

# **Gardendale Youth Basketball League Bylaws**

## **ARTICLE I - Mission Statement**

Gardendale Youth Basketball League is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization designed to promote and develop basketball programs for boys and girls in the city of Gardendale and surrounding areas. The development of boys' and girls' basketball will focus on providing players at all skill levels and experience with the fundamental understanding and enjoyment of basketball. Participation and sportsmanship will be stressed at all levels, with a primary concern for developing basic individual skills and general team concepts.

## **ARTICLE II - Membership**

### Section 1: Eligibility

- Participation is open to all individuals who meet the age requirements for the teams offered through the program.
- Players do not have to be a resident of Gardendale
- Players must complete registration and submit any required fees before participating.

### Section 2: Teams

- Age divisions will be formed and approved by the board prior to the start of the season.
- Groups will be organized into separate boys and girl divisions. In the event there are not enough girls' teams in a specific age group a girl may be permitted to play on a boys team to ensure participation opportunities based on the association board's approval. The opportunity to play in a different division will be considered on a case by case situation.
- Coaches will be selected prior to the evaluation held at the beginning of the season. Coaches can be anyone with a vested interest in the improvement of the Gardendale Youth Basketball League
- Coaches must pass a background check through the City of Gardendale. Costs associated with the background check will be paid for by the volunteer coach.
- Teams will be selected at a coaches draft at the beginning of the season.

## **ARTICLE III Governing Body**

Section 1: Board of Directors must include at least 3 members. There must always be an odd number of members. Any two married members of the board counts as one vote.

- A. Board officers: The following officers will be selected from the board members:
  - a. President: Provides overall leadership and sets the strategic vision. The president is required to ensure a board member attends each monthly Park and Recreation Board meeting even out of basketball season. Investigates

- complaints and discipline concerns for the league. Schedules and leads the board meetings including creating agendas and action plans to complete tasks.
- b. Vice President: Presides in the absence of the President and assists with other duties. Responsible for the operational function of the league. This includes making schedules for games and practices.
  - c. Secretary/Treasure: Records meeting minutes, handles official correspondence and ensures compliance of league rules. Assists with coordination of registration and tryouts. Handles marketing and communication; manages finances, creates the budget and reports on financial status. Orders and distributes uniforms and any other equipment needed.
  - d. Player/Coach Development: Help develop game rules for the league, manage evaluation, player development and coach recruitment/development.
  - e. Facilities Coordinator: Oversee game day operations such as hiring and scheduling officials, clock keepers, and book keepers. Managing the facilities in which the games are played.
  - f. Boys League Commissioner: Manages all boys' leagues, including communication to coaches and parents
  - g. Girls League Commissioner: Manages all girls' leagues, including communication to coaches and parents
- B. Selection of board members and officers
- a. New members of the board are nominated and elected by a majority of the current families participating in the league.
  - b. Any officer or board member can be removed at any time by a majority vote of the full board.
  - c. A vacancy on the board will be filled as soon as possible.
  - d. Officers will serve 2 years and the elections for new officers will be staggered so that there will always be veteran officers remaining on the board.
  - e. Board members and officers can be anyone that has a vested interest in improving the Gardendale Youth Basketball League.

Section 2: Program Management: The board will be responsible for the following:

- Overseeing the planning and execution of all basketball programs, including tryouts, practices, and games.
- The association must establish and implement draft guidelines to ensure that all teams are formed as equitably as possible, promoting competitive balance and fairness throughout the league.
- Determine registration fees.
- Provide referees, book keeper and clock management personnel.
- The association board will provide equipment and uniforms for the league.
- The association board will be responsible for payment to referees and any personnel the board approves to assist with management of the games.

### Section 3. Governance

- The association board is required to ensure that all coaches have successfully completed and passed the required background checks.
- Establish policies and procedures for all aspects of the league, including player eligibility, registration, team formation, scheduling and discipline.
- Oversee the appointment and evaluation of coaches.
- The association board must establish and enforce a code of conduct outlining acceptable and unacceptable behavior for all coaches.
- Establish disciplinary actions and consequences.
- Handle protests and disputes.

### Section 4: Financial Management

- Manage registration and finances.
  - The association and board is required to submit a report to the Park and Recreation Director confirming that all participant fees have been collected in full prior to the start of the season.
- Oversee any fundraising initiatives, including sponsorships, gate fees, and donations.
- Maintain an organization budget.

### Section 5: Operational Management

- The Park and Recreation Board in conjunction with the Civic Center Director will provide facilities and communication to the designated association board member the time and dates facilities are available.

## **ARTICLE IV - Meetings**

### Section 1: Board meetings

- Held monthly or as needed as determined by the President.
- Quorum: A simple majority of board members is required for any vote to take place.
- An annual meeting will be held in March of each year for anyone who would like to voice concerns or support of the Gardendale Youth Basketball Program.

### Section 2: Team meetings

- Coaches must attend a preseason meeting that will outline rules and expectations.
- Other meetings such as all-star or tournament meetings can be scheduled as needed.

## **ARTICLE V- League Rules**

### Section 1: Game Play

- Games shall be played under the designated league association rules with league-specific modifications approved by the association board.
- Game length, clock rules, and roster limits will be specified by the league association board.

- Every available player must play a minimum of 2 minutes per half for a total minimum of 4 minutes per game. Every head coach is responsible for making sure the minimum playing time requirement is met for each player on the team. If a player cannot reenter the game due to a sickness, injury, foul-out, or other emergency, the coach is exempt from meeting the minimum playing time rule. If a player exhibits extreme unsportsmanlike conduct, the coach is exempt from meeting the minimum playing time rule. This requirement is for preseason, in-season, and post-season games/tournaments.

#### Section 2: Player and Spectator conduct

- Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in warnings, suspensions, or expulsions.
- No tolerance for fighting, abusive language or substance use.

#### Section 3: Missing Players

- If a team has five players available to play, they must play with the five that are present at the game.
- If a team will have less than five players available for a game, the coach may borrow enough players to have a team of five.
- The pickup player must have been selected in the draft at an equal or lesser round as the player that is being replaced.
- All pickup players must be approved by the league commissioner.

#### Section 4: Protests

- Protests must be submitted in writing within 24 hours of the game.
- The Board will review and rule within 72 hours.

#### Section 5: Complaints

- Any complaints can be submitted directly to the board. The contact information to submit complaints is listed on the website ([gardendaleyouthbasketball.com](http://gardendaleyouthbasketball.com)) under the "Contact Info" page.

### **ARTICLE VI- Registration and Fees**

- All players must register and pay fees by the deadline.
- Fees cover uniforms, referees, and administrative costs.
- Once equipment, uniform and administration costs have been incurred, there will be no refunds.

### **ARTICLE VII Discipline**

- All spectators and coaches are expected to:
  - Model good sportsmanship at all times.
  - Respect all players, officials, coaches, and spectators.
  - Refrain from using profanity, insults, or negative comments.
  - Encourage players with positive reinforcement.
  - Avoid coaching from the stands (parents).

- Prioritize player development, teamwork, and fun.
- Follow all league rules and instructions from league officials in GYBL facilities or any facility in which GYBL teams are playing.
- Disciplinary Procedures
  - First Offense: Verbal Warning
    - The league official, referee, or site director will issue a verbal warning to the individual. The warning will be documented by the league.
  - Second Offense: Game Removal
    - The individual will be asked to leave the gym/facility immediately for the remainder of the game.
    - The incident will be reviewed by the League Commissioner.
    - Depending on the severity, a one-game suspension may be issued.
  - Third Offense: Suspension or Dismissal
    - The individual may be suspended for the remainder of the season or permanently banned from league activities. No refunds will be issued.
- Automatic Suspension or Removal
  - The following actions result in **immediate removal** and **automatic review by the league board** for possible season-long suspension or permanent dismissal:
    - Use of profanity or threats toward referees, coaches, or players
    - Physical contact or aggressive behavior
    - Harassment or bullying (in person or online)
    - Entering the court during play or after being ejected
    - Damaging league or facility property
- Appeals
  - Appeals must be **submitted in writing** to the League Commissioner within **72 hours** of the incident.
  - The league board will review the case and make a **final decision** within **7 days**.

## **ARTICLE VIII Amendments**

- Bylaws may be amended by a unanimous vote of the Board.
- Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing at least one week in advance.

## **Article IX Dissolution**

- Upon dissolution of the league, remaining assets will be turned over to the Gardendale Civic Center.