

Youth Basketball Parent Handout

Grades 4, 5 & 6 (boys and girls)

(Please read all of the information)



- ❑ **While we are still working out the PRESEASON OPEN GYM SCHEDULE you can plan on open gym beginning the week of NOVEMBER 14th and finishing before Thanksgiving. To take part in the scrimmages all participants must be pre-registered in the Rutland Recreation youth basketball program. These open gym sessions will allow players to hone their skills and assist the coaches in making fair and equal teams.**

- ❑ **Please no requests!** Our priority in forming teams will be to do our best to make equal teams. Allowing all of the children in this program an opportunity to have an enjoyable experience. If everyone who registered for this program made a request for a specific coach or to be with a specific friend then there would be no program! Besides it is a great way for your child to meet new friends!

- ❑ Registering your child for this program requires a commitment of two to three days per week for approximately one and half hours per day. Practices and games will be scheduled during the week between the hours of 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. beginning approximately December 10, 2011 and ending approximately March 3, 2012.

- ❑ **In order for this program to be successful we need adults to volunteer their time to be head coaches or assistant coaches. Prior basketball knowledge is not mandatory to be an effective coach. Just a love of interacting with children and a willingness to learn is enough! If you would like to be a coach please ask for and fill out a coach's application when you register your child.**

- ❑ **Make sure you pick up a free "SportParent Survival Guide" part of the American Sport Education Program at the Dana Recreation Office if you don't have one. This guide will help answer common questions asked by parents of young athletes. It will also give you an excellent perspective of your role as a sport parent. Take the time to read it!**

- ❑ Teams will be formed the week of November 28, 2011. Coaches will contact players by December 10, 2011. Please wait till after this date to contact the Recreation Department office for your child's coach and phone number. Once your child has been assigned to a team, the head coach of that team will be your source of information pertaining to this program. They will advise you of practice and game schedules.

- ❑ **Please advise your child's head coach of any medical or other pertinent information concerning your child, such as, practice or game conflicts. Whenever possible put it in writing. If your child misses a practice or game, it is your responsibility to contact the head coach for any changes in schedules for the team.**

OVER

- ❑ Team jerseys and basketball shorts will be given to your child by their coach before the first game. Your child is expected to wear their uniform to all games. Uniforms are not meant for practices or personal use. Please take care of the uniform responsibly. Sneakers are mandatory for all practices and games. **In order to ensure a safe environment for all of the participants, players should not wear their sneakers into the gym from outside. Due to the wet winter conditions of the sidewalks and roads this will only track in a mixture of water, snow, salt and sand. All of which cause unsafe conditions for the athletes. Please be considerate and responsible in this matter. Uniforms should be returned clean to the Rutland Recreation Department by March 18, 2012.**
- ❑ Parents are encouraged to bring water or other appropriate fluids to be consumed during practices and games.
- ❑ The Rutland Recreation Department teams play games against other teams in their age division comprised of Rutland Recreation teams and teams from other communities. Your team will individually organize travel to away games by carpooling, etc. Please assist your coach in organizing travel to and from away games.
- ❑ Due to inclement weather some games and or practices may be cancelled. Your child's coach will be notified of any cancellations as soon as possible and coaches will contact their players. **PLEASE check www.rutlandrec.com if you have any cancellation questions.** In most cases we do not cancel unless the weather conditions are too severe for school buses. School closing may affect games against some of the other communities. Parents you need to make your own decision based on your tolerance level. No matter which way we go with cancellations some people will be happy and others will not! We're sorry for any inconvenience this might cause.

How a parent should address concerns and complaints.

- ❑ First approach your child's head coach with any concerns. Please, do so when it is convenient for the head coach and always remain positive and constructive. Remember, the coaches are all volunteers and don't deserve to be verbally or physically abused.
- ❑ If you didn't receive satisfactory answers from the head coach then you should talk with the commissioner of the program. If you don't know who that is, you may ask your child's coach or contact the recreation department. Remember to remain positive and constructive.
- ❑ Finally, if you are still not satisfied with the response you have received then you should call the Rutland Recreation Department and ask to speak with the Program Director. The Program Director will set up an appointment with you, the head coach and the commissioner to resolve any remaining issues.
- ❑ **Please follow this policy and remember to first ask yourself if your concerns warrant a visit with the coach. Do you have the proper perspective pertaining to this program and all of the children's best interest in mind?**