

City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Department
YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE
OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

Revised 10-10-2025

VOLUNTEERS:

1. **MANDATORY** - ALL COACHES must follow the City of Edinburg Volunteer guidelines. As per City of Edinburg volunteer policy, ALL NEW COACHES will be required to complete a volunteer application. ALL RETURNING COACHES will only need to complete the volunteer application if they already got finger printed.

ALL VOLUNTEER COACHES will be subject to a criminal background check and police record check. If the checks are clear then you can coach. If any red flags appear, you will not be able to coach.

SNACKS:

No outside food or drinks will be allowed into the Edinburg Parks & Recreation & El Tule Center gyms and concession area. After the game, team snacks need to be distributed outside the facility. Team snacks are not required and are on a Volunteer Basis.

NOISE MAKERS:

No artificial noise makers of any kind are not allowed in the gym during games and practices. Some examples are air horns, whistles, clappers, rattlers, etc.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

1. The league will consist of four (4) boys basketball divisions and four (4) girls basketball divisions: grade K-1st ; age 2nd -3rd ; grade 4th -5th ; and 6th grade. Age will be determined as of September 1 of current school year. Boys and Girls will compete in separate leagues. **Player's grade will be determined by September 1 of current year. The 6th grade league will only grade only. NO seventh graders or 13 years old will be allowed to play in the league.**
2. All participants must be registered under the City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Department Youth Basketball Program. Registration fees must be paid and parental authorization forms must be signed by parent or legal guardian.
3. All players will be assigned to their perspective age category by the City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Department either by last year's team, school or draft. All participants will be placed according to their age.
4. Only the child (ren) of the head coach and assistant coach will be placed together. If the participant(s) played last year with the coach and/or team, then the player(s) will be placed with the same coach and/or team, or school. All other registered participants will be placed in their school. Participants will be placed according to schools and last year's teams. Boys and girls will participate in separate leagues.
5. Only immediate family members, son(s) and/or daughter(s), will be placed on the team with head coach and assistant coach, either in the boys league or girls league.
6. Participants can ONLY play in one grade division. All participants have to play in their respective Grade division.
7. Travel, A.A.U., All-Star, or any team that is brought in together not from the same school will be allowed to enter in the Open Division. If there is not enough teams in the K-1st , 2nd -3rd & 4th -5th years old Open Divisions, the team(s) will be placed in the next higher grade division. If 6th grade Open Division does not form, all Open Division players will be placed in a draft since there is no higher level to play in.
8. **Grade will be determined as of September 1 of current school year.**

PROTEST:

1. **An Eligibility Protest must be presented to the Edinburg Recreation Department in writing no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the league game in question or forty-eight (48) hours on weekend games.** Only the team manager and assistant manager are authorized to request and file a eligibility protest and the game officials and score keepers need to be informed of the protest. The Edinburg Recreation Department will investigate and rule on the protest at its discretion. **A \$50. Non-Refundable protest fee must be accompanied with the protest form.**
2. **Rule Protest on a rule violation must be submitted in writing and presented to the Edinburg Recreation Department no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the game in question or forty-eight (48) hours on weekend games.** Only the team manager and assistant manager are authorized to file a rule protest and the game officials and score keepers must be informed of the protest and the rule in question at the time of the infraction and before the game is over. **A \$50. Non-Refundable protest fee must be accompanied with the protest form.**

COACHES/PLAYERS/SPECTATORS:

1. Coaches assigned to a team are responsible to educate the participants on the basic skills inherent to basketball. Emphasis is not placed on winning, but on participation, team work, sportsmanship, and providing team players with a positive and fun recreational experience; while, providing team safety, team member discipline, and good sportsmanship before, during, and after games and practices.
2. Coaches are responsible for assigning practice sessions. Court space reservations must be made by coaches only and a two (2) day notice is required. Please contact the City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Staff for court reservations.
3. Coaches are responsible for securing other gym court space for practices as needed.
4. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that every player plays a minimum of twelve (12) minutes per game. Participants are to be afforded the opportunity to learn through actual league participation.
5. The City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Staff will be enforcing the rules and regulations pertinent to the Youth Basketball League.
6. All official's decisions are final. Coaches are responsible for implementing the official rules and regulations on team members and instilling in them fair play and sportsmanship at all times.
7. Coaches are responsible for notifying the City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Department if a player drops out of the team. Only ten (10) players per team roster and if the City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Department does the increase.
8. Coaches are urged to arrive 15 to 30 minutes before a scheduled game to offer proper instructions and warm-up time to the participants.
9. All Participants must wear the City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Basketball League Jersey. All participants must properly tuck in their uniform top before and during each game to promote uniformity. Should a participant fail to tuck in the team uniform, a technical foul may be assessed to the player or players. **If league jersey is altered in any way, shape or form, the player(s) will be asked to not play the game. If a player(s) is not wearing his/her assigned jersey, the player(s) cannot play for that game. Players cannot use another player's jersey.** Players can not use any type of jean shorts or pants to play in a league game. **Players can only use basketball shoes, tennis shoes or running shoes to play in a league game.**
10. Coaches are encouraged to promote fair play and good sportsmanship among players and fans at all times.
11. Coaches must adhere to all rules and guidelines.
12. **If the Head coach or Assistant coach receives a technical foul, both coaches will have to remain seated for the remainder of the game, excluding only time outs and between quarters.**
13. Please be advised volunteer coaches you can NOT issue any type of pill/capsule form of vitamin, aspirin, ibuprofen or pain relief, energy drink, sports or dietary supplement of any kind to any participant while performing your duties as a volunteer coach for the City of Edinburg.
14. Any spectator that is determined to be excessively coaching from the bleachers or from anywhere in the gym will be asked to leave the gym and city property. Failure to adhere to the rule, the Edinburg Police Department will be notified and the game will be determined a forfeit for that team.
15. Failure to adhere by above rules and regulations are grounds for volunteer status suspension or termination.

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Any player/coach/spectator involved in a fight will be automatically ejected from the game and will be suspended for a minimum of one game. If the incident is serious, the player/coach will be suspended additional games or removed/ejected for the remainder of the season upon discretion of the Recreation Manager, regardless if its regular season games or tournament games.
2. Vulgar language, obscene gestures, threats and physical violence - regardless which player(s)/coach(es), spectator(s) or volunteer(s) started it will result in a minimum suspension of one game to removal from league play or a maximum of life suspension from any City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Department league, regardless if its regular season games or tournament games.

3. Every coach, player or spectator is responsible for his/her own conduct on and off the basketball court. Coaches are responsible for their team player's parent's conduct on and off the basketball court. Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, spectators, or participants will not be tolerated, regardless if its practice, regular season games or tournament games. Individuals may be suspended due to unsportsmanlike conduct at the discretion of the Recreation Manager.
4. Any coach, player or spectator that is ejected from the game or facility has one minute to leave the gym and two minutes to leave school/city grounds and will be suspended for one game, regardless if its regular season games or tournament games. Should a player, coach or spectator be ejected on a second occasion, the offender(s) will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season. The league supervisors/officials have the authority to eject any player, coach or spectator at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct. Failure to adhere to the rule, the Edinburg Police Department will be notified and the game will be determined a forfeit for that team.
5. Any assault or physical violence directed toward a league official and/or staff will result in a five (5) year to life suspension from further participation of any program sponsored by the City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Department.
6. If staff or referee witnesses any act of elbowing, cheap shots or any other unsportsmanlike act, the game will be stopped and the player will be given a warning then ejection from the game.
7. Taunting or "trash talking" to opposing player(s) or coaches will not be allowed. Profanity by any player/coach will NOT be tolerated. Referee has the right to determine language which is offensive. The referee will give one warning to each team and if the taunting or "trash talking" continues the player/coach will be ejected from the game.
8. When a warning is given to the head coach or assistant coach, the warning pertains to both coaches.
9. **Any player/coach that is ejected from the game will have to sit out one game.** If player/coach is ejected a second time, player/coach will be removed from the league. If player is removed from league, player will not receive a refund. If coach is removed from league, coach will not be able to coach any youth league in Edinburg for one year.
10. Referees will determine incidental contact which may result from normal play.
11. If a parent or parents are getting out of line, the game official will call time during the game and warn all the parents that are on the bleachers and sideline that 1.) if parent(s) can not keep their comments to themselves or behave in an appropriate manner, that they will be asked to leave the gym and recreation center. 2.) If the parent(s) does not want to leave the gym and recreation center, then the police department will be called to escort them out. 3.) If the official(s) feels that continuing the game poses a threat to their safety, the game will end at that moment and whichever team is winning at that point will receive the win or the loss. If the teams are tied, it will be considered a tie.
12. Every coach is responsible for his/her own conduct on and off the court and their team player parents. Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, spectators, or participants will not be tolerated. Individuals may be suspended due to unsportsmanlike conduct at the discretion of the Edinburg Recreation Department.

MERCY RULE - ALL AGE DIVISIONS

If a team has a 20 point lead within the last two minutes of the second & fourth quarters, the game clock will continue to run unless there is an official timeout or a team timeout. During this time, teams can NOT full court press, half court press, or play man to man defense. The team that is winning must fall back to a 2-1-2 zone defense and stay within the three point line, except in the open league. Any team violating the mercy rule will result in a technical foul against the player or coach.

K-1st GRADE DIVISION

1. League games will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters. **The clock will stop the last two (2) minutes of the 4th quarter.**
2. Coaches will divide the team into two separate rotations. Coaches are required to substitute each rotation (group 1 & group 2) of players every (4) four minutes of the first three quarters, no substitutions will be allowed during that four minute period except for player injuries. Each rotation (group 1 & group 2) of players can not play eight consecutive minutes within the first three quarters. **If a player(s) has not played within the first 3 quarters, the player(s) will have to play the first 4 minutes of the fourth quarter. If a coach fails to take out a player(s) within the first 3 quarters, the player(s) will have to sit out the first 4 minutes of the fourth quarter.** If coaches substitute correctly, free substitution will be allowed ONLY in fourth quarter and over time period(s), teams play to win.
3. **In an ideal situation with ten players, each player is required to "sit out" for eight (8) minutes to ensure proper playing time for all team members. Score keepers and basketball officials will be enforcing rule and will notify coaches on player substitutions. **Each player must play a minimum of twelve (12) minutes within the first three quarters.****
4. **Each team will be allowed three (3) time-outs per game.**
5. **Officials will be lenient when calling traveling, and double dribble.**
6. **Officials and Coaches need to encourage players to keep dribbling.**
7. **Once the Defensive team gets control of the basketball, the opposing team must run back on Defense. Defense inside the bubble (3 point).**
8. **NO JEWELRY IS ALLOWED. (No Looped Earrings, bracelets, or chains)**
9. **Boy's and Girl's Leagues will use Rookie size basketballs. The basketball goal will be set at a height of 8'.**
10. All substitutes must be reported to the scorekeeper and an official must recognize player(s) before player(s) can enter the game.
11. Coaches are to respect the official's decisions and calls.
12. **Eliminates the one-and-one for common fouls beginning with the seventh team foul in the half and establishes the bonus as two free throws awarded for a common foul beginning with the team's fifth foul in each quarter and resets the fouls at the end of each quarter**
13. Free throws will shot from the White Volleyball line.]
14. Teams must set in a **2-1-2 zone defense ONLY**. Half court man to man defense and/or pressing will be allowed the final two (2) minutes of each half (2nd & 4th quarter).
15. Coaches are reminded that stalling the game is NOT allowed since the defense can not cross the three point line prior to the last two minutes of the 2nd and 4th quarter. Basketball officials will be issuing warnings or technical fouls to the team in violation.
16. **If the defense crosses the three point line before the last two minutes of the 2nd and 4th quarter, League Officials will issue a warning to player(s) for the first violation; second violation the coaches will be issued a warning; third violation and each violation afterwards the team will receive a technical foul & the offense will shoot two free throws and receive the basketball.**
17. Overtime periods will consist of two (2) minutes and one additional time out will be awarded to each team.
18. Officials are required to start games on schedule. A team can start and finish the game with four players.

2nd -3rd GRADE DIVISION

1. League games will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters. The clock will stop the last two (2) minutes of each half.
2. Coaches will divide the team into two separate rotations. Coaches are required to substitute each rotation (group 1 & group 2) of players every (4) four minutes of the first three quarters, no substitutions will be allowed during that four minute period except for player injuries. Each rotation (group 1 & group 2) of players can not play eight consecutive minutes within the first three quarters. **If a player(s) has not played within the first 3 quarters, the player(s) will have to play the first 4 minutes of the fourth quarter. If a coach fails to take out a player(s) within the first 3 quarters, the player(s) will have to sit out the first 4 minutes of the fourth quarter.** If coaches substitute correctly, free substitution will be allowed ONLY in fourth quarter and over time period(s), teams play to win.
3. **In an ideal situation with ten players, each player is required to "sit out" for eight (8) minutes to ensure proper playing time for all team members. Score keepers and basketball officials will be enforcing rule and will notify coaches on player substitutions. **Each player must play a minimum of twelve (12) minutes within the first three quarters. ****
4. Each team will be allowed **three (3)** time-outs per game.
5. **Officials will be somewhat lenient when calling, travels and double dribble. On the 4th step it will be a travel**
6. **After the ball handler has dribbled and stop, dribbled and stop, they must pass or shot.**
7. **Three second violations will be below the white Volleyball line.**
8. **Once the Defensive team gets control of the basketball, the opposing team must run back on Defense. Defense inside the bubble (3 point).**
9. **NO JEWELRY IS ALLOWED. (No Looped Earrings, bracelets, or chains)**
10. Boys & Girls Leagues will use the Intermediate size basketballs and **the basketball goal will be set at a height of 8'6"**.
11. All substitutes must be reported to the scorekeeper and an official must recognize player (s) before player(s) can enter the game.
12. Coaches are to respect the official's decisions and calls.
13. **Eliminates the one-and-one for common fouls beginning with the seventh team foul in the half and establishes the bonus as two free throws awarded for a common foul beginning with the team's fifth foul in each quarter and resets the fouls at the end of each quarter**
14. **Free throws will be shot from the White Volleyball line.**
15. Teams must set in a **2-1-2 zone defense ONLY.** Half court man to man defense and/or pressing will be allowed the final two (2) minutes of each half (2nd & 4th quarter).
16. Coaches are reminded that stalling the game is not allowed since the defense can not cross the three point line prior to the last two minutes of the 2nd and 4th quarters. Basketball officials will be issuing warnings or technical fouls to the team in violation.
17. **If the defense crosses the three point line before the last two minutes of the 2nd and 4th quarter, League Officials will issue a warning to player(s) for the first violation; second violation the coaches will be issued a warning; third violation and each violation afterwards the team will receive a technical foul & the offense will shoot two free throws and receive the basketball.**

18. Overtime periods will consist of two (2) minutes and one additional time out will be awarded to each team.
19. Officials are required to start games on schedule. A team can start the game and finish with four players.

4th -5th GRADE DIVISION

1. League games will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters. The clock will stop the last two (2) minutes of each half.
2. Coaches shall divided the team into two separate rotations. Coaches are required to substitute each rotation (group 1 & group 2) of players every (4) four minutes of the first three quarters, no substitutions will be allowed during that four minute period except for player injuries. Each rotation (group 1 & group 2) of players can not play eight consecutive minutes within the first three quarters. **If a player(s) has not played within the first 3 quarters, the player(s) will have to play the first 4 minutes of the fourth quarter. If a coach fails to take out a player(s) within the first 3 quarters, the player(s) will have to sit out the first 4 minutes of the fourth quarter.** If coaches substitute correctly, free substitution will be allowed ONLY in fourth quarter and over time period(s), teams play to win.
3. **In an ideal situation with ten players, each player is required to “sit out” for eight (8) minutes to ensure proper playing time for all team members. Score keepers and basketball officials will be enforcing rule and will notify coaches on player substitutions. **Each player must play a minimum of twelve (12) minutes within the first three quarters.****
4. Each team will be allowed **three (3)** time-outs per game.
5. **Officials will be calling traveling, double dribble, and three second violations.**
6. **NO JEWELRY IS ALLOWED. (No Looped Earrings, bracelets, or chains)**
7. **Girl's & Boy's League will use a women's size basketball.**
8. All substitutes must be reported to the scorekeeper and an official must recognize player(s) before player(s) can enter the game.
9. Coaches are to respect the official's decisions and calls.
10. **Eliminates the one-and-one for common fouls beginning with the seventh team foul in the half and establishes the bonus as two free throws awarded for a common foul beginning with the team's fifth foul in each quarter and resets the fouls at the end of each quarter**
11. Free throws will be shot from the regular free throw line.
12. **Zone or man to man defense may be played. On man to man defense, defensive players may pick up offense at half court, but needs to give the opportunity to cross the half court line. Full court press will be allowed the final two (2) minutes of Each quarter.**
13. Overtime periods will consist of two (2) minutes and one additional time out be awarded to each team.
14. Officials are required to start games on schedule. A team can start and finish the game with four players.

6th GRADE DIVISION (Middle School League)

1. League games will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters. The clock will stop the last two (2) minutes of each half.
2. Coaches will divide the team into two separate rotations. Coaches are required to substitute each rotation (group 1 & group 2) of players every (4) four minutes of the first three quarters, no substitutions will be allowed during that four minute period except for player injuries. Each rotation (group 1 & group 2) of players can not play eight consecutive minutes within the first three quarters. **If a player(s) has not played within the first 3 quarters, the player(s) will have to play the first 4 minutes of the fourth quarter. If a coach fails to take out a player(s) within the first 3 quarters, the player(s) will have to sit out the first 4 minutes of the fourth quarter.** If coaches substitute correctly, free substitution will be allowed ONLY in fourth quarter and over time period(s), teams play to win.
3. **In an ideal situation with ten players, each player is required to "sit out" for eight (8) minutes to ensure proper playing time for all team members. Score keepers and basketball officials will be enforcing rule and will notify coaches on player substitutions. **Each player must play a minimum of twelve (12) minutes within the first three quarters. ****
4. Each team will be allowed **three (3)** time outs per game.
5. Officials will be calling traveling, double dribble, and three second violations etc., regular game situations.
6. **NO JEWELRY IS ALLOWED. (No Looped Earrings, bracelets, or chains)**
7. **Girl's League will use a women's size basketball** and Boy's League will use a men's size basketball.
8. All substitutes must be reported to the scorekeeper and an official must recognize player(s) before player(s) can enter the game.
9. Coaches are to respect the official's decisions and calls.
10. **Eliminates the one-and-one for common fouls beginning with the seventh team foul in the half and establishes the bonus as two free throws awarded for a common foul beginning with the team's fifth foul in each quarter and resets the fouls at the end of each quarter**
11. Free throws will be shot from the regular free throw line.
12. **Zone, man to man defense and full court press will be allowed through out the entire game.**
13. Overtime periods will consist of two (2) minutes and one additional time out will be awarded to each team.
14. Officials are required to start games on schedule. A team can start and finish the game with four players.
15. All U.I.L. players can NOT participate in this age division.

As of September 1, 2003, two specific Texas laws went into effect that will impacts the sport participant and the non-sport participant. The two Texas laws are as follows:

- 481.134. Drug-Free Zones: House Bill 1629: adds "the premises of a public or private youth center" to the list of protected areas included in the existing statute that may result in enhanced punishment.**
- 22.01. Assault: House Bill 716: amends 22.01©) to increase the punishment for an offense under Subsection (a)(2) (Assault by Threat) or (a)(3) (Assault by Contact) from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class B misdemeanor if the offense was committed against a sports participant by a non-sports participant. New Subsection (e)(3) defines "sports participant" as "a person who participates in any official capacity with respect to an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or other organized amateur or professional athletic competition and includes an athlete, referee, umpire, linesman, coach, administrator, or staff member."**