



Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Pee-Wee Basketball Guidelines

I. THE LEAGUE:

- A. **Mission:** To enhance the quality of life of our residents and visitors by providing well rounded recreational and competitive sports programs focusing on building a sense of community and improving the overall quality of life for current and future generations.
- B. **Philosophy:** Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Pee-Wee Basketball league is first and foremost, a recreational sport league. The Pee-Wee basketball league was formed to provide a level playing field to refine skills and further the advancement of all players. The recreation division has adopted the standards of the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA). These standards were developed for all volunteers to follow in developing and administering youth sports for youth.
- C. **Administration:** All leagues will operate under the jurisdiction of Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism. Questions and concerns should be brought to the League Coordinator's attention. The league coordinator for the indoor youth program is Travon Royall, Sports Coordinator. Mr. Royall can be reached at 240-349-3048; royallt@charlescountymd.gov
- D. The program is designed for boys and girls to participate in the following age divisions:
 - Boys Division Kindergarten and 1st – 2nd Grade
 - Girls Division ages Kindergarten – 2nd Grade
 - a. Teams will play a minimum four (4) game schedule.

II. VOLUNTEER COACHES:

- A. Prior to the season, all coaches (head coaches and assistant coaches) MUST:
 - 1. Submit a coaching application with contact information.
 - 2. Submit to a mandatory **Criminal Background Investigation**.
 - 3. Pass a mandatory NYSCA Certification.
 - 4. Sign and adhere to the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Coaches Code of Conduct.
 - 5. Abide by and adhere to the League Guidelines.
- B. The coach will be the team representative and will be responsible for the following:
 - 1. Be the liaison between the League Coordinator/Community Center staff and team members.
 - 2. Attend all coaches/managers' meetings.
 - 3. Wear issued coaches shirts. See Equipment Section.
 - 4. The conduct of team players, assistant coach, players' parents, and team spectators.
 - 5. Head coach is only allowed one (1) assistant coach per team.
 - 6. Inform and distribute to team members and parents all information pertaining to the league (rules, regulations, schedule, make-up dates, parents, and players' code of conduct, etc.).
 - 7. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that roster information including assistant coach's name and current phone number is always correct.

8. Reinforce the recreation philosophy to all players.
9. Keep team bench and surrounding area free of trash.
10. Drugs should never be administered to players, other coaches or spectators. Any coach or player in violation of this rule will be suspended from coaching and/or participation in DRPT recreation-sponsored programs.
11. Adhere to the Charles County Public School no smoking policy while on school grounds (including E-Cigarettes).
12. Not allow food or drinks or personal soccer balls to be permitted in the gymnasium.

III. TEAM MEMBERSHIP:

1. All players must be registered.
2. All teams will consist of a minimum of eight (8) players and a maximum of ten (10) players. (Total registration will dictate the number of players on each team).
3. Players must be between the grades of kindergarten and 2nd Grade. Grade determined as of September 1, 2025.
4. Children can only be rostered on one team.
5. Players must play within the appropriate age division: Kindergarten and 1st – 2nd Grade for Boys and Kindergarten – 2nd Grade for Girls.
6. Out of County Players
 - Non-residents of Charles County are welcome to participate, however, in the circumstances where a division has reached a full capacity of teams, rosters with Charles County citizens may be given priority.

IV. EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSION:

- A. Consequences for suspensions/ejections will be decided by the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism office based upon a 3 Tier system. If games are postponed or rescheduled, suspensions are indefinite until games are played.
1. **Tier One: Minimum 1 game Suspension**
 - a) A tier one offense may be issued to any player, parent, coach, or spectator who:
 1. Is ejected from a game, asked to leave a game or practice site, or is reported to be involved in any form of harassment, obscene gestures or language, or any other unsportsmanlike behavior by an official or Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism staff member. The result of these actions will result in a 1 game suspension, effective immediately, starting with your teams next scheduled game.
 - b) After review of the incident by the League Director, additional games may be added to the suspensions
 - c) Any further ejections may result in suspension from the league.
2. **Tier Two: Suspension for remainder of season**
 - a) Players, parents, coaches, or spectators may be suspended from the league and all Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism programs for the remainder of the season.
 - b) A tier two offense may be issued, at the discretion of the League Director to any player, coach, or spectator based on the following criteria, which includes but is not limited to:

1. Committing multiple tier one offenses within the same season.

2. Strike, shove, bump, trip, or threaten an official, player, coach, spectator, Recreation, Parks, and Tourism staff member or league official during or after a game, on Charles County Community Center, Public School, or Park property.

3. **Tier Three: 2 Year Suspension**

a) Anyone involved in a tier 3 offense may be suspended from the league and all Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism programs for a minimum of two years.

b) A tier three offense may be issued, with discretion from the League Director, to any player, parent, coach, or spectator based on the following criteria, which includes but is not limited to:

1. Committing multiple tier one or tier two offenses within a year of previous offenses.

2. Is involved in a severe incident that displays excessive, relentless, or malicious disobedience of our mission, including but not limited to; harassment, fighting, or conduct with intent to harm an official, player, coach, spectator, Recreation, Parks, and Tourism staff member or league official during or after a game, on Charles County Community Center, Public School, or Park Property.

V. **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT:**

Emphasis will be placed on the development of basic basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting techniques, teamwork, and **SPORTSMANSHIP**.

VI. **SPORTSMANSHIP**

All players, coaches and spectators will be required to maintain good sportsmanship, always.

Charles County DRPT is implementing “Silent 1st Quarter” to encourage positive cheering. During this time, spectators will be asked to remain silent and to only clap and cheer positively during this quarter.

At the conclusion of each game, **one participant** on each team will receive the Good S.P.O.R.T.S Sportsmanship Award. This award recognizes participants who best follow the Good S.P.O.R.T.S. motto by exemplifying the spirit of the game through their positive attitude, demeanor, and treatment of fellow competitors, teammates, coaches, and officials and being Good S.P.O.R.T.S!

Good S.P.O.R.T.S stands for:

Sportsmanship
Positive Attitude
Obey the Rules
Respect
Team Work
Strive for Success

The award will only be granted to a player if that one player meets the above criteria. The award

can be determined by the opposing coach.

VII. AGE

All Children must be between the grade of: kindergarten – 2nd Grade (boys & girls) as of September 1, 2025.

VIII. EQUIPMENT:

- A. Kindergarten boys and kindergarten – 2nd Grade girls will play on 8' baskets.
- B. 1st – 2nd Grade Boys play on 9' baskets.
- C. Kindergarten Boys will use a 25.5 basketball
- D. All other leagues will use a youth 27.5 basketball.
- E. All players must wear numbered jerseys. Shorts, sweatpants, and sneakers are allowed. Boots or hard soled shoes of any kind are not allowed. Team colors are predetermined by the League Coordinator.
- F. **The only uniform provided is a T-shirt or mesh jersey**, which must be tucked in, and must be worn for each scheduled game. Not having a game shirt may result in a player not being able to participate in the game. No alteration of the league T-shirt or jersey is permitted. **If a T-shirt or jersey is determined to be altered, the player will not be permitted to play until a new shirt is ordered, paid for, and received by the participant.**
- G. Each coach will be required to wear issued coaches shirts. Assistant coaches that are not wearing one will not be allowed on the sidelines. If a head coach is not wearing one their team will start the game with a technical foul and must remain seated for the remainder of the game. If both head coaches do not have a shirt a double technical foul will be issued and both head coaches must sit the entire game. Both teams will shoot free throws and the game will begin with a jump ball.
- H. If in the opinion of the Official, a color conflict of uniforms exists, the home team will wear scrimmage vests during the game, provided by the facility.
- I. Player blood rule in effect. A player who is bleeding or has blood on their uniform must leave the court for immediate medical attention. Bleeding must be stopped, the wound dressed, and no fresh blood is to be on the uniform before the player is allowed to return.
- J. Mouth pieces are not mandatory but allowed for those who choose to wear them appropriately.
- K. Jewelry and earrings are prohibited.
- L. Religious and medical-alert medals are not considered jewelry. A religious medal shall be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical-alert medal shall be taped and may be visible.
- M. Due to safety concerns, Charles County Recreation, Parks, & Tourism does not recommend wearing beads in the hair, however, if beads are to be worn, at the discretion of the referee, Department of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism staff, or league representative they must be securely fastened close to the head and covered with a soft covering so as to not increase the risk to athletes, teammates or opponents.
- N. Sweat bands for wrist and head are allowed if worn appropriately.
- O. Items worn for religious reasons must be brought to the attention of the Site Attendant.

- P. No metal belt buckles allowed.
- Q. Eyeglasses should be secured with a strap.
- R. Casts of any kind, even if padded, are not allowed.
- S. Food, Gum, Drinks will not be allowed in the gymnasiums.
- T. **No bags or extra clothing items permitted in the bench area. All bags must remain in the stands and or with parent/guardian**

IX. ROSTERS: Each team will be limited to a maximum of 10 players.

X. GAME RULES:

- A. One coach will be allowed to enter the basketball court solely for the purpose of assisting with skills development of children.
- B. All games will be played with four (4), six (6) minute running quarters. Clock stops on all free throw attempts.

XI. MANDATORY PLAY RULE:

- A. All children available during games will be required to play (except injuries). Players will play an entire three (3) minutes from the start of the clock to the end of the three-minute segment for the quarter. Substitutions will be allowed only for injuries.
- B. To further ensure playing time is distributed equally, **no player may play more than three (3) quarters of the game unless the team has seven (7) or fewer players.**
- C. At the three (3) minute mark in each quarter, the clock will stop. On the next dead ball or stoppage in play coaches will substitute the remaining players into the game at this time. (THIS WILL OCCUR AT THE HALFWAY MARK DURING EACH QUARTER.) Violation of this "bench clearing" substitution at the halfway mark must not occur.
- D. The clock will only stop during substitutions, timeouts, free throws and/or all whistles during the last 30 seconds of each game.
- E. Fouls that occur during the act of shooting will be awarded two (2) shots.
- F. All defenses will be **ZONE**. No man-to-man defense will be allowed.
- G. Bonus Shots: Awarded after the 5th foul each quarter. Each foul that takes place from that point will be awarded bonus shots.
- H. The players cannot be disqualified from participating if they exceed five fouls (Children cannot foul out of the game).
- I. Double-Dribbling will be a relaxed violation.
- J. "Traveling" calls will be relaxed, but "running" with the ball will be a violation.
- K. All shot attempts that enter the basket will result in a change of team possessions (including all foul shots).
- L. During all "throw-ins" after a basket has been made, after a violation, or after a rebound has been controlled by a player, the defensive players will retreat to behind the top of the key. **A defensive strategy known as a full-court press will not be allowed in the Pee Wee Basketball League.**
- M. Each team will be allowed two (2) one-minute timeouts per game.

N. Only games canceled because of inclement weather or school functions will be rescheduled by the League Coordinator. Games will not be rescheduled or changed from the original game schedule for personal reasons. No other cancellations will be acknowledged.

O. All participants will receive a participation certificate.

XII. CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

A. All coaches will be notified of any cancellations via email. Notices will also be posted on our website.

B. Coaches are responsible for notifying parents of any cancellations.

CONCUSSION FACT SHEET

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is an injury that changes how the cells in the brain normally work. A concussion is caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Even a “ding”, “getting your bell rung”, or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

Concussions can also result from a fall or from players colliding with each other or with obstacles, such as a goalpost, even if they do not directly hit their head.

The potential for concussions is the greatest in athletic environments where collisions are common.

Concussions can occur, however, in any organized or unorganized sport or recreational activity. As many as 3.8 million sports and recreation-related concussions occur in the United States each year.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs and symptoms of a concussion:

Signs Observed by Parents or Guardians

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Cannot recall events prior to hit or fall
- Cannot recall events after hit or fall

Symptoms Reported by Athlete

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not “feel right”

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

Every sport is different, but there are steps your children can take to protect themselves from concussion

- Ensure that they follow their coach’s rules for safety and the rules of the sport

- Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times
- Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity. Protective equipment should fit properly, be well maintained, and be worn consistently and correctly
- Learn the signs and symptoms of concussion.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS A CONCUSSION?

- **Seek medical attention right away**
 - A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to sports
- **Keep your child out of play**
 - Concussions take time to heal. Don't let your child return to play until a health care professional says it's ok. Children who return to play too soon – while the 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 your child for a lifetime.
- **Tell your child's coach about any recent concussion**

Coaches should know if your child had a recent concussion in ANY sport. Your child's coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach. **Remember, you can't always see a concussion and some athletes may not experience and/or report symptoms until hours or days after the injury. It's better to miss one game than the whole season.**

For more detailed information on concussion and traumatic brain injury, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/injury>