

## South Hadley Youth Basketball 2009-10

The South Hadley Recreation Department is proud to offer youth basketball leagues for children currently enrolled in grades K - 12. Our basketball program begins in the late fall and will run through February or early March. Players who play basketball for the Recreation Department cannot play for a CYO league team.

Our registration periods are:

- K-8 recreation-level teams begin September 14 and close October 30.
- Suburban signups (grades 5-8 travel teams) begin on September 14 and close October 16th.
- DARE, our high school intramural league will close December 7, after the high school teams have completed their tryouts.

Our teams use the school basketball courts (all of the floors have been redone within five years) and some play at Mt. Holyoke College. Some divisions will require some travel; while others will just play in-town. All of the schedules accommodate CCD classes and major holidays.

As always, we need coaches for our teams so don't hesitate to volunteer! If you are interested in coaching, please indicate that on the registration form and view our Coaches Information Sheet for meeting dates. Coaching youth sports is a very rewarding activity.

Players will have various equipment and uniform requirements for the different divisions. Players must have a dedicated pair of basketball sneakers that they change into once they enter gym to keep the floors clean. Players must wear athletic clothing, shorts are preferred. Please be advised that jewelry is not permitted during games or practices.

When entering the various facilities, please observe any posted rules. Please wait in the hallway until the previous practice is finished. Players are not permitted to bring their own basketballs into the school, please use the ones provided to you by the coaching staff. Smoking is not permitted on school property due to State law. When entering our facilities, please observe the following:

- Middle School: park on the right hand side of the building and enter on the side door by the handicap access ramp.
- Mosier School: park in the front parking lot and enter the building from the side door by the outdoor basketball courts. Vehicles are not permitted to park on the basketball courts or play area on the side of the school.
- Plains School: park in the lot off of Lyman Street by the main entrance to the school. Use the door right near the playground area.
- High School: park in the front parking lot and enter the building through the front doors on the left side.

All spectators are expected to exhibit good, sportsmanlike behavior and be positive role models for the children playing the game. All cheering should be positive in nature and should be directed to your own team. The officials working the games are often volunteers or very new to officiating. Fans should not challenge any calls and any comments made to the officials must be positive in nature. Anyone found violating these stipulations will be asked to leave the facility and potentially trespassed from attending any future events. Water is permitted into the gym; however, sports drinks, soda and coffee are not. This is a school rule that we must follow. Spectators must sit on the opposite side of the team bench area if seating is available there.

## Division Information:

**Kindergarten:** This in town division is co-ed and players compete with other kindergarteners only. Teams will meet 1-2 times per week and will play mini-games on the weekends, mainly Saturday late morning or early afternoon. The focus of this age group is fun! We hope to introduce the kids to the basic skills and fundamentals of basketball and teamwork while providing some physical activity. This division uses a lower hoop and junior sized ball. The cost to play is \$30 and each player will receive a team tee shirt. Games/practices will be held at the Mosier and Plains Schools. Expect a phone call from your coach the week of November 16.

**Grade 1:** This in town division is co-ed and players compete with other players in first grade only (we may combine with grade 2 if registration numbers require that). Teams should meet two times per week (once during the week and once on weekends) and will play games on the weekends, mostly on Saturday afternoon. The focus of this age group is fun! We hope to build upon the basic skills and fundamentals of kindergarten basketball and progress into more organized games. This division uses a lower hoop and junior sized ball. The cost to play is \$30 and each player will receive a team tee shirt. Games/practices will be held at the Mosier and Plains Schools. Expect a phone call from your coach the week of November 16.

**Grade 2:** This in town division is co-ed and players compete with other players in second grade (we may combine with grade 1 if registration numbers require that). Teams will meet 2-3 times per week and will play games on the weekends (and maybe a few weeknights). Weekend games will be played on Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The focus of this age group is fun! We hope to build upon the basic skills and fundamentals of first grade basketball. This division uses a lower hoop and junior sized ball. The cost to play is \$30 and each player will receive a team tee shirt. Games/practices will be held at the Mosier and Plains Schools. Expect a phone call from your coach the week of November 16.

**Grades 3/4:** The 3/4<sup>th</sup> basketball league is separated by gender into two separate leagues; one for boys and one for girls. The teams will meet 2-3 times per week and will play games during the week and on weekends. This division will require some travel to other towns such as Granby, Belchertown or Monson. Players will use a modified junior basketball and the hoop height is set at 10 feet. The cost to play is \$40 and players will receive a team tee shirt. Home games and practices will be held at the Middle, Mosier and Plains Schools.

There will be a mandatory evaluation night on Sunday, November 8 for this division to make the teams as fair as possible. This is not a tryout, just a chance for us to see the players. The schedule is as follows and will be held in the Middle School gym:

- Girls: 3 – 4pm
- Boys: 4 – 5pm

The coach meeting is Monday, November 16. Expect a call a few days after that meeting date.

**Grades 5/6 & 7/8 Recreation:** Players that are not interested in trying out for the Suburban basketball teams are invited to play in this division. Games will be played against other towns such as Belchertown, Monson, Granby, and Palmer. Games will be played on the weekends and some weeknights. Emphasis will still be on skill development and fun while introducing kids to more competitive play. Girls and boys in grades 5/6 will use a 28.5 basketball and boys in grades 7/8 will use a regulation men's basketball. The cost to play is \$50 and includes a team tee shirt. Home games and practices will be played at the Middle, Mosier and Plains schools.

There will be a mandatory evaluation night on Sunday, November 8 for these divisions to make the teams as fair as possible. This is not a tryout, just a chance for us to see the players. The schedule is as follows and will be held in the Middle School gym:

- 5/6 Girls: 5 -6pm
- 5/6 Boys: 6 – 7pm
- 7/8 Girls: 7 – 8pm
- 7/8 Boys: 8 – 9pm

The coach meeting is Thursday, November 12. Expect a call a few days after that meeting date.

**DARE (grades 9-12)**: This program is offered for all high school students who wish to compete in our intramural basketball league. We offer both boys and girls leagues that compete in-town against other South Hadley students. Our typical schedule has the majority of the games on the weekend, typically Saturday evening. The cost of the league is \$60 and games are played at both South Hadley High School and the Middle School. Students that play high school basketball (varsity, JV or freshman) are ineligible to play DARE. All other high school students can play.

We offer Sponsorship opportunities for our DARE basketball league. If you are interested in sponsoring a DARE team, please let the Recreation Dept. know. The cost is \$150 per season.

## **Suburban Basketball Teams:**

The **Suburban Basketball League** is **the most competitive travel league in the Pioneer Valley**. It is made up of strong competition from surrounding towns in Western Mass who showcase their best talent in these divisions. The league is open to both boys and girls in grades 5/6 and 7/8. The season includes practices, games, tournaments, and playoffs and runs from early November into March. This is a higher level of basketball than the recreation league and CYO; therefore tryouts will be held to set the team rosters. Our tryouts are conducted by an independent panel of evaluators who are not affiliated with any of the players or the program. Please see the Suburban Basketball handout for additional information about our Suburban program.

We are looking for boys and girls in grade 5 through 8 to represent the Town of South Hadley. **We provide our teams with some of the nicest facilities to use home games, as the boys play at South Hadley High School and the girls use Kendall Hall at Mount Holyoke College.** There is minimal fundraising for this league and the cost to play is \$80. Sign ups will begin September 14th and will end on October 16th.

## **Registration Information:**

The Recreation Department office is located at the Town Hall (116 Main Street) in South Hadley Falls. The office is open from 8:30-4:30pm, Monday- Friday and some selected Monday evenings. We also offer online registrations with the ability to pay by credit/debit card.

Our office number is 538-5039.

Our email address is [recreation@southhadley.org](mailto:recreation@southhadley.org).

Our website is [www.southhadleyrecreation.org](http://www.southhadleyrecreation.org).