

# **Haverhill YMCA Youth Basketball League**

**Parents and Players are required to read this handbook.**



## **2010-2011 Parent & Player Handbook**



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the Haverhill Youth Basketball League. We are so glad you have decided to join us for a great and rewarding basketball season! This season will have many positive changes and league assessments. All are intended to enhance the quality of the league and the overall experience of its players, parents, volunteers and the Haverhill YMCA.

The beginning to a great season involves making sure that all participants and families are aware of the procedures and rules of this basketball program. This packet contains useful information and answers to many common questions about the league. Please read it carefully and thoroughly and if you have any comments or questions about the information or the program itself, please contact the **League Director**:

**Matthew Chmielewski**  
**Sports & Adventure Director**  
**Haverhill YMCA**  
**(978) 374-0506 x 1618**  
**[chmielewski@northshoreymca.org](mailto:chmielewski@northshoreymca.org)**

## **YMCA PHILOSOPHY**

The youth sports programs at the YMCA are geared to help young people develop social skills for group and team interaction. The YMCA's motto is to "Build strong kids, strong families and strong communities," and it's our hope that the youth sports program will be an opportunity for young people to develop themselves not only as an athlete, but as a person. The emphasis at the YMCA is on having fun and learning to enjoy the sport. We also emphasize learning skills of the sport, as well as the lifelong values of sportsmanship, self-respect, respect for others, and positive attitudes about winning or losing. Competition is a part of our program, however, how you play and how you feel about yourself is more important than winning or losing. We hope that you and your child will walk away from this YMCA basketball league having learned more than just skills for the game, but skills for life.

## DIVISION INFORMATION

- Registration begins **August 1st**.
- Registration forms are available at the Haverhill YMCA and on the YMCA website: [www.northshoreymca.org](http://www.northshoreymca.org). Please be sure all registration forms are filled out completely, without the registration form your child will not be placed on a team (the emergency information is necessary prior to the start of the season).

### **DIVISIONS:** (Grade as of September 7th, 2010)

This year, we are looking to begin the GIRLS ONLY 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and GIRLS ONLY 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Divisions. We will need your help in getting the word out to help make this happen!

BOYS & GIRLS 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

BOYS & GIRLS 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

BOYS 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade\*                      GIRLS 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade\*

BOYS 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade\*                      GIRLS 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade\*

**\*Divisions will be combined based on registration numbers.**

- Special requests for teams will be taken, but cannot be guaranteed. Requests must be handwritten on the registration form by **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**.
- Any player registering after **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010** may be placed on a wait list. Players **may** miss 1-2 weeks of games and practices.
- All participants will receive a team t-shirt. All t-shirts will be distributed by coaches at the first game. Late registrants may be required to wait until the re-order can be made.
- On game day, all participants should bring sneakers, comfortable shorts, and a water bottle.
- Coaches will contact all participants to confirm the first scheduled game time and location. Season schedules will be handed out to teams on the first day of games.

The

full game schedule will be available online at [www.northshoreymca.org](http://www.northshoreymca.org)

- If your child decides to withdraw from the program **BEFORE** the first games of the season, a YMCA credit will be given. If your child decides to withdraw **DURING** the season the YMCA will issue a credit based on the amount of time the child will miss during the league. **Should you register and then decide not to play, \$20 of the registration fee is non-refundable;** the remainder will be given as credit.
- These leagues are for everyone - regardless of income. The YMCA provides scholarships for families who are not able to pay the full program fee. The

appropriate information packet can be picked up at the front desk of the Haverhill YMCA.

## **SEASON INFORMATION**

- Games will begin Saturday, **November 6th**.
- Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> participating in the Haverhill YMCA Youth Basketball League are **required to attend ONE player evaluation night**.
- The purpose of the evaluation nights and team selection process are to ensure that the teams are as evenly matched as possible within the individual age groups.
- All player evaluation nights will take place at the Haverhill YMCA, 81 Winter Street
- Please be aware of which division your child should play in, so that he/she attends the correct evaluation session. The age groups for each division are provided in this packet.

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT NIGHT @ YMCA</b>	<b>SELECTION NIGHT @ YMCA</b>
<b>Pee Wee's</b>	<b>No Assessments</b>	<b>7pm October 25<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>No Assessments</b>	<b>8pm October 25<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Wed. 10/20 6:15-8:00pm</b>	<b>7pm October 26<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Thur. 10/21 6:15-8:00pm</b>	<b>7pm October 27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Fri. 10/22 6:15-8:00pm</b>	<b>7pm October 28<sup>th</sup></b>

- The team selection process will involve having YMCA staff, head coaches and volunteers present at the Evaluation Nights. The players will be ranked from 1-3, with one being the highest skilled. There will be an even amount of 1's, 2's, and 3's placed on each team at Team Selection Nights. In this way, the league will attempt to ensure league parity.
- Head coaches will be randomly assigned to a team. If for some reason a child needs to be switched from one team to another (i.e. their parent is a coach of another team), they will be traded for a player of the same skill rank. The Director and the Advisory Committee will ensure that the team selection process will be as fair and positive as possible.
- Any roster changes that are made after the selection will be determined by the League Director, not by individual coaches.

## GAMES & PRACTICE INFORMATION

- **Practices:** Practices will begin the week of **November 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>** and will be held weekday evenings at a variety of sites. Practices will start no earlier than **5pm and end no later than 9pm. Practice will be determined on the team selection night.**
- **Games:** Games will begin on **Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**. Each team will have a minimum of 8 scheduled regular season games\*, excluding playoffs. Division 1 & 2 will not have playoffs and will instead continue playing regular season games.  
*\*Weather related cancellations may occur, and in some cases may not be made up.*
- **Playoffs:** The playoff dates will be available by the end of January. Though all teams will play in the post-season, the lowest ranked teams may be left out of the winner's bracket.
- **End of Season Celebrations:** All players will be rewarded for their hard work and enthusiasm at the end of the season during a league celebration event. All players are recognized despite team record at the end of the season. Volunteers are needed to help make sure this event is successful.
- **Player, Coach, and Fan conduct:** Players, coaches, and fans are expected to show sportsmanship at all times. This involves: respecting the other team, respecting yourself, cooperating with the officials, and cooperating with both coaches and respecting the fans.

This also means that all players, coaches, and parents must abide by the rules set by the YMCA and the Advisory Committee.

If the behavior of a player, coach, or fan is deemed unacceptable, they will be given a verbal warning by their coach, a YMCA representative, or the official.

**Players:** If the behavior continues, the player will be taken out of the game immediately, and not be allowed back in for the rest of the game. If the behavior still continues the child and the child's parents will meet with the Sports Director and a disciplinary action will be decided. As a last resort, the player will be removed from the league for the rest of the season.

**Coaches or Fans:** If a coach or fan continues to display unacceptable behavior, they will be asked to leave the building and will have to meet with the League Director before returning to any YMCA Sports event. A YMCA staff member will assume responsibility as interim coach until the meeting is held or until another coach can be installed.

## **ROLE OF THE COACHES**

All of the coaches in this league are volunteers. Some of the volunteers have been coaching for years, while for others, this is their first experience as a coach. **All coaches will also be required to undergo a CORI background check to guarantee the safety of all participants.**

The role of the coaches is to teach the players the game of basketball while demonstrating the YMCA character values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. The coaches are committed to attending practices and games on time and prepared, as well as ensuring that their team exhibits the YMCA character values and follows the rules of the program.

Please remember that coaches are volunteers, and they are putting a lot of time and effort into your child's team. Please respect the coaches and their decisions. If for some reason you are ever dissatisfied with a coach for any reason, please contact the Director so that the situation can be reviewed and resolved.

***As a volunteer coach you are responsible to attend all meetings, evaluations, team selections, practices, games and communicate appropriately with players and league advisors.***

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

The Haverhill YMCA Youth Basketball League is designed to be a family program. Parents are encouraged to come to all of the games, cheer on all the children and get involved. Again, parents are expected to follow the same rules as the players in the league and respect the coaches and officials that are working for the YMCA. The example that you set as parents during the games and practices will contribute to the success of this program. Parents are always welcome to help the teams throughout the season and in planning the end of the season team events.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** There are many volunteer opportunities available for parents and families within this large basketball program. Some examples of areas in which volunteers are essential are: coaching, score keeping, and help with the end-of-the-year banquets, and division advisory committee. Please contact your child's coach or the Director at the YMCA if you are interested in getting involved. We can involve anyone willing to help whether it is once a week, or just once throughout the season.

## **LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION AND ADVISORY BOARD INFORMATION**

Matthew Chmielewski, the Sports & Adventure Director will be administrating the Haverhill YMCA Youth Basketball Program.

The Advisory Committee consists of volunteer coaches or parents who have shown a great interest in developing the basketball league into a better all-around program. The members of this committee are involved in the policy-making decisions, as well as the direct involvement of coordinating individual divisions within the league.

We will have at least one member of the Advisory Committee assigned to each division. If any disputes or problems or concerns develop during the season within your team or your division, please first contact the advisory member responsible for your division. If you find the matter is not resolved, then you may contact the sports director for further assistance. The advisory names by division will be made available to all coaches when the league starts. If you are interested in becoming a part of this committee and a part of creating a great basketball program, please contact the director at the YMCA.

### **CLOSING**

We hope that this information packet has answered many questions regarding the Haverhill Youth Basketball program. If an issue has not been addressed, please call the YMCA at anytime. Over the years, this program continues to get bigger and stronger, let's have a fun and successful season!