



Mission Statement

The mission of the Blue Island Park District is to enhance the quality of life for all Blue Island residents by providing clean, safe parks, well-developed recreational facilities, and a balanced range of leisure and recreational activities for all ages.



WINTER 2017 SEASON HANDBOOK
BITTY BASKETBALL LEAGUE
January – March

Dear Parent/Coach,

Blue Island Park District welcomes you to our Bitty Basketball program! As participating parents in the Blue Island Park District youth sports program, we need your assistance to maintain a positive, fun, and safe environment for all. Our basketball program is based on the philosophy of participation, teamwork, skill development, and fairplay. The following guidelines shall apply to all individuals involved in the Bitty Basketball Program. We strongly encourage everyone to read, understand, and abide by all policies and procedures in this handbook. This packet contains all of the league information for the season.

Introduction

Our Bitty Basketball program strives to create a positive learning experience for all participants involved. It will teach the basic fundamental skills and concepts of basketball throughout the ages of 6-13 years old. Our program will focus on the basic skills of dribbling, shooting, passing, movement, and offense/defense concepts. Instruction per grade level will depend on skill development and areas that need improvement. It is our goal to develop young athletes to their fullest potential by creating a supportive environment where they have the freedom to fail and the desire to succeed. Since this might be the first time your children are exposed to organized sports, it is important that you understand the following goals of the program:

- To teach young athletes the fundamentals of the sport. Each athlete learns at a different rate. With that being said, everyone gets to play in every game and have equal playing time.
- To help young athletes enjoy learning the sport and new skills along with learning to play with teammates. Enjoyment is an important part of learning. **Winning is not the #1 goal.**
- To teach teamwork as it is essential for game play. The better the players can work with each other, the better they will play and cooperate as a team.
- To develop positive attitudes about fair play and the game. Players need to respect their teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and themselves.

******IMPORTANT FOR ALL******

The Blue Island Park District **WILL NOT** tolerate the harassing of its referees by players, coaches or spectators. The referee will have the authority to enforce all rules and may call forfeits for abusive verbal/physical behavior. If this should happen a win will be awarded to the team not in violation. Any team that gets penalized twice for unsportsmanlike conduct will be expelled from the league.

A. Coach Expectations

1. Be prompt and professional.
2. Do not argue with parents/other coaches/officials/staff
3. Every child will be treated with care and respect.
4. Know the basketball rules.
5. Teach the fundamentals of the game and emphasize fun, not competition.
6. Be a positive role model for the Park District, program, and your team.
7. Encourage sportsmanship, fair play and teamwork.
8. Coaches should always have a team roster, emergency forms and a copy of the league rules with them at all times.
9. THE GAME WILL NOT START UNTIL WE HAVE AN ASSISTANT COACH/PARENT VOLUNTEER FOR THE SCOREBOARD. There needs to be 2 scorekeepers, 1 person for the scoreboard and 1 person to keep track of fouls.

B. Player Expectations

1. Respect coaches, teammates, opponents, staff, officials, and parents.
2. Be on time for practice and make sure to be dressed in the proper attire.
3. Work hard and stay focused during practice. Everyone is there to learn.
4. Good sportsmanship is expected at all times. We will shake hands/congratulate other team, officials, and teammates.

C. Parent Expectations

1. Support your child's team by positive cheering.
2. Volunteer with the scoreboard for games.
3. Promptness is expected from all players.
4. Set a positive example, do not talk negatively towards official, coaches or staff.
5. Please inform your coach of an absence to a practice/game **AHEAD** of time.
6. Parents are not allowed on the court, bench, or sidelines.
7. THE GAME WILL NOT START UNTIL WE HAVE AN ASSISTANT COACH/PARENT VOLUNTEER FOR THE SCOREBOARD. There needs to be 2 scorekeepers, 1 person for the scoreboard and 1 person to keep track of fouls.

League Information

A. Location

All practices/games and evaluations will be held at the John D. Rita Recreation Center or Kerr Middle School

John D. Rita Recreation Center: 2805 141st Street, Blue Island, IL 60406

B. Uniforms

Each player will be given a team jersey prior to the first game. The jersey must be worn to each game. Players are responsible for maintenance and cleaning of their uniform. Players are required to wear shorts and gym shoes to practice and games.

Jewelry/eyeglasses shall not be worn on the court. If it is absolutely necessary that glass need to be worn, they have to be fastened on by straps to ensure safety for all. All teams must be in uniform by the second game (matching shirts and numbers).

C. Equipment

The Park District will provide basketballs for each division. Players who bring their own basketballs must have their names written on them. We are not responsible for any lost items. Parents must provide their child with water for each practice and game.

D. Scoring

Winning coaches should email results after each game to Joshua Edwards with Blue Island Park District, jedwards@blueislandparks.org. Please email with your name, phone number, division, game time and final score for both teams. All teams must make an honest effort to keep score respectfully (no winning by more than 15 points). Action may be taken by the League Coordinator.

E. Games

Games will be scheduled on a weekly basis. Coaches will have the schedule at the beginning of the season. This year, we will have teams participating from surrounding Park Districts/Communities as well. Games locations may vary dependent on the # of teams in the league & Gym availability. Games are typically 45 minutes – 1 hour in length and are scheduled on a rotation basis dependent on the number of teams playing at each facility & grade level.

Evaluations

Wednesday, January 11th

6-7yrs	6:00pm – 6:45pm
8-9yrs	7:00pm – 7:45pm
10-11yrs	8:00pm – 8:45pm
12-13yrs	8:00pm – 8:45pm

Saturday, January 14th

6-7yrs	10:00AM
8-9yrs	11:00AM
10-11yrs	12:00PM
12-13yrs	12:00PM

** Grade Player Evaluations will be held at John D Rita Recreation Center 2805 West 141st Street Blue Island, IL 60406*

All players registered in our program must attend the player evaluations. Evaluations should last between 45 minutes – 1 hour. Players should be prepared to do various basketball drills as well as small scrimmages during evaluations. We will use these evaluations to help form teams. If you are unable to attend any of the above dates and times please call Joshua Edwards or Stephanie Analitis at 708-388-6421.

Volunteer Coaches

Our basketball programs success can be directly attributed to the hard work of parent volunteers. Volunteering your time has never been better, with our new list of incentives to reward you for your time such as registration fee reimbursement and coach's polos. We are now accepting volunteer coach applications for our 2016-2017 basketball seasons. Coaches are subject to background checks. Interested parents may contact Joshua Edwards at jedwards@blueislandparks.org

Volunteer Basketball Coach



Do you want to coach a basketball team?

Please fill out the information below

___ Head Coach ___ Assistant Coach

Division (please circle): 6-7yrs 8-9yrs 10-11yrs 12-13yrs

Name: _____ Age: _____

Participant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

If you have any questions please email

**Josh Edwards at jedwards@blueislandparks.org or
Stephanie Analitis at sanalitis@blueislandparks.org**