

**Tift County Recreation Department  
Youth Basketball  
Policies and Procedures**

Georgia High School Association, Georgia Recreation and Parks Association playing rules apply except where specified by TCRD and local rules.

Age control date is age prior to January 1 of the current year. Participants must be at least 5 years old prior to January 1 of the current year. Participants are ineligible if they are fifteen prior to January 1 of the current year. School players and out of county residents are ineligible for all-star play in GRPA competition.

**General Rules**

**Playing Sites:** TCRD Multipurpose Gym and Mott-Litman Gym will be the primary practice and game sites.

**Practices:** Use of the courts for practices must be reserved by calling TCRD at 382-3262. Practices are at the discretion of the coaches, but TCRD does not condone Wednesday or Sunday practices. Due to limited facilities, teams are limited to no more than three, 1 hour half court practices per week. On Thursday of the preceding week, coaches may schedule 1 practice for the next week and then call back on the following Monday for up to two more practices for that week.

**Goal Height:** 8.5 feet for ages 5-10. 10 feet for ages 11-14.

**Foul Line:** 10 feet for ages 5-6. 12 feet for ages 7-8. 15 feet for ages 9-14.

**Ball Size:** Junior Size(27.0) for ages 5-6. Intermediate Size (28.5) for ages 7-12. Regulation Size for ages 13-14.

**Season:** Each team will be scheduled for at least 8 games to begin after New Years day.

**Playing Time:** Each player who attends practice regularly and has a proper attitude must be allowed to play at least 1 1/2 quarters each game. Any coach caught violating this policy is subject to be brought before the TCRD Athletic Advisory Committee.

**Game:** All games will consist of four, 8 minute quarters. There will be a running clock except during the final two minutes of the second and fourth quarters. Then it will be regulation clock. No overtime period. Tie game after regulation will remain a tie. Ages 5-6 will be 3 on 3 with no pressing in the backcourt. Ages 7-14 will be 5 on 5 regulation basketball. No warm-ups between games unless time permits. Teams will be allowed to begin with four players in 5 on 5 leagues. After game begins, team can play with any number less than or equal to five. If five or less players are present, all eligible players must be on the court. In 3 on 3 leagues, no less than 3 can start the game.

**Mercy Rule:** In the fourth quarter, if a team gains a twenty point advantage, the clock will run continuously for the duration of the game including the last two minutes unless the trailing team gets within ten points. At that point it reverts back to normal game clock rules.

**Timeouts:** Each team will receive 3 timeouts per game.

**Half-Time:** Half-time will be 5 minutes. In ages 5-8 only, each player will shoot two free throws which will count toward their team's score. If teams are unequal, a blind draw will determine which player will shoot twice for the team with least amount of players.

**Fouls:** Each player is allowed 4 personal fouls, disqualified on the 5<sup>th</sup> foul.

**Conduct:** Unsportsmanlike conduct (Cursing, fighting, excessive arguing, etc.) will result in an automatic ejection. Any player/coach ejected, may not attend his/her team's next game. If deemed severe, he/she may be mandated to appear before the AAC for a hearing on the incident. Any player/coach who is ejected may be subject to having his/her all-star privileges taken away for that season. Any player or coach who makes a farce of the game will receive a warning first, technical foul on second occasion, and ejection on third occasion.

**\*Note:** Some leagues may be combined due to number constraints. TCRD will make every attempt to maintain the integrity and fairness of the game when combining leagues. Our number one priority is the safety and well-being of all participants.