

# 2024 BURLINGTON COUNTY YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

## EASTAMPTON/WESTAMPTON EDITION

Welcome back to the 2024 season. We are pretty much back to normal, like the league was pre-pandemic. The league consists of teams from Eastampton, Westampton, and Joint Base. This season, we will be playing some games at a Joint Base location, but pre-identification approval will not be necessary, as this location is off the base.

The coaching selection process was better this year. In the Rookie division, we had 13 potential coaches signed up; we needed 8 coaches. So, we gave first dibs to returning coaches and coaches moving up. If you want to be a coach in a future season, please assist your child's teams if you can this year. For those of you who stepped up to be a coach, we sincerely thank you. As we continue to grow, additional coaches will be needed.

We did our best to balance the skill levels of each team based on the ratings given to us by the coaches who attended the assessment. Regarding requests, the administrative branch of the league **DOES NOT** honor "requests" with the exception of sibling requests. If an **EXTREME** circumstance is presented to the league, the request is reviewed and presented to the coaches per division and, among themselves, the coaches decide if they are going to honor the request. In some cases, the request is honored. If requests are not honored by coaches in the division(s) affected, open discussions are held, and **ALL** coaches must collectively agree to the final outcome of the request. It makes it **EXTREMELY** difficult to honor requests and keep the teams fairly balanced. Throughout the years, this league has been known for its overall competitive matchup of teams and fairness. This is something on which we pride ourselves.

**Games will begin on Friday, February 2nd/Saturday, February 3rd.** Most teams will play every Saturday with an occasional game on a Monday or Friday night (Sunday is for make-up games only). Each team is scheduled to have one practice during the week. If, for any reason, the school is scheduled to be closed or closes because of an emergency, practices/games will be canceled for that day. Please check the Westampton Recreation website at [www.westamptonnj.gov](http://www.westamptonnj.gov) (Youth Basketball page) for details.

**For Eastampton teams: Pictures are scheduled for February 10th.** You will be notified of your times and location at least 1 week before picture day. As with every season, **there will be a pizza party after the last scheduled regular-season game, which will be on March 16th this year.** This is a season-ending party that is free to all participating coaches and players; however, pizza and refreshments will be available for a minimal cost to family members and friends.

**Playoffs for Rookies, Minors, Juniors, and Majors will be held the week of March 18th. This year, all championship games will be played on Saturday, March 24th, in Eastampton.**

**Sportsmanship.** We ask that all coaches, players, and parents demonstrate the **HIGHEST** level of sportsmanship during games. Whether you are a fan or a player, we ask that you conduct yourselves in a manner that is conducive to sportsmanship, friendliness, and support. We will be enforcing the rules as found in Article II, D (**Conduct: any unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.**). **Coaches, please make yourselves familiar with the rules of substitution as they will be tracked by the table to make sure each player is receiving the fair amount of playing time.** Keep in mind that these rules are in place for the entire league and are enforced throughout all participating towns that make up our league: Eastampton, Westampton, and the Joint Base. Our coaches are dedicated to teaching these athletes the rules and art of the game, and we ask that you respect what they are volunteering themselves to do. If, at any time, there appears to be a problem with any coach, player, or parent, PLEASE contact one of the directors or league coordinators. **Keep in mind that displays of poor sportsmanship such as fighting, cursing, questioning referees, and questioning score table personnel will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly.**

**Next season's youth basketball league registration:** With the online registration system in place, you will receive information in September regarding registration dates and times through your registered household account. The system automatically updates information and will inform you of programs that anyone in your household qualifies to participate in.

On behalf of the Eastampton, Westampton, and Joint Base recreation departments, we wish you an enjoyable season!