



**So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.**

1 Corinthians 10:31

**2024-2025
CYBL HANDBOOK**

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STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

THROUGH A PROGRAM OF CHRIST-CENTERED ATHLETICS, THE CHRISTIAN YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE (CYBL), PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH PARTICIPANT TO DEVELOP HIS OR HER TALENTS WHILE EMPHASIZING CHRISTIAN GROWTH AND A DEEPER DEDICATION TO GOD AND CHURCH.

OBJECTIVES

- To develop a Christian environment where fellowship, recreation, and ministry can occur.
- To use the sport of basketball as a tool to spread the Gospel and reach people for Christ.
- To aid participants in developing patience, self-control, courage, good sportsmanship, teamwork, and a Gospel-centered outlook toward sports and life.

CODE OF CONDUCT

CYBL programs and events are designed to provide quality skill instruction in a loving environment that emphasizes sportsmanship and Christian character development.

Expected behavior from coaches, players, parents, and spectators:

1. Absolutely no tobacco, alcohol or drug use.
2. Facilities are to remain a safe and clean environment. Please dispose of all trash and report all unsafe conditions.
3. Any damage done to a gym by an individual will be his/her responsibility.
4. Profanity, obscene, or demeaning language is not accepted at any time.
5. Support teammates and players from both teams at all times – use only encouraging words towards players and coaches of both teams.
6. Arguing or attempting to physically harm referees, CYBL or FPC staff, players, opposing coaches, or other parents and spectators will not be tolerated.
7. Display and model a positive, Christ-like attitude at all times, regardless of the intensity of the game.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Scheduled games: All games will be played as scheduled. No games will be rescheduled unless a team drops out of the league or the league, at its discretion, elects to reschedule. Reasons for rescheduling include but are not limited to, adverse weather conditions and unforeseen threats to safety.
2. Forfeits: Please call the Director or Assistant Director to inform them as soon as possible.
3. Scorekeeper: The home team will be responsible for providing the official scorekeeper. The scorekeeper will sit at the scorer's table during the game. Grades 2-3 do not keep score, so no scorekeeper is needed.
4. All players, coaches, referees, and fans participate in this league at their own risk.
5. Spectators are expected to adhere to proper Christian conduct. We want everyone to support and cheer on their teams but also remember you are a visitor in another church's gym sitting among the opposing teams' family and friends.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

1. Each participating team in the CYBL must be affiliated with and sponsored by a supporting church/organization (C/O). Each C/O must have one (1) contact person for all of their participating team(s). It is the responsibility of this person to approve the coach(es) and team roster(s). Roster forms are attached and must be completed, submitted, and approved before the first game of the season.
2. All teams will provide a complete roster listing:
 - a. Church/Organization Team Name and Team Coach(es)
 - b. Player name, address, phone #, grade level, and church/organization member (Y/N)
 - c. Signature of the Church/Organization Representative confirming team and roster
3. Any C/O may enter more than one team per age group (Team A, Team B...)
4. At least 33% of each team must be made up of members or attendees of the C/O.
5. No team is allowed to have players who are on a Middle, JV, or High School team. Any team found to be in non-compliance with this rule will have to forfeit all games in which that player participated.

COACH ELIGIBILITY

1. All Head CYBL Coaches must be above the minimum age of 21 years old. A student 16-20 years old may assist but will be expected to adhere to the same CYBL standards of conduct required of the head coach.
2. At least one coach, 21 years or older, from each team, must be a member of the host C/O.
3. Coaches should make every effort to get to know their players and encourage Gospel-centered conversation when appropriate. A short devotion at practice is a great way to open the prospects of such a conversation.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Students in grades 2-12 are eligible to participate. A student may play in a higher division.

Divisions are as follows:

- Grades 2-3
 - Grades 4-5
 - Grades 6-7
 - Grades 8-9
 - Grades 10-12
2. Any player who is on a Middle, JV, or High School team is not eligible to participate in the CYBL.
Note: Any player found to be in non-compliance will be immediately dropped from the roster and the team penalized as noted in the team eligibility section.

GAME DAY EXPECTATIONS

Before the Game

1. Prior to the start of each game there will be a devotional message. All coaches and players are expected to gather at center court to take part in this opportunity. Coaches should set the example of being attentive and respectful during this time.
2. Each team must have an eligible Coach present before the start of the game. If a team cannot provide one, it will result in an automatic forfeit.
3. All players must have the same color team jersey with a number on the front and back. No repeat numbers between two players. The host gym will enforce this rule.
4. Games should start at the scheduled time, and no sooner. Five (5) players must be present to start the game. Failure to have the appropriate coach and number of players at the start of the game will result in a forfeit.

During the Game

1. Only CYBL approved coaches are allowed on the bench with the team, and only one coach at a time may stand during the game.
2. As referenced in the Code of Conduct, all coaches, players, and fans are expected to show good sportsmanship and respect to each other, opposing players, and the referees. Any instances of unsportsmanlike conduct should be dealt with immediately by the coach. Issues involving the coach should be brought to the attention of the C/O representative and if not dealt with, will be addressed by the League Director.

Following the Game

1. Players and coaches should appropriately acknowledge the opposing team with a congratulatory high five or “good game” showing good sportsmanship regardless of the outcome.
2. Teams should quickly clean up around their bench and exit the area to make room for the next team’s game.
3. Any issues questions or concerns that arise before during or after a game will be handled by an official league representative or the League Director. If necessary, the League Director may take such issues to the Governing Body which has final authority.

CYBL SPECIFIC RULES FOR PLAY

Some rules vary according to the grade division level.

1. Basketball Size:

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| a. Grades 2-3: | Junior Ball (27.5) | Size 5 |
| b. Grades 4-5: & Grades 6-12 Girls: | Intermediate Ball (28.5) | Size 6 |
| c. Grades 6th-12th Boys: | Regulation Ball (29.5) | Size 7 |

2. Goal Height:

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|-----------------|--------|---|
| a. Grades 2-3: | 8 ft. | There are no three (3) point shots at this level. |
| b. Grades 4-5: | 9 ft. | There are no three (3) point shots at this level. |
| c. Grades 6-12: | 10 ft. | |

3. The scoreboard clock will be operated as follows:

- a. Grades 2-3: Twenty (20) minute halves, running clock including time outs.
- b. Grades 4-5: Eighteen (18) minute halves, running clock, until the final 2 minutes of regulation, at which time the clock will stop on the whistle as long as the score differential is less than 10 points. If the score differential is 10 points or more the running clock will continue.
- c. Grades 6-9: Twelve (12) minute halves
- d. Grades 10-12: follows the regular high school rules and regulations, with the exception of playing 7 minute quarters for males, and 6 minute quarters for females
- e. Half time will last for three (3) minutes all levels
- f. Ten (10) minutes between games
- g. There will be no overtime in regular season games.

4. Timeouts:

- a. Grades 2 – 5: Three (3) – thirty second timeouts per game, with no timeouts inside the last two (2) minutes. The clock will not stop during the timeout.
- b. Grades 6 – 12: Three (3) timeouts allowed at any time during the game.

5. Playing time:

- a. During the regular season coaches should make every effort to give players equal time.
- b. Each player should have the opportunity to play at least half of the game time. During playoffs, coaches may be more selective regarding who plays for how long.

6. Technical fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct:

- a. No unsportsmanlike conduct will be tolerated by coaches, players or fans. The league representative, present at the game, will decide of action to be taken at the time of the incident.
- b. If a player is ejected from the ballgame for any reason other than fouling out, the player is automatically suspended from the next game.

7. Defense:

- a. Grades 2 – 5: No defense outside of the defense box, must play man-to-man at all times.
- b. Grades 4 – 5: If the score differential is less than 10 points at the start of the last 2 minutes of the game, the defense can extend to half court.
- c. The offense must get the ball past halfcourt in under 10 seconds or it will be a turnover.
- d. Grades 6 -7: No pressure defense past half court until the last two minutes of the game.
- e. Grades 8-12: No pressure defense past half court when a team is ahead by twenty (20) or more points.
- f. Grades 6-12: Teams that illegally pressure in the backcourt will receive one (1) warning. If a team continues to pressure in the backcourt, it will be assessed a Technical Foul after each infraction.

8. Fouls:

- a. Grades 2-3: Fouls are called but not counted against a team or the player – this is for educational purposes only.
- b. Grades 4-5: Players committing six (6) personal fouls are disqualified.
- c. Grades 6-12: Players committing five (5) personal fouls are disqualified.

9. Bonuses:

- a. Grades 4-9: Once a team is assessed its tenth (10th) personal foul of a half, the opposing team is awarded two shots for each foul. The player fouled is the player to attempt the foul shots.
- b. Grades 10-12: The bonus is the two free throws awarded for a common foul (except a player-control or team-control foul) as follows:
 - i. Beginning with a team's fifth foul in each quarter, two free throws are awarded, regardless of whether or not the first free throw is successful.
 - ii. Team fouls will be reset to zero at the end of each quarter.

10. Free Throws:

- a. Grades 2-3: This division does not shoot free throws
- b. Grades 4-5: Fifteen (15) foot line (may cross the line after releasing the ball)
- c. Grades 6-12: Fifteen (15) foot line

POST SEASON

1. There will be a post season single elimination tournament for grades 4-12.
2. For tournament games the amount of playing time will be at the coach's discretion.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Team registrations for the Christian Youth Basketball League will be during the month of October.
- The CYBL Coaches meeting will be in the first week of November.
- The season will start for 6th-12th grades the week before Thanksgiving.
- Playoffs will begin immediately following the end of the regular season and will try to be over before February 1st.
- The season will start for 2nd-5th grades on the first Saturday in December.
- There will be 8 weeks of regular season games and then the top 8 teams for 4th-5th grade will play in the playoffs on the 9th week.
- The playoff games will be on Tuesday from 5:30-8:30, Thursday from 5:30-8:30, and Saturday.
- There are no playoffs for 2nd-3rd grade.

Each team in the Christian Youth Basketball League should strive for more than just winning the championship. Success in this league is not solely defined by winning the championship. It is not even listed as one of the league's primary objectives!

While I hope that every team gives their best effort to win, it should not come at the expense of sportsmanship and the Christian values that our league aims to promote.

In the spirit of the vision of the league, we will have a devotion before every game and a joint team prayer led by the coaches after shaking hands at the conclusion of the game. This is mandatory.

CYBL Participating Organizations

2024-2025 Season

1. Bethel AME Church
2. Bethlehem Baptist Church
3. Church of the Apostles
4. Downtown Church
5. Eastminster Presbyterian Church
6. Epworth Children's Home
7. First Baptist Church
8. First Presbyterian Church
9. Forest Lake Presbyterian Church
10. Grace Presbyterian Church
11. Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church
12. Northeast Presbyterian Church
13. Radius Church
14. Riverland Hills Baptist Church
15. Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church
16. St. John Neumann
17. St. John's Episcopal Church
18. St. Joseph Catholic Church
19. St. Martin's in the Field
20. St. Martins Deporres
21. Shandon Presbyterian Church
22. Shandon United Methodist Church
23. Timmerman School (2nd-5th graders)
24. Trenholm Road United Methodist Church
25. Trinity Episcopal Church
26. Union United Methodist Church