

3rd/4th Grade:

Basketball Size: This grade group plays with a Junior Ball (27.5")

Game Play: We attempt to play 45 minutes, with breaks as needed. Generally 2 - 20 minute halves with a short half time.

We play 5 on 5. However, if both teams have fewer than 9 members present, it is best to play 4 on 4.

Hoop Height: 9 foot hoops will be used to promote good shooting form.

Coaching: All of our coaches are volunteers and come from a variety of different skill levels.

Coaches will be encouraged to stress proper shooting techniques, good sportsmanship, and proper game play.

Each coach should designate a "passer" for inbounding, and a "dribbler" to advance the ball up court. Different players can assume these roles during each game to keep everyone involved.

Rules: At this age level we keep score. Kids are no longer given colored wristbands.

Sudden death will solve ties, meaning if one team scores even 1 point and the other misses that will end the game. Additionally, the coaches can agree to end the game in a tie.

The basic rules of basketball apply to 3rd/4th grade games such as traveling, double dribble, etc. The referee will stop play and coach the players. After several attempts to change the behavior, they will call a turnover of possession.

As the season moves forward, the referee's will adhere more closely to the rules, and call more fouls, with less coaching on the rules of the game.

No "stealing" is allowed. Players can intercept passes and recover lost dribbles, but they can't take a ball from a player. We do not allow stealing so kids just learning the game don't make bad habits because they are afraid someone is going to steal the ball.

Referees will encourage players to put their hands straight up on defense when a player picks up their dribble. They will discourage "hovering" or "reaching" to take the ball.

If a player is dribbling or holding the ball continuously, interrupting play, the referee will count out loud to three, giving the player notice to either pass the ball or shoot the ball.

There are no presses in this age group to encourage a focus on ball handling and allowing for kids to get comfortable on the court.

Double teaming will only be allowed inside the key.

One free throw shot will be allowed on shooting fouls from a closer spot on the floor, (about 2 steps forward from the free throw line).

Screens are great. Players must be taught the difference between a legal screen, feet planted, stance within the players vertical plane, they must also be within the opponents line of sight.