

Basketball Frequently Asked Questions

My child has never played basketball. Is this the right league for them?

Our program is designed to be a learning league where players can learn the skills and rules of basketball at an appropriate age and in a way that's fun for both skilled players and beginners. To accomplish this goal, we have special rules in our younger program (ages 9 and below) that emphasize player development and learning with the goal of having them play "regular basketball" by age 10. If your child has never played before, this would be a great place to start!

What rules do you play by?

For ages 10 and up, we play according to the latest rulebook issued by PIAA (or NFHS). In our blue gym, we play by our own league rules, which can be found at kids.ccphilly.org/sports-resources and are designed to teach the kids the rules of the game in a grace-filled environment.

I just had my ears pierced, can I tape them?

Please, for everyone's safety, there is no jewelry allowed while playing games. No earrings, necklaces, watches, or bands/ties that may catch another player, even if accidental. The only exception to this would be a medically required bracelet, which must be taped down. If a player is noticed to have jewelry, he/she will be asked to leave the court and cannot return until the jewelry is removed referee allows them back in the game.

Do I have to buy my uniform? Where do I get it?

Player jerseys and shorts are included in the registration fee and will be given to all players by their coach. Players must wear their uniform with their number from this season to each game. Uniforms do not need to be worn to practice.

How do I know if basketball is cancelled?

We will email (and possibly call) you if basketball is cancelled, provided you have supplied accurate contact info at registration. Any cancellation will also be posted to the sports ministry page of the website (kids.ccphilly.org/sports). Decisions to cancel will generally be made by 7am on game days (unless inclement weather is sudden and unexpected).

Why didn't the referee call that foul?

Our purpose here is to give you a basic understanding of basketball rules. However, keep in mind that how a referee sees and interprets a call may be different from what you see. Also remember that our league emphasizes grace and learning, so there are

times when the referee might show grace to players who are learning the rules and not call an infraction, or make the call but then give the ball back to a player. In these situations, it's important to keep the focus on the spirit of our league.

Wasn't that a travel?

A dribbler is allowed to pivot on one foot while holding the ball. If the dribbler moves the "pivot foot," it is a traveling violation once that foot touches the floor (not when it first leaves the floor). When a dribbler is in motion, they have two steps to pass or shoot the ball, with the third step constituting a travel. In our younger age groups, we show some grace in calling traveling as the players learn the rule.

What kind of contact is legal and what is a foul?

It's usually a foul when a defender uses any part of the body to hold, trip, hit, or restrain an opponent. However, defenders can use their body to block the opponent from getting to the basket as long as they get legal guarding position (establishing 2 feet down between the offensive player and the basket and then maintaining a position between the player and basket) and do not move into the player. If an offensive player moves into a defender in legal guarding position, the offense can be called for charging. Keep in mind, there are exceptions to these guidelines and fouls are called at the discretion of the referee, who may see and interpret the play differently from you.

Both teams had a hand on the ball. Why did the other team get it?

Our league, in accordance with PIAA rules, uses alternating possession on all "jump ball" situations. At the opening tip, the team that loses the jump ball is awarded the possession arrow. When both teams grab ahold of the ball, the ref will call jump ball and the team with the possession arrow gets the ball. The possession arrow then goes to the other team, who is given possession at the next jump ball, and so on and so forth.