

Haverhill YMCA Pee Wee Basketball League

Parents and Players are required to read this handbook.



2010 Family Handbook

Adapted from the YMCA of the North Shore's Kiwanis Basketball League



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Haverhill Pee Wee Basketball League. We are so glad you have decided to join us for a great and rewarding basketball season! This season will showcase a few positive changes. 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**:

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Haverhill YMCA
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YMCA PHILOSOPHY

CARING

HONESTY

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

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.

LEAGUE INFORMATION

- Participants will be placed on a team with a volunteer coach. Teams will meet for one hour on Saturdays. The teams will have one hour of court time consisting of a ½ hour instruction session and a ½ hour scrimmage against another team.
- Special requests for teams will be taken, but cannot be guaranteed. Requests must be handwritten on the registration form by **October 16th, 2010**.
- Teams will be created on Saturday **October 30th**. Players do not attend.
- Any player registering after **October 16th** may be placed on a wait list. The league will place waitlisted players on teams in a first-come, first-served basis. Waitlisted 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.
- On game day, all participants should bring sneakers, comfortable shorts, and a water bottle.
- Games will begin Saturday, **November 6th**.
- Coaches will contact all participants to confirm the first scheduled game time and location. Schedules will be handed out to teams on the first day of games. The complete game schedule will be available online at 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.

GAMES & PRACTICE INFORMATION

- **Uniforms:** Players will receive a team t-shirt prior to the first game. Waitlisted players may not receive a t-shirt until a re-order can be made.
- **Practices:** Practices will be held each Saturday morning for the first 1/2 hour of a teams scheduled playing time.
- **Games:** Games will begin on **Saturday November 6th**. Each team will play 6 games throughout the season, no playoffs. All games are played on Saturdays. No score will be kept and teams will not keep a record of Wins & Losses. Automatic substitutions will be made periodically throughout the game.
- **Post Game:** Players and coaches are expected to demonstrate the core values of the YMCA by lining up for handshakes followed by a team cheer.
- **End of Season Celebration:** All players will be rewarded for their hard work and enthusiasm at the end of the season celebration. All players are recognized for their effort and development at the celebration.
- **Player conduct:** Players are expected to show sportsmanship at all times. This involves: respecting the other team, respecting yourself, cooperating with the officials, and cooperating with your coach 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 by chance a player's behavior is unacceptable, they will be given a verbal warning by their coach or the official. 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.

ROLE OF THE COACHES

All of the coaches in this league are volunteers. Some of the volunteers have been coaching for years, and for others, this is their first experience as a coach. A coach's clinic will be held prior to the league's start. The clinic is required for all coaches (head and assistant) despite previous coaching experience in the league. This is to ensure a quality program and a positive experience for all participants. **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.

Two coaches per team are allowed to be on the court during game play. One coach must stay in the offensive half court, while the other must remain at the defensive end of the court. Coaches are expected to pull players aside, with as little impact on the games, to help teach basic skills.

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, evaluation, team selections, practices, games and communicate appropriately with players and league advisors.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

The Haverhill YMCA Pee Wee 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. 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. 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 Pee Wee Basketball Program.

The Advisory Committee consists of volunteer coaches 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 Pee Wee 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 2010 season!