



THE GROVE YOUTH BASKETBALL
GUIDELINES

The Grove Basketball History:

The Grove Community Church started youth sports in 2018 under the leadership of Pastor Kendall Brown. The league's purpose has always been to give local families the opportunity to enjoy a faith-based sports league in the community.

Total athletes over the past years:

2018 = 300 KIDS

2019 = 300 KIDS

2020 = COVID

2021 = 300 KIDS

2022 = 360 KIDS

2023 = 360 KIDS

2024 = 360 KIDS

The Vision for The Grove Sports

This Sports Ministry will be an access point for people to hear the Gospel and enjoy sound fundamental sports knowing their children are well cared for.

The Vision for The Grove Coaches

To have a spiritual impact on the lives of their players and families while providing them with a premier sports league that is committed to excellence in all we do.

The Vision for the Referees

Referees, as stewards, are responsible for keeping the game safe, fair, and fun. Referees should support and work with Coaches to manage the behavior of players and spectators while honoring Christ in all they say and do.

Guidelines for all Spectators

Spectators will respect all coaches, players, and officials. If not upheld, you will be asked to leave the premises.

Stewardship

Stewardship from the Bible – 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV), "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Application on the Court

Referees and Coaches are to be good stewards and work together to ensure equal and safe play. During games, Coaches will defer to the Referee's call.

Duties and Responsibilities of The Grove Basketball Participant, Coach, Referee, and Spectator:

- Conduct himself / herself in a manner becoming of a member of The Grove Basketball League and consistent with The Grove Sports Philosophies and the highest standards of conduct.
- Work together as a team to support the children playing the game and align with the Stewards of the Game to promote a safe, fair, fun environment.
- Comply with and promote compliance with the Bylaws, Rules, & Regulations, and Policies, including those related to registration, certification, and training.
- Encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship.
- Prohibit and abstain from making negative comments and complaints about officiating.

- Present a healthy, athletic environment for team members, including but not limited to, not consuming alcoholic beverages, not using tobacco products or smoking, or simulating smoking or the use of tobacco products during practices or matches or in the immediate vicinity of the soccer fields.

Serious Injuries / Emergencies

When a player is clearly injured during a game, the Referee shall stop play, and investigate the seriousness of the injury by attending to the injured player. Referee will motion to The Grove Basketball Leadership Team with 3 short whistle blasts. The Referee shall call the player’s coach onto the court and ask the other players to provide space (10 yards minimum) and to take a knee.

More serious injuries may require first aid or medical assistance. Be aware that emergencies may also occur involving spectators or others not involved in the game.

- A First Aid Kit is located in the Gym.
- Ice is available in the Hub if needed for an emergency.
- An AED (defibrillator) device is on the wall near the entrance of the Gym.
 - Situations necessitating a 911 call would include an unconscious individual, obvious broken bones, sudden cardiac arrest, or other serious injuries requiring immediate medical attention.
 - If needed, the Referee will swiftly retrieve the AED and bring it back to the location of the emergency.
- The Grove Incident Report will need to be completed following the injury / emergency.

The Grove Youth Basketball Rules 2024

<u>Division</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>	<u>Rim Height</u>	<u>Players on Court / Team</u>
1 st /2 nd Grade	25.5"	8'	5 on 5 = 10
3 rd /4 th Grade	27.5"	9'	5 on 5 = 10
5 th /6 th Grade	28.5"	10'	5 on 5 = 10
7 th /8 th Grade	28.5"	10'	5 on 5 = 10

A. Coaches

1. All Head Coaches should wear their Coach’s Shirt to be on the sideline
2. All Head & Assistant Coaches must be Live Scanned at The Grove and complete the State Mandated Trainings before the first practice.
3. The Home Team (1st on the schedule) will sit on the benches to the left of the scoring table.
4. 1st/2nd Grade coaches are allowed 1 coach per team to be on the court at all times.
5. 1st - 8th Graders will have 1-2 Referee(s) on the court per game.

B. Referees

1. Arrive 20 minutes prior to your shift
 - a. Referee pregame meetings with Jeff Couto, Josh Solorio, or Phil Bardos
 - i. Pray, review the weekly huddle topic, and review rules
 - b. Make sure you have your Referee jersey and whistle

- c. Hand out game cards
2. On Court Assessment
 - a. Walk the court and make sure the hoop is the correct height and that there is no trash or liquid on the court.
 - b. Make sure you instruct the score keep on how to operate our scoreboard.
3. Pre-Game Coaches Meeting
 - a. Bring the Head Coaches together at center court, introduce yourself, have the Coaches introduce themselves to one another, and say a quick prayer for them.
4. Team Gathering (middle of the court)
 - a. Introduce yourself, make sure jerseys are tucked in, and **no jewelry** of any kind.
 - b. Review the Weekly Huddle and ask someone from the home team to pray.

C. Game Play/Timeouts

1. Home Team has the 1st possession
2. 1st - 4th Grades will not press full court – allow offense to at least dribble across ½ court line
3. 5th - 8th Grades can full press.
4. 1st - 8th Grades will have Five 8-Minute quarters – running clock
5. 1st - 4th Grades = Top 8 of 10 teams will play a Seeded Playoff on the Final Week

D. Specialty Rules to this League

1. Shot Clock: Team has **30 seconds** to shoot the ball. If the ball isn't shot (hits the rim) then it will be a turnover and will be a throw in from out of bounds to the opposing team.
 - There is no shot clock on display, and we rely on the Referees to make the count and call.
2. Back Court Violation: If you cross over the mid-court line, you cannot go back. If you do, then it is a "back court" violation, and the opposing team will get the ball at mid-court.
3. Back court clock: Offense will have **10 seconds** to get the ball across mid-court. If you do not get the ball across mid-court after **10 seconds**, the whistle will blow, and the opposing team will get the ball.
4. Fouls made in the act of shooting result in **one free throw for 2 points**.
5. If a player is fouled while scoring, it's an "and one" situation and they are automatically awarded 3 points.
 - There is no free throw.
6. There will be 1-minute quarter breaks.
7. There is a 3-minute halftime break.
8. Clock only stops for injuries and/or time-outs. In the last minute of the game, if opponents are within 10 points or less, the clock stops on fouls/turnovers.
 - Standard High School rules apply.
9. If tied after regulation, the game will end in a tie.
 - Exception – during playoffs, at the end of regulation play, there will be a 2-minute OT period.
 - If tied after the 2-minute OT period, it will be repeated until one team is victorious at the end of play.
10. Each team is provided 2 time-outs per game.
 - Each time-out is 30 seconds in duration.

E. Additional Rules of the Game

1. Maximum of 5 fouls per player (3rd - 8th).
 - After the 5th foul, the player is removed from play and cannot re-enter the game or OT.
2. If a player in the 1st - 2nd Grade division is consistently fouling, the coach will need to remove the player from game play to provide instruction.
3. Teams will be allowed **7 team** fouls per half.
 - Upon the 8th team foul, one free throw worth 2 points will be permitted (5th - 8th).
 - All other basic NBA rules apply.
4. Balance Play
 - All athletes are required to play 40-50% of the first four quarters of the game.
 - An athlete may play more than 40-50% of the first four quarters if the entire team is not in attendance.
 - Coaches will use their discretion for player personnel in the 5th quarter of play.
 - For 1st / 2nd Grade, it is recommended to have two different line changes to help with balanced play.

F. Direct Defiance to the Standards of The Grove Basketball League and Protocol

If a player verbally or with physical gestures, is demeaning to another player, coach, or person, or is openly being directly defiant to a Referee, a league rule, or the standards that are place in The Grove Basketball League or Church, then:

- a. **Level 1 Offense:** The player's coach will be warned of said incident and both the player and coach will be verbally warned to not repeat said action and or action in line with that previous decision.
 - Referees are not looking for confirmation from the coach, but just communication to the coach so everyone is aware of the stance of the refereeing team.
- b. **Level 2 Offense:** Referees let the coach know to sit the player for the rest of the current half.
- c. **Level 3 Offense:** Referees let the coach know that the player is out the rest of the game and will be referred to the Sports Pastor.
 - After the game, the Sports Pastor will process the data and determine if any of the following will occur or if any additional outcomes: Such as:
 1. Not being able to play the next game(s).
 2. Not being able to play in the playoffs.
 3. Being removed from the league for the current season.
- d. **Level 4 Offense:** Referee calls the game, and the individual's team is issued a loss regardless of the score.

G. Standard for dealing with a Coach:

If a coach is being defiant to a Referee, a league rule, or the standards that are in place The Grove Basketball League or Church:

- a. **Level 1 Offense** (This is after a dialogue has arisen from the coach with a disagreement of some sort pertaining to the game): The Referee has heard the coach out and the stance is that we agree to disagree. The Referee will stop the game and let the coach know that this topic/issue/focus needs to stop, and we need to move on. Any additional conversations can be had after the game with the Sports Pastor or Commissions.

- Referees are not looking for confirmation from the coach, but just the communication to the coach so everyone is aware of the stance of the refereeing team.
- b. **Level 2 Offense:** Referees will stop game and Referees will let the coach know that the next comment deemed unnecessary by the Referees, said out loud, or noted by the Referees, the coach will be asked to stand down for the rest of the game and have his assistant coach lead the team. The commissioner of that court will be notified in real time of the incident to speak with the head coach. If there is no assistant coach, the game will be forfeited at that time and that coach's team will be awarded the loss, regardless of the score.
- c. **Level 3 Offense:** the coach will be removed from the court and removed from coaching that team moving forward and will be referred to the Sports Pastor.
- After the game, the Sports Pastor will process the data and determine if any of the following will occur or if an additional outcome will come:
 1. Not being able to play the next game(s).
 2. Not being able to play in the playoffs.
 3. Being removed from the league for the current season.