



OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What age group will my child play in?

Mite	7 – 8 years	(primarily 2 nd & 3 rd graders)
Pee Wee	9 – 10 years	(primarily 4 th & 5 th graders)
Minor Boys	11 years	(primarily 6 th graders)
Major Boys	12 years	(primarily 7 th graders)
Major Girls	11 – 13 years	(primarily 6 th - 8 th graders)
Senior Boys	13 – 14 years	(primarily 8 th & 9 th graders)

The age control date for Youth Basketball is September 1, 2020. Age on that date determines league.

How can I register my child?

Go to www.oconeecounty.com/ocprd and click on “Registration”.

What are the registration dates?

You may register for the 2020-2021 Youth Basketball Leagues beginning Monday, October 19. The deadline for youth league registration is set for Friday, November 6, 2020; however, it is possible that some leagues will fill up before the deadline date!

What are the withdrawal policies once one has registered?

Withdrawal, in which a credit on your Community Pass account or refund (minus an administrative fee) can be made, will only be honored if notification is given to the Program Coordinator by the registration deadline. The program start date for league play is considered the day teams are formed which is the same day as the advertised evaluation day for each league. Exceptions may only be made in the event that an activity cannot be completed due to a documented medical problem.

Are leagues separated by gender?

Yes—all leagues, which see team play, are separated with distinct boys and girls leagues. The programs for younger kids ages 4-6 are strictly instructional sessions (Start Smart and Junior Instructional) are coed.

Are exceptions made to the age control date?

Exceptions are not made for a child to play in a league below his/her age level unless there is an exceptional medically related issue. Such exceptions are very rare. Occasionally, exceptions may be made to move a child up to a higher age level in order to play with a sibling or if the child is especially advanced in the sport. Approval from the Program Coordinator is required before a child can be placed in a higher age level.

Can I request a specific team or coach for my child to be placed with?

Specific team placement is only given to siblings playing in the same league and to a head coach’s immediate family member. Specific team placement to anyone else is not considered. This policy of not placing a child on a pre-set or specific team applies to parents volunteering to be an assistant coach.

How often will my child’s team meet?

Pre-season: All teams will have one weeknight and one Saturday practice.

Once games begin: Most teams will see most weeks having one practice and one game per week; exceptions occur for leagues with an odd number of teams resulting in game schedules with byes and/or extra game slots during some weeks.

Practice length: 1 hour practices with exception of older leagues on Saturdays that may have 75-90-minute practice.

How is the season structured? How long is the season? How many games will my child’s team play?

The latter part of November, December, and the first week of January are considered the pre-season in which teams practice twice per week. Practices begin for all teams on Saturday, November 21st. The pre-season, consisting of two practices per week, continues (except for holiday breaks) until January 4, 2021. Game play begins on January 9th.

A season timeline can be found on the OCPRD Youth Athletics webpage under Basketball if you have a specific question about a week’s activity. Final regular season games end with the eighth game for all leagues the week of February 8th.

The Mite Leagues will not be scheduled for any post season games. The Pee Wee Leagues will see a 9th and final game scheduled the week of February 15th. Minor, Major, and Senior League teams will be included in a league specific single elimination tournament with ending championship games for these older leagues concluded on or before February 25, 2021.

What is the Pee Wee League Jamboree?

The Pee Wee League Jamboree, to be scheduled the week of February 15th, will see teams with alike or similar records matched against each other for a fun and final game. *Jamboree game could be scheduled for the following week pending any inclement weather causing program cancellations throughout the season.*

Where will practices and games be held?

The following is intended as an estimated guide since changes may occur based on the number of teams per league and gym availability.

Mites	HCM, MBES, CFES, OVP, DCES
Pee Wees	CFES, MBES, HSES, DCES, OVP, HCM
Minor/Majors – Boys	OCMS, MBMS (Saturdays only), OVP, HCM, CFES
*Majors –Girls	OCMS, MBMS (Saturdays only), OVP, CFES
Seniors – Boys	HCM, OCHS Practice, OVP, OCMS, MBMS

HCM = Herman C. Michael Park

OVP = Oconee Veterans Park

MBMS = Malcom Bridge Middle School

OCMS = Oconee Co. Middle School

DCES = Dove Creek Elementary School

CFES = Colham Ferry Elementary School

MBES = Malcom Bridge Elementary School

HSES = High Shoals Elementary School

OCMS Practice = Oconee Co. High School Practice Gym

**The Major Girls league may play some games out of county with nearby agencies if enrollment is less than 4 teams.*

On what weeknight will my child's team see activity?

Specific weeknight designations for practices vary per league. The vast majority of weeknight activity for all boy's league teams will occur on Mondays and/or Tuesdays. The vast majority of all girl's activity on weeknights will take place on Thursdays. Fridays may be utilized for any league as a make-up night or for game schedules affected by leagues with an odd number of teams.

What time will activities be scheduled for my child on school nights?

Mite League practices and games will begin no later than 6:10 pm. and end by 7:10 pm.

Pee Wee League practices and games will begin no later than 7:15 pm.

Minor League practices and games may be scheduled in the 6:00 pm or 7:00 pm hour.

Major League practices and games may be scheduled in the 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, or 8:00 pm hour.

Senior League will see activity scheduled in the 7:00 pm or 8:00 pm hour.

The Mite Leagues will see 55 minute practices while all other weeknight activity is scheduled for 60 minute durations.

Although most games are finished within this time frame--- some overages can occur with game play.

What are the Saturday times?

Saturday times can vary greatly as we are scheduling for all teams within the program (our youth leagues featured 86 teams last season) and we are utilizing multiple gym locations. Saturday start times can range from 9:00am through early evening hours.

How many kids make up a team?

A roster of 8 is a target number; however, depending on our registration numbers some rosters may be from 7 to 10 players.

Will a uniform be provided?

Game jerseys are provided to all participants. Shorts, socks, shoes are not provided. For game play black shorts are recommended and if an undershirt is desired---this should be white only.

The game jersey will be a reversible jersey (white on one side and colored on the reversible side). Each league has its own specific color. Teams designated as the "Home Team" for a game will dress in white; teams designated as the "Guest/Away Team" will dress in the darker colored side of the jersey.

Are there minimum playing time requirements?

Yes. All players should play a minimum of half a game unless sick, injured, or legally fouled out of a contest. In addition, our rules require all players to sit a quarter of each game unless substitutes are not available. The games are actually divided into 8 block periods and these are tracked to ensure proper amount of playing (and sitting) time. The block system allows rest periods for kids, as well as allowing coaches some flexibility in substituting.

What height goal and what size ball will my child play with?

Mites (Boys & Girls)	8 foot goals	27.5 ball (Junior)
Pee Wees (Boys & Girls)	9 foot goals	28.5 ball (Intermediate or Women's)
Minor Boys & Major Girls	10 foot goals	28.5 ball (Intermediate or Women's)
Major & Senior Boys	10 foot goals	29.5 ball (Official Size ball)

Does OCPRD coordinate tournament or all-star post-season play?

Mites	No post season play
Pee Wees	End of the season Jamboree day of games (these games match teams with like or similar regular season records against each other)
Minors, Majors & Seniors	Post season single elimination tournament

Does OCPRD coordinate end of season trophies?

OCPRD does not coordinate or arrange for trophies or end of season awards.

Teams are free to arrange this on their own; however, OCPRD encourages all teams to limit expenses to parents.

OCPRD leagues participating in a post season tournament – champions will receive a complimentary t-shirt.

From where does OCPRD get coaches?

All our winter youth basketball program coaches are volunteers with the majority being parents of a child playing. In our older age groups, we generally see a significant number of college students who volunteer to take on head or assistant coaching roles. During the 2019-2020 Youth Basketball season we certified over 100 coaches. We typically see a wide range of experience (both playing and coaching) among our many volunteers, but one commonality among all is the fact they volunteered their time and efforts to help make our youth basketball program a success.

What do I need to do to volunteer to head coach or to be an assistant coach?

- Complete an application/register as a Youth Basketball Coach through Community Pass
- Complete and pass an online criminal history background check.
- Complete free online CDC concussion training and submit certificate of completion...if not previously certified.
- Attend and complete an NYSCA (National Youth Sports Coaches Association) course ...if not previously certified.
- Attend the Volunteer Coach Clinic on Thursday, November 19th.

Can I find the coaching applications online?

Yes. Go to our website at www.oconeecounty.com/ocprd and click on the "Volunteer" button near the center of the main page.

Is there a role other than coaching where I can help?

Yes! Most coaches want a parent to coordinate snack schedules, end of season activities, general communication, etc. Check with your coach!

Where can I find more information?

Go to our website at www.oconeecounty.com/ocprd and click on "Programs" located at the top of the main page-- from there click on "Youth Athletics" and select the appropriate sport for more information.

What is PAYS Requirement?

PAYS stands for the Parents Association of Youth Sports and is part of the National Association of Youth Sports.

At least one parent/guardian of each youth participant is required to complete the online PAYS program:

- Go to <http://www.nays.org/payonline/how-it-works.cfm> and click "Get Started"
- Step 1 – Contact Information: Complete contact info, then click "Next"
- Step 2 – Select League/Agency Affiliation: Click "Yes", select "Oconee County Pks & Rec Dept" and then click "Next"
- Step 3 – Payment Information: NO PAYMENT OR DONATION REQUIRED, simply click "Confirm"
- Step 4 – Confirmation: Click "Process"
- Thank You for Registering page appears, click "Next"
- Click "Start PAYS Course"
- Click on video to begin course
- Answer required course questions to complete

What other basketball programs do we offer for youth?

<u>Program</u>	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Quick Description</u>
Start Smart Basketball	4 years old	Instructional and parent participant program
Instructional Junior Basketball	5-6 years old	Instructional program
Basketball Academy	10-14 years old	Advanced instruction for players interested in more skill training and extra court time
High School Intramural League	14-18 years old	Students form their own teams (MUST be a high school student within Oconee County)