

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of a basketball and its net. The basketball is in the upper left, showing its orange pebbled texture and black lines. The white net is in the foreground, creating a complex, interlocking pattern. The lighting is warm, creating a golden glow.

Youth Basketball Parent Handbook

St. Mary's County Recreation
& Parks



Youth Basketball Guidelines

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Mission

It is the mission of the Recreation & Parks Youth Sports programs to serve young players, their families and the St. Mary's County community at large by providing fun, safe and enjoyable youth sports experiences by recognizing each player's physical and emotional well-being, by teaching skills development, by treating them with respect and dignity, by encouraging positive parent involvement and by enriching young lives with meaningful recreation and socialization.

Recreation & Parks Administrative Staff

Recreation & Parks Director	Arthur Shepherd	301-475-4200 ext. 1800
Recreation Division Manager	Jessica Hale	301-475-4200 ext. 1804
Youth & Camps Program Coordinator	Cherie Nelson	301-373-4689
Accommodation Requests	Main Office	301-475-4200 ext. 1800
Registrar & Program Support	Susan Simmerman	301-475-4200 ext. 1801
Main Office/Front Desk	Gloria Edwards	301-475-4200 ext. 1800
Main Office Location	23150 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650	

Online Registration Support

For support please contact Gloria or Susan at 301-475-4200 ext. 71800 or email webtrac@stmarysmd.com.

How to Request Accommodations

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to register for general recreation programs. With your registration, please include information regarding your disability and accommodation needed. A two-week notice is required in order for staff to make reasonable accommodations based on individual needs for successful inclusion.

Minimum Requirements for Successful Inclusion

The basic eligibility requirements for all programs, camps, classes and events are listed below. These basic requirements apply to all participants, regardless of ability level. There may be additional requirements for each program, camp or class.

- The capacity for each program is based on ratio and logistics. If the maximum enrollment for a program has been met, a participant may be unable to enroll or placed on a wait list.
- Payment is due upon registration. Payments must be received before admission into any program.
- All participants are required to follow the rules of conduct in the parent handbook. An individual with a disability may be removed from a program if after interventions and accommodations their behavior is a direct threat to others.
- Must be able to maintain personal care without support of R&P staff or volunteers.
- Participants should meet the prerequisite age/ skills for the class or program (if required for participation).
- Participant should be willing to participate and actively participate in the program the majority of the time.
- Ability to function with or without assistance as a member of a larger group (10 or more people).

Please call the Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator for more information on disability accommodations and inclusion services 301-475-4200 ext. 1806.

ADA Compliance

Recreation and Parks makes every effort to ensure that programs and services are accessible for children who are disabled. Children with disabilities are welcome to register and participate in youth activities. Staff at all sites are trained and experienced in working with children with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations will be made on an individual basis. If needed, additional staff will be assigned to sites to enhance child/staff ratio. As part of our policy of inclusion, parents will be asked to participate in an Individual Service Plan (ISP) meeting for the purpose of sharing information pertinent to the child's successful participation in youth programs. This meeting will include staff and school personnel who may have relevant information pertaining to your child's disability. This meeting is required prior to the child's attendance in any youth program. Parents should provide information about the child during registration. The Therapeutic Recreation Specialist will contact you to set up a time for the ISP meeting. Recreation and Parks' Inclusion Committee, which is comprised of leisure professionals, facility planners, parents and community advocates, has the responsibility to review current departmental policies and programming, as well as monitor the department's compliance with the *Americans With Disabilities Act*.

Issues regarding availability and accessibility of program offerings to disabled youth should be directed to the Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1800.

Insurance/Liability

Please be advised that the St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks **does not** provide accident or hospitalization insurance for program participants. Parents are strongly advised to have adequate personal insurance coverage for their children. Participation in the summer camp programs shall be at the parent's and participant's own risk.

Inclement Weather Policy

Every effort will be made to notify participants during inclement weather days as soon as possible. If St. Mary's County Public Schools are closed, all practices and games will also be cancelled. Many factors must be considered before a final decision on program operation is made, so please be patient and look for accurate, timely updates through the following methods:

Weather Hotline **301-475-4200 ext. 1840**

Website Updates www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/rpannounce.asp

Facebook www.facebook.com/stmarysmdrecreation

Instagram @stmarysrecandparks

Twitter twitter.com/stmarysrecparks #stmarysrecparks



Coaches and Assistant Coaches

- A. No team shall have more than two (2) coaches unless approved by R&P. They are designated as Head Coach and Assistant Coach.
- B. Head Coach appointments are made by the Sports Coordinator for a one (1) season period. All coaches will be evaluated after each season. This evaluation will be used to determine whether or not he/she will be invited back to represent a team in our program in the future. Department staff will notify all coaches who are being invited back for the next season by June 1st of each year by email.
- C. All coaches are required to submit a formal application and background check. The background checks are subject to approval of the Recreation Division Manager.
- D. All Assistant Coaches may be selected by the Head Coach after the skills assessments and draft, pending approval of the Sports Coordinator. Assistant Coaches must submit a formal application and background check.
- E. All coaches must understand and agree to carry out the duties, responsibilities, policies, and philosophies as established by Recreation & Parks. All coaches must be approved by the Sports Coordinator. Any coach not carrying out these duties and responsibilities will be subject to dismissal by the department.
- F. Head Coaches are required to hold a pre-season parents meeting to discuss rules, conduct, responsibilities, etc.
- G. Coaches should always keep in mind they are setting examples in sportsmanship and fair play and should conduct themselves accordingly at all times.
- H. Only the Head Coach and their Assistant will be allowed to sit on the bench with the team during the playing of an official game. Violations of this rule will result in forfeiture of the game upon appeal from the opposing coach, if the offending coach does not immediately remove the unauthorized person from the bench.
- I. No Head Coach or Assistant Coach may leave the bench area for the purpose of discussion with an official.
- J. All coaches must wear a coaches' badge during both practice and games.

Community Standards

- A. The head coach and assistant coaches, if more than one coach is assigned to a team, must have a background check completed and must complete certified coach's training.
- B. All parents must sign a code of ethics statement prior to their child participating.
- C. Tobacco and/or alcohol use in or around any school buildings is prohibited.

Coaching Responsibilities

- A. Plan and supervise games, practices, and events.
- B. Teach young athletes the fundamentals of the sport and promote sportsmanship.
- C. Encourage the involvement of the parents in the sport.
- D. Provide a safe and fun environment for the children.
- E. Learn and follow all league rules, policies, and procedures.
- F. Give each player equal playing time.
- G. Put the feelings of the players ahead of your desire to win.
- H. Assist Recreation & Parks staff to address and eliminate player and spectator unsportsmanlike behavior such as foul language, inappropriate comments or physical aggression.

Communication

To help keep communication smooth and productive, there is a certain “chain of command” that we ask everyone to use. Parents should first contact the coach with questions. Coaches should first contact the Game Day Gym Supervisor. If further assistance is needed, then contact the Sports Coordinator.

LEAGUE DESCRIPTIONS

Instructional Basketball Grades 1-2

This introductory division is designed for 1st and 2nd grade boys and girls. Participants will learn the basic fundamentals of playing basketball such as dribbling, passing, shooting lay-ups and court awareness. Instruction takes place in clinic format every Saturday. There is no league play or weekday practice. Participants will play with both a modified ball and a lower hoop. With an emphasis on instruction, score will not be kept. Participants do not belong to set teams; however, pick up games will be played toward the end of the program. There are no officials, only instructors.

Developmental League Grades 3-4

This division is for 3rd and 4th grade boys and girls. Coed teams will be introduced to team play, team uniforms, referees and coaches. Each team will have a one-hour practice once a week and will play a game on Saturdays. This league incorporates a playtime rule; all participants will receive equal playing time throughout the game. Score is tallied during games, but league standings will not be kept. Each team will play approximately ten games and end of season playoffs will not be held. This league plays with a modified ball and the basketball goal is 9ft. Games will have two referees whom, along with coaches, will assist with instruction during the games.

Recreational League Grades 5-6

This division is for 5th and 6th grade boys and girls. There will be a separate league for girls and boys. Each team will have a one-hour practice once a week along with games on Saturdays. This recreational league incorporates a playtime rule; all participants will play at least half of the first half and the second half is at the coach's discretion. Participants will play in approximately 10 scheduled games officiated by two referees. Standings are kept and playoffs will be conducted at the conclusion of the regular season. Goodwill Games will be introduced in this division.

Recreational League Grades 7-8 Boys; Grades 7-9 Girls

This division is for all 7th and 8th grade boys and 7-9th grade girls. There will be a separate league for girls and boys. Each team will have a one-hour practice once a week along with games on Saturdays. This recreational league incorporates a playtime rule; all participants will play at least half of the first half and the second half is at the coach's discretion. Participants will play in approximately 10 scheduled games officiated by two referees. Standings are kept and playoffs will be conducted at the conclusion of the regular season. This division participates in Goodwill Games.

Recreational League Grades 9-10

This is a Coed recreational league for all 9th and 10th graders. This league utilizes a running clock and each player must play in each half. Each team will play ten games and conduct one practice per week. Two referees are used, standings are maintained, and playoffs are used to determine the league winner and runner-up.

Select League Grades 6-8

This division provides an opportunity for higher skilled 6-8th grade basketball players from SMCPs middle schools to participate together. Players are separated by gender and all participants will be selected by the team's coach. Each team will have ten games and be allowed two practices per week. High School basketball rules are used for both girls and boys leagues and two referees officiate. Both leagues will participate in Goodwill Games as well as playoffs.

RULES & REGULATIONS

Recreation League Divisions

Players must sign up and play in their respective league age division. They are as follows:

3rd & 4th Grade Co-ed Rec

5th & 6th Grade Boys Rec

5th & 6th Grade Girls Rec

7th & 8th Grade Boys Rec

7th – 9th Grade Girls Rec

9th & 10th Grade Boys

6-8th Grade Select (Boys & Girls)

- A. Players returning to a team from the previous season MUST register. However, they will be excused from assessments.
- B. The assessment will include a demonstration of each individual skills and the fundamentals of basketball.
- C. No player shall be eligible to participate in assessments, player selection, practices or games until they have completed the registration process. Penalty: Forfeiture of all games which an ineligible player participates. Coaches may face disciplinary action if they allow an ineligible player to participate.
- D. Children are to be in their proper division based on their grade for the current school year. Children cannot move up into a higher division based on skill level. If a child is found to be in the wrong division, the coach will possibly be relieved from his or her duties based on the investigation and the child will be removed from the program.

Player Draft

- A. An in-person draft will be held for Grades 5 through 10. Grades 3 & 4 will be with a random computer draw.
- B. The player draft shall take place following the conclusion of player assessments.
- C. The order of team selections will be determined by a random drawing
- D. Candidates not attending player assessments shall be placed on the bottom of the registration list and placed by draw after all eligible players have been drafted.
- E. The player draft will continue until all rosters are filled, or the pool of candidates is exhausted.
- F. Coaches shall not pass up a player selection choice, as long as selections are available to fill vacant positions.
- G. A candidate who has a sibling already established on a team in the league will be placed on that team to avoid separation. The sibling will be rated based on ability and will be selected based on his or her average draft position determined by the coaches and R&P staff.

Team Composition

- A. The Sports Coordinator must determine the number of registrants the program can accommodate. The Sports Coordinator must develop the selection to accommodate the needs of all teams, including possible modifications of draft order depending on returning players and other factors.
- B. Late registrants will be placed on a waiting list and will be placed on a team if and when a roster vacancy occurs.
- C. Players may not be members of both the Select Basketball League and another R&P Rec League.

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Practice

- A. Teams may only practice during the date and time and location assigned by the Sports Coordinator.
- B. Prior to the start of the regular season, a team may practice 2 days a week for one (1) hour each day.
- C. Once the season begins, teams will be limited to practice one (1) day a week for one (1) hour.
- D. If school or community school programs are canceled for inclement weather, practices for that day are also canceled.
- E. Practices are not permitted at non-approved locations such as PAX River Naval Base. Use of parochial schools and St. Mary's College is not permitted.
- F. No outside practices beyond the permitted schedule provided to you by Recreation & Parks.

Ethics

- A. During all scheduled league practices or games, only participants and Recreation & Parks approved coaches will be permitted on the playing surface. All parents, siblings, and other spectators should remain in the bleachers or designated "viewing" area.
- B. Head Coaches and only Head Coaches are permitted to stand and coach. The Head Coach must remain in the coaching box. If the assistant coach is standing, the head coach must be seated. Both cannot stand at the same time.
- C. The Gym supervisor can discipline a player for being a selfish offensive player and the gym supervisor can specifically stop a game if a team/coach is centering on the ability of the most talented player.
- D. A suspension from the game is also a suspension from the playing site. If circumstances warrant, the suspension may include all competitive programs offered by Recreation & Parks. Seasonal suspensions may be appealed to the Recreation Division Manager.
- E. The length of the suspension will be determined by the Recreation Division Manager and the Sports Coordinator.

Discipline

- A. Recreation & Parks has a zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike conduct or behavior by an individual (players, participants, coaches, officials, spectators, or parents) at any county function or event and will be subject to partial or permanent suspension if found to have behaved in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- B. Gym Supervisors or a Sports Coordinator may issue technical fouls, suspensions or discipline players, coaches, or spectators for unsportsmanlike behaviors and misconduct. This includes bench behavior i.e. coughing during a free throw attempts or punching chairs.
- C. Any coach or player that receives two technical fouls in a game or if a player receives a flagrant foul or is involved in any form of fighting during a game they will be disciplined at a minimum by being removed from the current game and they will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game.
- D. A "game official's box" has been established in the area adjacent to the scorer's table. The purpose of this "box" is to provide a safe area for game officials prior to and at the conclusion of games without them having to acknowledge or explain game decisions. Coaches, players and spectators must not approach nor converse with the game officials while they are in this area. Coaches are not permitted to follow referees outside the gym attempting to address the game. If they do, the coach or the player possibly will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game.
- E. Cumulative Tech Rule for Players & Coaches: Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in the following progressive enforcement: 2 techs in one game will result in the player or coach being suspended from the next scheduled game. If a 3rd tech is assessed that player or coach will most likely be out for the remainder of the season based on appeals and/or consult with department director.

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Youth Basketball Guidelines

League Awards

Recreation & Parks provides individual trophies for participants of teams that finish in first and second place in the playoffs as well as the winners of the post season county tournament. Participation awards are provided to participants in leagues that do not have post season tournaments (3rd & 4th Co-ed).

Uniforms

T-Shirts will be provided by Recreation & Parks. Teams shall NOT alter the uniforms that are distributed to players in any manner. **For safety, proper gym shoes are required to play at practices and games. Players may not wear jewelry or other hard bracelets on arms or legs, hard hair clips, hats, beanies or bandanas.**

Game Schedule

- A. Recreational League play will begin with games on Saturday, December 7, 2019.
- B. Select League play will begin with games on Sunday, December 8, 2019.
- C. A full schedule will be made available online at www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/sports by November 30, 2019.

Playoffs

- A. At the end of the regular season each area league will conduct playoffs with all teams in the respective league eligible to participate.
- B. The 3rd & 4th Co ed league does not participate in the playoffs
- C. The rules and guidelines used in the regular season will also be utilized for these games including the playing time guidelines.
- D. The format will be single elimination and the teams will be seeded based on the regular season standings.
- E. If there is a two or three way tie for first place at the completion of the regular season, the first tie-breaker will be head to head. Second tie breaker will be defensive points allowed by each team when the two (2) teams played one another. A third tie breaker will be a coin flip. Neither team is guaranteed a spot in the county tournament.
- F. The regular season winner and the playoff winner will advance to play in the County Tournament. If the regular season winner and the playoff winner are the same team, the playoff runner-up will also participate in the County Tournament.

End of Season Tournament

- A. The regular season winner and the playoff winner from each area will automatically be in the County Tournament.
- B. The rules and guidelines used in the regular season will also be utilized for these games including the playing time guidelines.

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Youth Basketball Guidelines

- C. If possible, games will be played at a local High School. The actual site will be determined by R&P staff.
- D. The format will be single elimination and the teams will be seeded through a random draw.

YOUTH RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL GAME RULES

General Rules

- A. The playing rules shall be the National Federation of State High School Association rules for the current year except where modified by this manual.
- B. All age divisions with the exception of the 9th & 10th co-ed league will play four (4) six (6) minute quarters.
- C. The clock will be stopped on all dead ball situations except for the 9th and 10th grade co-ed league.
- D. Goal Heights & Free Throw Distances:
- E. 3rd & 4th Co-ed: Goal is at 9' and free throw line at 12'.
- F. 5th-10th Grade Leagues: Goal is at 10' and free throw line at 15'
- G. All teams will receive four (4) time outs per game. Time outs can be used any time during the game. Teams will receive one (1) additional time out per overtime period. Time outs will last one (1) minute.
- H. Half time will last five (5) minutes.
- I. Overtime periods are scheduled for two (2) minutes. Teams may full court press during the last minute of overtime only. **The 3rd-4th Grade leagues will play a one-time 2-minute overtime, running clock & 1 timeout.**
- J. **If a team is leading by 20 points at any time during the second half of a game the leading team must:**
 - i. Play a zone defense that does not extend 5', in any direction, beyond the foul lane.
 - ii. If a player violates either of these guidelines they will be warned once and if they repeat the offense, they must sit out the remainder of the quarter.
 - iii. No back-court press
 - iv. Do this until the differential reaches 12 points.
- K. If there are 8 players or less on a team, there are free substitutions for both teams. Coaches must distribute playing time evenly.
- L. If a player misses three unexcused practices, the coach may sit that player for the next scheduled game if the coach believes it is best for the team and the player. This is acceptable provided the situation is brought to the attention of the parent, gym supervisor, opposing coach and scorekeeper prior to the start of the game.

Officials

- A. Only officials and scorekeepers approved by Recreation & Parks will be assigned to league games.
- B. Only Recreation & Parks staff is permitted to sit at the scorer's table.
- C. A game may be played with one (1) trained official. If both scheduled officials are absent, the game will be cancelled.

Starting the game

- A. A jump ball will start the game. There will be alternating possessions after each held ball.
- B. There will be a ten (10) minute grace period for the first game of the day.

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Youth Basketball Guidelines

- C. All other games will start at the regular scheduled game time or immediately following the previous game.
- D. Teams are expected to arrive 20 minutes before game time.
- E. Teams will not be permitted to warm up on the court until an approved coach is present.

Co-Ed 3rd & 4th Grade

- A. 3rd&4th grades use a 28.5" intermediate sized basketball
- B. Back court defense is not allowed until the final minute of the game.
- C. The team that is playing defense must set up in either a 2-1-2 or 2-3 zone the initial drive down the court. Defenders must be inside the three (3) point arc for Players cannot step outside the arc to steal the ball.
- D. The offensive team cannot hold the ball outside the arc, they must penetrate the arc. At the referee's discretion, if the offensive team is not penetrating, the official may award the ball to the defensive team.
- E. Children in the younger age divisions are encouraged to learn offense and passing rather than running a fast break offense.
- F. A team has ten (10) seconds to move the ball past half court.
- G. Three-point baskets are not allowed.
- H. Possession fouls are shot during the last minute of the game.
- I. The five (5) players that begin each of the four (4) quarters must play the first three (3) minutes of the quarter. Approximately halfway through the quarter, the scorekeeper will stop play and the rest of the players must enter the game for the remainder of the quarter.
- J. No player may play more than 9 minutes per half.
- K. Substitutions are not permitted unless a player receives their third foul or becomes injured.

5th & 6th and 7th & 8th Grade Recreational League (Boys & Girls)

- A. 5th-8th Grades use a 29.5" full size basketball. Girls 28.5
- B. No player may play more than 9 minutes in the first half.
- C. The five (5) players that begin the 1st and 2nd quarter must play the first three (3) minutes of the quarter. Approximately halfway through the quarter, the scorekeeper will stop play and the rest of the players must enter the game for the remainder of the quarter.
- D. Substitutions are not permitted unless a player receives their third foul or becomes injured.
- E. If a team is short of 10 players, those players that played the entire first quarter will not be allowed to re-enter the game until the 3:01 mark of the second quarter.
- F. In the 2nd half there is no required amount of playing time yet each player on the team must enter the half at least once. Each player must sit at least one time in the 2nd half.
- G. When a team with nine (9) players plays a team with ten (10) players, one different player per quarter may receive additional playing time from the team with nine (9) players. If a team plays more than 1 game with nine (9) players, two different players must be used for the extra playing time in the additional games.
- H. Backcourt pressure is not allowed, except for the following: 5th and 6th grade teams may only press in the final minute of the game while **7th & 8th grade teams may press the entire fourth quarter**. Teams will be issued one (1) warning and after that all violations will result in a two (2) shot technical.

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Youth Basketball Guidelines

- I. Foul shots from possession fouls will take place the final minutes of the games. 5th and 6th grade teams will shoot in the final minute while 7th & 8th grade teams will shoot in the final two (2) minutes.
- J. **Cumulative Tech Rule for Players & Coaches: Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in the following progressive enforcement: 2 techs in one game will result in the player or coach being suspended from the next scheduled game. If a 3rd tech is assessed that player or coach will most likely be out for the remainder of the season based on appeals and/or consult with department director.**

9th & 10th Co- Ed League – at Leonardtown High School

- A. All games will be conducted in accordance with the official high school rules.
- B. Time of play will be two (2), twenty (20) minute halves (running clock).
- C. The clock will stop only for timeouts and during the last 2 minutes of each half.
- D. All players must play in each half. It is the coaches' responsibility to uphold this rule using his or her best judgment.
- E. You can back court press the entire game.
- F. **If a team is leading by 20 points at any time during the second half the team ahead must do the following:**
 - a. Strictly play a zone defense, no back court pressure at any time
 - b. When on offense, the winning team must pass the ball at least three times before shooting. The three passes must occur after the ball comes over half court.
 - c. Penalty is warning then a technical. If the lead dwindles to 10 points or less than normal play will resume.
- G. **Cumulative Tech Rule for Players & Coaches: Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in the following progressive enforcement: 2 techs in one game will result in the player or coach being suspended from the next scheduled game. If a 3rd tech is assessed that player or coach will most likely be out for the remainder of the season based on appeals and/or consult with department director.**

Youth Basketball Guidelines

Middle School Select Basketball Game Rules

- A. The league supervisor reserves the right to interpret and/or change any of the league rules at his discretion.
- B. The playing rules shall be the National Federation of State High School Association rules for the current year except where modified by this manual.
- C. Games consists of four 8-minute quarters for Varsity Boys and Girls
- D. Games consists of four 7-minute quarters for JV Boys
- E. The clock will be stopped on all dead ball situations.
- F. All players must play in each half. It is the coaches' responsibility to uphold this rule
- G. using his or her best judgment.
- H. All jewelry (rings, ear rings, nose rings, eyebrow rings, etc.) will either be removed or taped over during the game. At no time shall a player be playing in a game with any type of jewelry exposed.
- I. All teams will receive 4, time outs per game. Time outs can be used any time during the game. Teams will receive 1 additional time out per overtime period. Time outs will last one 1 minute.
- J. Half time will last 5 minutes for varsity boys and girls and 3 minutes for JV. J. Overtime periods are scheduled for 2 minutes.
- K. If a player misses three unexcused practices, the coach may sit that player for the next scheduled game if the coach believes it is best for the team and the player. This is acceptable provided the situation is brought to the attention of the parent, gym supervisor, opposing coach and scorekeeper prior to the start of the game.
- L. If a team is leading by more than 25 points at any point in the 2nd half, a running clock will commence
- M. The clock shall be stopped only for a charged time-out, an injury/blood or disqualification, and immediately following the reporting of a foul if free throws are to be administered.

Starting the game

- A. All games will start with a jump ball. Each additional quarter will begin with in- bounding the ball according to alternate possession. All jump balls will be alternate possessions. Overtime periods will start with jump ball.
- B. A team may start and play with four players with the fifth player entering upon arrival during the next dead ball situation. If a team has less than 4 players at game time, the game will be forfeited.
- C. There will be a 10-minute grace period for the first game of the day.
- D. All other games will start at the regular scheduled game time or immediately following the previous game.
- E. Teams are expected to arrive 20 minutes before game time.
- F. Teams will not be permitted to warm up on the court until an approved coach is present.

Officials

- A. Only officials and scorekeepers approved by Recreation & Parks will be assigned to league games.
- B. Only Recreation & Parks staff is permitted to sit at the scorer's table.
- C. A game may be played with 1 trained official. If both scheduled officials are absent, the game will be cancelled.

Playoffs

- 1) All teams will participate in the single elimination playoffs. Teams will be ranked 1-4 based on their regular season record. Tiebreakers will be based on head-to-head play.
- 2) The 4th Seed will play the 1st Seed and the 2nd Seed will play the 3rd Seed. The winner of each contest will meet to decide a season champion.
- 3) Playoff games will be \$4.00 for adults and \$1.00 for 17 and under.

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Youth Basketball Guidelines

Concussion Awareness

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury, or TBI, caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way your brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head to move rapidly back and forth. Concussions can occur in any sport or recreation activity. A concussion can have long term impacts on young athletes such as their health, memory, learning and even their survival. This has led to a new effort to improve prevention, recognition and response to sports-related concussion.

To help ensure the health and safety of young athletes, Recreation & Parks created an awareness campaign to offer information about concussions to coaches, parents, and athletes involved in youth sports. The following are a list of symptoms that may suggest a concussion has occurred.

- Headache
- Confusion
- Difficulty remembering or paying attention
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Feeling irritable, more emotional, or “down”
- Nausea or vomiting
- Bothered by light or noise
- Double or blurry vision
- Slowed reaction time
- Sleep problems
- Loss of consciousness

What To Do If You Think a Concussion Has Occurred?

1. Seek medical attention right away

A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe to return to play.

2. Do not return to play until medically cleared

Concussions take time to heal. Don't return to play until a health care professional says it's OK. Return to practice is permitted only once staff receive a written release from a health care professional. Children who return to play too soon while their brain is still healing risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. Second or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting the injured student-athlete for a lifetime.

3. Inform all coaches about any recent concussions

Coaches should know if an athlete has had a recent concussion. The coach may not know about a concussion in another sport or activity if he or she is not informed by the parent, guardian or athlete

Maryland Youth Sports Concussion Law

Md. HEALTH-GENERAL Code Ann. € 14-501 (2012)

Annotated Code of Maryland

Online Resource: www.myheadfirst.com/the-law-coaches

(c) Removal from play; written clearance required for return to play. –

(1) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from play at that time.

(2) A youth athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the youth athlete has obtained written clearance from a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

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Youth Basketball Guidelines

Physical & Verbal Abuse Policy

The St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks Department strives to promote the ideals of teamwork, physical conditioning, sportsmanship and acceptable social behavior at all sporting related events. It is imperative that participants and spectators alike ensure an environment that will provide these ideals. Therefore, any unsportsmanlike conduct, including, but not limited to, fighting, verbal abuse or racial and gender epithets involving fans, coaches, players will not be tolerated.

FIGHTING

A hostile encounter with another party or parties, resulting in a physical struggle or contact, will be defined as a "fight". Fighting will not be tolerated on the part of any participant or spectator associated with the St. Mary's County Recreation Division sporting activity or sporting related event.

Leaders

It is the goal of the St. Mary's County Recreation Division to provide an environment where our participants can grow, not only physically, but also mentally & emotionally. It is the responsibility of our leaders to provide an example of self-control and integrity in the hopes that others follow their example. A leader is an individual who holds any supervisory position, including but not limited to, program coaches, assistant coaches, program officials and program supervisors. Any leader who disrupts a game or challenges an official or supervisor after a game will be subject to the following measures. Any "leader" involved in a fight will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- A. **First Offense:** A minimum of 2 years suspension as a leader or participant in St. Mary's County Recreation Division sporting activities and sports-related events from the date of incident. Note: Sporting activities and sports-related events sponsored by the department include, but not limited to, Basketball, Soccer, Indoor Sports and adult leagues. (i.e., if one is suspended from basketball, they are also suspended from any other sport).
- B. **Second Offense:** Lifetime suspension

Participants

A participant is an individual, other than a leader or a fan/spectator, who takes an active part in the sporting activity or sporting related event that the department sponsors. Any participant involved in a fight will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

- A. **First Offense – (Adult: 18 & Over)**
A minimum of 2 years suspension, from the date of offense, as a leader or participant in the department's sporting activities and sporting related events.
- B. **First Offense – (Youth: 17 & Under)**
A 1-year suspension from the date of the offense, as a leader from the department's sporting activities and sporting related event from the date of incident.
- C. **Second Offense – (Youth: 17 & Under)**
A 2 years minimum suspension, from the date of the offense, as a leader participant from all St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks sporting activities and sporting related events until the suspension has ended.

FANS & SPECTATORS

A fan/spectator is an individual who participates in a sporting activity or sporting related event by demonstrating support without taking a leadership or participant role in that particular event. Any spectator

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Youth Basketball Guidelines

who is involved in a fight with an official, supervisor or fan after a game will be subject to the following measures:

- A. First Offense: A minimum of 2 years suspension as a fan/spectator and participant from the St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks sporting activities and sporting related events from the date of the incident. A 2 years suspension from a leadership role in the department's sporting activities and sporting related events.
- B. Second Offense – Lifetime suspension as a fan/sponsor, participant and leader from all related department sporting activities and sporting related events from the date of incident.

Verbal Abuse

The St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks Department strives to create an environment that teaches individuals the art of good sportsmanship. Verbal abuse is defined as the intentional act of insulting another individual through oral measures with the aim of offending. If any abusive language or behavior including, but not limited to the use of the phrase "you (that, etc.) suck(s)" in any form is directed at others, those confrontational parties will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- A. Leaders and/or Participants – (Adults: 18 & Over)
 - a. First Offense: A 4-game suspension as a leader, participant or fan/spectator from the department's sporting activities and related sporting events from the date of the incident.
 - b. Second Offense: A minimum of 2 years suspension as a leader and/or participant for the department's sporting activities and related sporting events. A minimum of 2 years suspension as a fan of the department's sporting activities and related sporting events from date of incident.
- B. Leaders and/or Participants – (Youth: 17 & Under)
 - a. First Offense: An immediate ejection and suspension for the next 4 games as a leader, participant and /or fan/spectator.
 - b. Second Offense: One (1) year suspension as a leader, participant and/or spectator from the department's sporting activities and related sporting events from the date of incident.
 - c. Third Offense: Two (2) years suspension as a leader and/or participant from the department's sporting activities and related sporting events. One (1) year suspension as a fan in the St. Mary's County Recreation & Park's sporting activities and sporting related events from date of incident.

Harassing Fans/Spectators

Harassment is defined as, but not limited to, abusive language, tormenting of participants, and the baiting of individuals. The following set of actions will be implemented against harassing fans/spectators:

- A. First Offense: Immediate ejection and next 4 games suspension.
- B. Second Offense: One (1) year suspension as a participant and/or spectator from date of incident from the department's sporting activities and related sporting events. Lifetime prohibition from a leadership role in the department's sporting activities and sporting related events.
- C. Third Offense: A 2-year suspension as a leader, participant, and/or fan/spectator.

Use of Racial and/or Gender Epithets

The St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks department has zero-tolerance for any use of racial and/or gender epithets used in reference to an individual's race, color, gender, or sexual orientation. Any person(s) found to have used such epithets will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

- A. Leaders

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Youth Basketball Guidelines

- a. First Offense: A 1- year suspension as a leader and/or participant from the department's sporting activities and related sporting events. One (1) year suspension as a fan/spectator in the department's sporting activities and sporting related events from date of incident.
- B. Participants
- a. First Offense – (Adults: 18 & Over): A 4 games suspension as a leader, participant and/or spectator from date of incident from the department's sporting activities and related sporting events.
 - b. Second Offense – (Adult: 18 & Over): Lifetime suspension as a leader and/or participant from all related department sporting activities and sporting related events. One (1) year suspension as a fan in the department's sporting activities and sporting related events from date of incident.
 - c. First Offense – (Youth: 17 & Under): A Two (2) games suspension, from date of incident from the department's sporting activities and related sporting events.
 - d. Second Offense – (Youth: 17 & Under): A 4 games suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan/spectator from date of incident from the department's sporting related activities and events.
 - e. Third Offense – (Youth: 17 & Under): A one (1) year suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan/spectator from the department's sporting activities and related sporting events until the age of eighteen (18) or for one (1) year, whichever is greater.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Sportsmanship is defined as conduct becoming to a sportsman, such as fairness, courteous relations and acceptance of results. The St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks department is promoting these ideals in its sporting activities, programs and sports-related events. The items listed in the above sections constitute conduct, justifying the noted penalty and representing unsportsmanlike conduct. Should any unsportsmanlike conduct occur, not specifically addressed in its discretion, may institute penalties for such behavior consistent with this policy. In determining whether an incident or unsportsmanlike conduct has occurred, the rules of that particular sport may be considered.

Procedures Following Incident

When a person engages in unsportsmanlike behavior within the St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks department sporting activities and related sports events, recreation supervisors, recreation leaders, league supervisors and/or league officials will have the individuals involved in the disruption, will be removed from the park or facility at which the event is occurring. During such time, the sporting event or program will be stopped until those involved have left the park or facility property.

- If a person(s) refused to leave the premises, the law enforcement will be contacted and asked to enforce the ruling of the officials. Individuals removed from the park or facility will be sent a notification letter by e-mail or phone call stating their violation of the altercation policy. The individual will then have seven (7) days from the receipt date of the registered mail or phone call to respond with a written statement, explaining or defending their involvement and setting out their perception of the altercation as it occurred.
- The response must be received by the office of the Director of Recreation & Parks on or before the seventh day from the receipt date of the email or phone call. NO written statement will be considered in the investigation after the seven (7) days.
- After the statements are received, an investigation will be conducted and the St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks department will render judgment of the altercation within ten (10) working days from the statement deadline. A panel consisting of the Gym Supervisor, Sports Coordinator, Game Official, Recreation Division Manager of that particular program in which the altercation occurred; will conduct the investigation. During this investigation, the individual(s) accused will be suspended from all sporting activities and/or sports related events. Those found in violation of this policy, or who are not content with

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Youth Basketball Guidelines

the panel's decision may file an appeal with the Athletic Coordinator as noted above. In filing an appeal, an individual(s) will have five (5) business days to respond in writing from notification of the decision, and said appeal shall be received in the director's office, on or before the fifth day after notification of the decision.

- Individuals may be asked to appear before the appeal review committee. All appeal decisions are final and are not subject to review.
- If the St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks department deems a physical or verbal altercation as a flagrant and deliberate act of violence, the division reserves the right to enforce a more severe punishment within this established disciplinary code.

Use of St. Mary's County Public Schools

The department is appreciative of the cooperation from the schools that allow the use of their facilities to accommodate the Youth Basketball program. The following are some exceptions pertaining to your use of the school buildings:

- The gymnasium is not available before or after the agreed upon times.
- All children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times while in the gym or parking areas.
- All students, parents, and siblings must remain in the gymnasium or parking area at all times. The hallways, commons, classrooms, and office area are off-limits. Use of bathroom facilities nearest the gymnasium is permitted.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the gym at any time.
- No tobacco products are to be used on the school campus both indoor and outside. If you smoke, dip or chew, or vape you must do so off school property. School property includes the parking lot.
- The stage area is off-limits due to periodic storage of furniture, equipment, etc. The storage rooms and offices in the gym are off limits.
- The gym must be vacated by the agreed upon time each afternoon or evening.
- Coaches or group leaders are responsible for notifying players and spectators of appropriate arrival/departure times and the established rules. Children are not to be in the gym unless supervised by an adult.
- Any damage to equipment or building will be assessed to the Sports Coordinator responsible for the damage and could cause the department to lose school use privileges.
- Clean up behind yourself. Don't leave your trash for others.

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St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks Youth Basketball

Will Smith Memorial Leadership Award 2022

This award, established in 2009, serves to recognize 8th grade participants in the St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks Youth Basketball 7th – 8th Grade League(s) that demonstrate consistent positive sportsmanship on and off the court.

The award is named after William (Will) Smith who lost his life on September 21, 2008. He was attending Becker College in Worcester, Massachusetts when this tragedy occurred.

Will Smith was a participant in the Recreation and Parks Youth Basketball League for six years. He displayed a love for the game of basketball and everyone involved. Will believed the game was more than wins and losses and demonstrated respect for one another, teamwork and sportsmanship. He eventually went on to play high school basketball at Great Mills High School but continued to volunteer his time to the Recreation & Parks basketball program whenever he had a chance.

His family also plays a major role in the success of the program. His father, William, participated over 30 years as a referee, instructor and gym supervisor. His mother, Jeanne, served as a volunteer to the program for the benefit of the youth.

2022 Criteria for Nomination

- Nominee must currently participate as an 8th grader in the either the Select or Recreational Youth Basketball League. They must have also participated as both a 6th and 7th grader in either league or a combination of both.
- Nominee must exhibit the following characteristics.
 - Consistent attendance in practice and games.
 - Demonstrate a positive temperament during all practices and games.
 - Readily accept instruction from all his/her team coaches.
 - Truly respect and care about others, such as players, either teammates or opponents, coaches, referees, and parents.
 - Have a passion for the "game of basketball"
 - Must have a 2.5 GPA for 1st marking period

Nomination Process

- Player must be nominated by the Head Coach. **(Maximum of 2 per team)**
- The nomination must be verified by the Gym Supervisor
- Nominee must provide two letters of support from 2 different grade level teachers.
- **All nominations along with the letters of support and copy of Report Card must be submitted to R&P staff no later than Sunday February 13, 2022.**
- R&P staff will select the annual recipients

Recognition

- Each recipient will receive a plaque that recognizes their accomplishment.

Youth Basketball Guidelines



ST. MARY'S COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS YOUTH BASKETBALL FACT SHEET



2021-2022 Rec League Season

TEAM SELECTION (also known as Draft Day)

Your child will need to report to the school listed below for the section of the county in which you are participating. The draft location isn't necessarily the location where games will be held.

3rd & 4th Grade Leagues – There will not be an in-person draft. The draft will be conducted by random computer draw.

SOUTH – Esperanza Middle **CENTRAL** - Leonardtown Middle **NORTH** – Margaret Brent Middle

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
5 th & 6 th boys	Saturday	Nov. 13, 2021	9:00 am
7 th & 8 th boys	Saturday	Nov. 13, 2021	11:00 am
5 th – 8 th girls	Saturday	Nov. 13, 2021	1:30 pm
9 th – 10 th boys/girls	Tuesday	Nov. 15, 2021	7:00 pm

- All registrants will be placed on a team during the draft. If you are unable to attend the draft, your child will still be placed on a team.
- Coaches will notify players of their team placement **no later than Friday, November 19th**. If you have not heard from a coach by Monday, November 22, please contact the Sports Office at 301-475-4200 ext. 1830.
- Each player will receive a numbered shirt to be worn at every game.

TEAM PRACTICE

- Each team receives a one-hour practice one day a week.
- Practices will be held Monday-Friday between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- Parents are responsible for transportation to and from practice.

GAME INFORMATION

- Games begin Saturday, December 4, 2021 and will conclude in March.
- Game schedules will be given to coaches prior to the first game and schedules will also be available online: www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/sports

GAME LOCATIONS

- **South:** Co-ed 3rd/4th grade will play at Carver Recreation Center
Boy's 5th/6th will play at Esperanza Middle and 7th/8th grade will play at Spring Ridge Middle
- **Central:** Co-ed 3rd/4th grade will play at Leonardtown Elementary
Boy's 5th/6th & 7th/8th grade will play at Leonardtown Middle
- **North:** Co-ed 3rd/4th grade will play at Lettie Dent Elementary
Boy's 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade will play at Margaret Brent Middle
- **Girls:** Girls will play throughout the county (this is due to a typical lower ratio of players)

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Youth Basketball Guidelines

PROJECTED BUDGET FOR THE 2021-2022 SEASON

Recreational Basketball Expenses

Personnel- Hourly Staff (Gym supervisors, referees, scorekeepers)	\$57,000.00
Supplies and Materials (T-shirts, score books, basketballs, coaches clinics, awards, misc. equipment)	\$8,500.00
Contract Services (Tournament referees, advertising, & background checks of staff)	\$17,000.00
School Usage Fees	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$107,500

Recreational Basketball Revenue

Registration Fee (Estimate 870 children) x \$95.00	\$87,000.00
Biddy Basketball Registration (Estimate 230 children) x \$60.00	\$14,950.00
Pictures	\$3,000.00
Sponsors	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$107,950

***New This Season:** A location change for the 9-10th Grade leagues – Leonardtown High School for all games. The 7-8th grade girls teams have expanded to include 9th grade.*

Select Middle School Basketball Expenses

Personnel- Hourly Staff (Gym supervisors, referees, scorekeepers)	\$ 9,000.00
Supplies and Materials (Uniforms, T-shirts, basketballs, coaches clinics, awards, misc. equipment)	\$23,000.00
Contract Services (Referees, advertising, & background checks of staff)	\$ 7,000.00
School Usage Fees	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$43,000.00

Select Middle School Basketball Revenue

Registration Fee (Cheerleaders at 160 registered & 144 Basketball players)	\$43,680.00
Pictures	<u>\$ 1,800.00</u>
TOTAL	\$45,480.00

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