

2019 BURLINGTON COUNTY YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE NEWSLETTER EASTAMPTON / WESTAMPTON EDITION

Welcome to the 2019 season, the 10th season since merging Eastampton Recreation League with Pemberton and the Joint Base. We strive to increase player participation and maintain the overall enjoyment of the sport. We are proud that we continue to meet this goal and our league continues to grow. As in previous years, our league is composed of teams representing the surrounding towns with more than 500 players.

A major issue we continue to have is that there are not enough people volunteering to coach teams prior to the draft. This year, we had to move some assistant coaches to head coaching positions. For those who volunteered to be a coach, we sincerely thank you. In the future, please consider volunteering to coach if you can; the continuation of the league depends on it. As we continue to grow, additional coaches will be needed. We are looking into offering an off-season coaching clinic to help those who would like some guidance on the coaching process.

This was our 6th season instituting the draft process. We continue to improve the league, even "tweaking" the assessment process, and believe this will help the league and those participating enjoy a successful season with balanced teams. Immediately after the assessments were completed, coaches met and individually selected their own teams. Please note that the administrative branch of the league DOES NOT honor requests, except for sibling requests. If an **EXTREME** circumstance was presented to the league, the requests were reviewed and presented to the coaches per division. Coaches then decided if they could honor these requests. If requests were not honored by coaches in particular divisions, then the coaches held open discussions and **ALL** coaches collectively agreed to the final outcome of the teams. It makes it **EXTREMELY** difficult to honor some but not all requests and still keep the teams fair. Throughout the years, this league has been known for its overall competitive match-up of teams and fairness, which is something on which we pride ourselves.

Games will begin on Saturday, January 12th. Most teams will play every Saturday with an occasional game on Tuesdays and/ or Friday nights (Sundays 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 closed due to an emergency, practice/games will be canceled for that day. Please check the Westampton Recreation website at www.westamptonnj.gov (Recreation page) for details.

For Eastampton players and teams, pictures are scheduled for January 19th. You will be notified of times and location at least 1 week prior to pictures. As with every season, **there will be a pizza party after the last scheduled regular-season game, which will be March 9th this year.** This is a year-ending party that is free to the coaches and the players; however, pizza and refreshments will be available for a minimal cost to family members and friends.

**Playoffs for Rookie, Minors, Juniors, and Majors will be the week of March 11th–15th.
All championship games will be played on Saturday, March 16th.**

This season, 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**) and E (**technical fouls: 2 technical fouls on a coach will result in expulsion from the league; players, removal of the game PLUS 1 game; parents, removal from the game**). 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, Pemberton, and the MDL 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 the league will not tolerate displays of poor sportsmanship such as fighting, cursing, questioning referees, and questioning the score table personnel and will be dealt with accordingly.**

Next season's youth basketball league registration: With the new online system in place, you will now receive information in September regarding registration dates and times since you have a registered household account. The system automatically updates information and will inform you of programs that everyone in your household can participate in.

On behalf of the Eastampton, Westampton, Pemberton, and Joint Base Recreation departments,
enjoy the season!