferences must be kept to a minimum and be conducted in a sportsmanlike manner. Keep in mind that constant arguing, harassment or intimidation will not be tolerated and could mean ejection and suspension.
- When an official requests the name of a particular player due to ejection from a game, the coach is required to comply with the official's request. The penalty for not supplying such information to the referee or Recreation Department may be suspension for the coach.
- Teams who are warming up to play the next game will position themselves in such areas that will not disrupt the course of the game being played, and they definitely will keep all balls from going onto the court while another game is in progress. Teams warming up must make a special effort not to harm spectators or other players.

AN OFFICIAL MAY ORDER THE EJECTION OF A SPECTATOR OR PARTICIPANT FOR:

- Prolonged disputing of an official's decision.
- Protesting a decision in an unsportsmanlike or disorderly.
- Making oral threats to do physical harm to anyone.
- Making any physical contact with an official (touching, grasping, shoving, striking, assaulting);
- Fighting with player(s) coaches, spectators, staff and any other action deemed detrimental to the conduct of the game.

DISCIPLINE GUIDELINE AND SUSPENSIONS

- If any player or coach receives **two (2) Unsportsmanlike Technical Fouls**, that player or coach is ejected from the game and will have a **one (1) game suspension**.
- If any coach or player receives one (1) flagrant Technical Foul, that individual will be ejected from the game and serve a two (2) game suspension. Second offense: one (1) year suspension.
- With excessive unsportsmanlike conduct coaches or players will be suspended for more than (1) game.
- Those using physical force and/or fighting may be suspended up to one (1) year.
- Two (2) ejections during the season will result in a 3 game suspension. This will carry over into the next season.
- A suspended player cannot be active until such suspension is lifted.
- **A suspended player cannot be on the team bench** or have any voice in running the team. A suspended **person may not even be allowed in the school or gym until the suspension is completed**
- If a player continues to play or is an active participant in any way, further disciplinary action will be taken. If a coach has knowledge of such suspension, he/she is also subject to disciplinary action.
- Any coach or player who accumulates four (4) technical fouls for unsportsmanlike conduct during the season will be suspended for three (3) consecutive games.
- The coach is responsible for the team's action. He or she will be approached by the referee and address any issues. If the team receives two (2) technical fouls, the game will be forfeited and he or will serve a one (1) game suspension.
- The Recreation Director can discipline and suspend without recourse any participant for the following reasons: use of an ineligible player, fraudulent player registration, fraudulent contract registration, and failure to return equipment upon demand by the coach or sponsor.

SUBSTITUTION RULE

Substituting correctly is the responsibility of the coach.

Playing Time:

Every player plays an equal amount of time based upon the attached substitution rule.

Suggestion:

Have a scripted substitution plan for playing time before the game - this is especially helpful if you are new to coaching. Even with coaching experience, scripted playing time can be beneficial. Coaches at all levels use this idea and it will help you focus on coaching and teaching players. Your scripted substitution plan will help keep playing times even – all players must play an equal amount of time if possible.

Substitution Clarification:

- The 4-minute Substitution Rule intends to allow coaches with more than 10 players a better chance of giving these players more playing time. The 4-minute substitution rule is **OPTIONAL**, but must be initiated prior to the game starting.
- The team initiating the 4-minute substitution rule must notify the gym supervisor and opposing coach before the game.
- **If both teams have 10 or fewer players they would substitute at the end of each 8-minute quarter** but if one of the two teams has more than 10 players, they may initiate the 4-minute rule prior to the games starting, which would then be an **OPTION** for the team with 10 players or less.

Players must play the entire 4 or 8 minutes, but there are exceptions:

Injury ill or sick fouled out ejection overtime

Coaches, if you know you will be using the 4-minute substitution rule, please let your subs know who they will be guarding before they enter the game if possible. By doing this, it will cut down on wasted time to get the game resumed. Thank you.

- There will be no substitution for a player during his or her designated time unless they become ill, injured, foul out; ejected, or must leave the gym for personal reasons. **Exception:** if a team is leading by more than fifteen (15) points, at the half-way point of the 4th quarter, upon mutual agreement with the opposing coach, the leading team may substitute for any or all of their players to weaken the team on the court and allow players with less playing time to participate. If the lead drops below 10 points the coach may put in his original players for the remainder of the 4th quarter.
- A player removed because of illness or injury may re-enter during a quarter if he/she feels better, however, if suspected of a concussion the player may not return – See Concussion Rules. Once a player starts a quarter, this is his/her designated quarter even though removed due to illness or injury. The player going into the game in this situation must be a player who will have the least number of quarters at the end of the game. Check with the official scorer to make sure this rule is enforced correctly! The opposing coach will choose which player may enter the game for the injured or sick player and the coach and should choose a player with the fewest quarters played by the end of the game. Only the opposing coach should choose which player will enter the game for the player leaving the game.
- If the substitution rule is violated, once noticed, it must be corrected immediately, if possible. All violations must be reported to the Recreation Department. The coach is subject to discipline. The penalty for illegal substitution may result in game forfeiture and/or a coach being dismissed from their coaching duties. The coach is responsible for knowing the substitution rule and how it works. The coach is the only one responsible for its enforcement and violation-this is not the role of the referee, scorekeeper or gym supervisor. However, recreation staff will assist whenever possible. If a coach is “cited” by the supervisor for not correctly substituting, the game may be recorded as a loss, and the officials will administer a 2 shot T-Foul. Illegal substitutions will also be cause for a higher seed in the Schmidt Tournament.

- When a player arrives late playing his or her designated and the game is in progress in the 1st quarter, this player should be treated as a full-time player quarter according to the playing chart specified in the league rules.
- When a player arrives late and the game is in progress in the 2nd quarter or later, this player should be treated as a part-time player playing half the designated quarters according to the playing chart specified in the league rules.
- Coaches may discipline players for valid reasons that must be communicated to the parents. A player who is disciplined may not play in any part of the game. Coaches must inform the opposing coach and supervisor of discipline action before the game begins. Coaches need to be consistent when enforcing discipline and should exercise discipline based upon the acts and not the ability level or the score of the game. There is free substitution during any overtime period.
- Please report any water spills to the supervisor or SM Fitness Center Staff.
- Each player and team must clean up after themselves. Please do not leave water bottles, etc. behind.

INJURY

- The South Milwaukee Recreation Department does not provide hospital/medical insurance coverage for those participating in sponsored activities nor does the Recreation Department supply 1st Aid materials. Participants are encouraged to obtain their own insurance coverage prior to and for the duration of the activity they take part in from their own insurance agent and that all teams provide their own 1st Aid equipment with the needed supplies.

JEWELRY

- Jewelry may not be worn during practice or games. This is a WIAA safety rule that must be enforced by all coaches and referees. Taping of studded earrings is not permissible.

PARENTS MEETING

- All coaches **must** conduct a parent meeting to discuss recreation philosophy, and league rules, etc.

TERRY SCHMIDT MEMORIAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

- The only tournament sponsored or sanctioned by South Milwaukee Recreation Department and the Board of Education is the **3rd – 8th grade** “Terry Schmidt Memorial Basketball Tournament.

PICTURES AND THE INTERNET

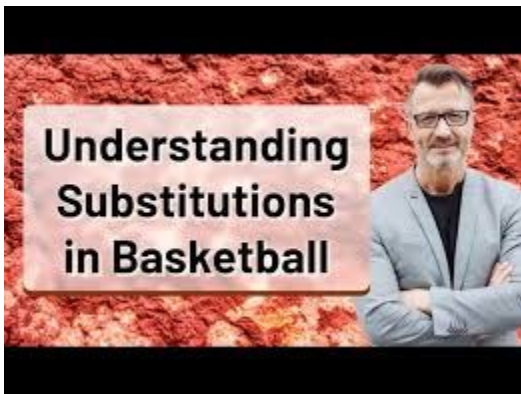
- The taking of individual and team pictures for the purpose of posting on the internet is prohibited.

RULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- Rules are subject to change without prior notice at the recreation department’s discretion

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES GUIDELINES

- The use or possession of controlled substances is prohibited on the School District of South Milwaukee property, including all facilities used for South Milwaukee Recreation programs and all athletic and extra-curricular activities.
- The suspected use of a controlled substance prior to participation or during any South Milwaukee athletic, extra-curricular, or recreation program is a violation of the School District of South Milwaukee guidelines. No individual is allowed to participate in or be in attendance as a spectator while using, under the influence of, or possessing a controlled substance.
- Violation will result in the individual(s) being asked to leave the facility, as well as face possible suspension from future related events or programs and possible referral to the SM Police Department.



PLAYING RULE CHART-PLAYING TIME RULE

The philosophy of the SM Rec. basketball program is for players to have fun while learning and developing skills. That is why the playing time rules are in place and have been in place for over 25 years. Playing time is based on the number of players you have available for your game that week. The only time a player will play 4 quarters is if you only have 5 or 6 players available for the game. **You should alternate players each week so the same person(s) is not always the one playing the most or the fewest number of quarters.**

If you have 5 players	5 players will play 4 quarters	
If you have 6 players	2 players will play 4 quarters	4 players will play 3 quarters
If you have 7 players	6 players will play 3 quarters	1 player will play 2 quarters
If you have 8 players	4 players will play 3 quarters	4 players will play 2 quarters
If you have 9 players	2 players will play 3 quarters	7 players will play 2 quarters
If you have 10 players	10 players will play 2 quarters	10 players will play 2 quarters
If you have 11 players	9 players will play 2 Quarters	2 players will play 1 Quarter
If you have 12 players	8 players will play 2 Quarters	4 players will play 1 Quarter
If you have 13 players	7 players will play 2 Quarters	6 players will play 1 Quarter
If you have 14 players	6 players will play 2 Quarters	8 players will play 1 Quarter

SPECTATOR & CONDUCT Spectators must adhere to rules of conduct.

1. Spectators should remain in the spectator's area during the contest.
2. Spectators should not yell instructions or criticisms to the children.
3. Spectators should not interfere or make derogatory remarks to anyone to include staff, and anyone in the building. They should not approach anyone in a threatening way. Offenders will be removal from the grounds.
4. Spectators should not speak directly to officials – this is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
5. Spectators should abide by the same rules of conduct as listed for players and coaches.



<u>5 Players</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Q</u>		<u>6 Players</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Q</u>
1	x	x	x	x		1	x		x	x
2	x	x	x	x		2	x	x		x
3	x	x	x	x		3	x	x	x	x
4	x	x	x	x		4	x	x	x	x
5	x	x	x	x		5	x	x	x	
						6		x	x	x

<u>7 Players</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Q</u>		<u>8 Players</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Q</u>
1		x		x		1		x	x	
2	x		x	x		2		x	x	x
3	x	x	x			3		x		x
4	x	x	x			4	x		x	x
5	x	x		x		5	x		x	
6	x		x	x		6	x	x		x
7		x	x	x		7	x	x		x
						8	x		x	

<u>9 Players</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Q</u>		<u>10 Players</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Q</u>
1		x	x			1		x	x	
2		x		x		2		x	x	
3		x		x		3		x	x	
4	x	x				4		x	x	
5	x		x			5		x	x	
6	x		x			6	x			x
7	x		x	x		7	x			x
8	x		x	x		8	x			x
9		x		x		9	x			x
						10	x			x

<u>11 Players</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Q</u>		<u>12 Players</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Q</u>
1	x		x			1	x		x	
2	x		x			2	x		x	
3	x		x			3	x		x	
4	x		x			4	x		x	
5	x		x			5	x		x	
6				x		6				x
7		x		x		7		x		x
8		x		x		8		x		x
9		x		x		9		x		
10		x		x		10		x		x
11		x				11		x		
						12				x

<u>13 Players</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Q</u>		<u>14 Players</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Q</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>h</u> <u>Q</u>
1	x		x			1	x		x	
2	x		x			2	x		x	
3	x		x			3	x		x	
4	x		x			4	x		x	
5	x		x			5	x		x	
6				x		6				x
7		x		x		7		x		x
8		x		x		8		x		
9		x				9		x		
10		x				10		x		
11		x				11		x		
12				x		12				x
13				x		13				x
						14				x



SOUTH MILWAUKEE RECREATION DEPARTMENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaches, Parents, and Fans vow to provide positive support, care, and encouragement always for players participating in youth sports by following the **Code of Conduct**.

- I will display good sportsmanship by showing positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or any other youth sports activity.
- I will put the emotional and physical welfare of my child above my urge to win.
- I will insist that my child and all participants play in a safe, healthy environment.
- I will continually support coaches and officials working with my child so that all have a positive, fun experience.
- I will demand a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free environment for my child and will not use any of these substance at any youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for the kids – not for adults.
- I will do my best to make youth sports a fun experience for my child.
- I will prompt my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with esteem regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- I will do whatever I can to help my child enjoy youth sports, including but not limited to assisting the coach, acting as a respectful fan, carpooling, planning the end-of-season party, etc.
- I will uphold all the guidelines set forth by the Recreation Department and do what I can to assist all in executing and enforcing them.

