

USCAA
GIRLS BASKETBALL PROGRAM
RULES AND REGULATIONS
(Revised June, 2005)
(Approved September, 2005)

Purpose

The purpose of the Girls Recreation Basketball Program is to provide an opportunity for daughters of townships residents to have fun and learn the game of basketball. The program emphasis is to create a “recreational environment” in which the participants can have fun and enjoy the experience of a team sport.

- At all times the recreation aspects of the program will remain the primary objective of girl’s recreation basketball.
- Equal playing time is covered in the playing rules and is a point of emphasis of the program to ensure that all players have an opportunity to participate.
- No standings or won/loss records will be kept during the regular season.
- Playoffs may be held for grades 5 and above.
- If games end in a tie at the end of regulation, the game is over. There will be no overtime, except in playoff games.

Eligibility

Daughters of current resident of Upper St. Clair are eligible to participate. In addition, daughters of families who can substantiate that they are moving into the township during the season are eligible to participate.

The Girls Recreation Basketball Program is administered by the USCAA in cooperation with Upper St. Clair Township, Department of Parks and Recreation. The Township Dept of Park & Recreation will register all participants, collect fees, and provide team shirts, balls, scorebooks, and equipment. The Township will obtain permits for the gym time. The Township will pay the costs of a game official.

Grade Groups

- The Girls Basketball Programs is structured based on the grade the child is registered in school.
- The players will be grouped as follows:
 1. 3rd & 4th Grade (together or separate)
 2. 5th & 6th Grade (together or separate)
 3. 7th & 8th Grade (together or separate)
 4. Other grades and groupings may be considered on a periodic basis depending on interest and gym time availability

- Players must play in their age group, unless extenuating circumstances exist. The Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, League Director(s) will review such circumstances and consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Program Administration

- The USCAA Board of Directors appoints a Girls Basketball Commissioner who is responsible for the overall administration of the Girls Basketball Program. Such responsibility includes, but is not limited to the following:
 1. League structure and age groupings
 2. Coordinating Referees
 3. Scheduling the game administrator
 4. Providing the Township an accounting of monies due the administrator
 5. Distributing and Reviewing the USCAA Coaches/Mangers Code of Conduct
 6. Compliance with rules and disciplinary procedures
 7. Disciplinary actions
 8. Clinics for coaches and/or players
 9. Travel team policies and guidelines
 10. Ensuring that the Girls Basketball program is in compliance with the policies of the USCAA
- To assist in this effort, the Commissioner will select on an annual basis, an Assistant Commissioner and individuals to act as League Directors for the various grade groups and for the travel league. League Directors are permitted to coach in the league in which they are the director, because the League Director does not select the teams. The Commissioner may also appoint an Assistant Commissioner, who is a member of USCAA, to assist in the administration of the programs. The League Directors and Assistant Commissioner must be approved by the USCAA Board of Directors.

League Director Responsibilities

- The League Directors as assigned the following responsibilities within their respective grade group:
 1. Formation of teams as determined by the size of the grade group – Every player must be assigned to a team if the registered with the Upper St. Clair Township Park & Recreation prior to the end of the registration period, i.e. cutoff date. Late registrations will only be maintained by the Parks & Recreation Director in the order in which the registrations are received. The players will be placed on teams from the waiting list if and when space becomes available. The preferred team size is 10 players.

2. League Balance – A player draft is held where the coaches select their players. Player evaluation sessions are held at the beginning of the season and coaches are provided information regarding the traveling players for the drafts. Drafts rules/procedures are provided to the managers for the draft.

The intent of the draft is to have an open team selection process that produces evenly matched teams. In addition, the draft allows the coach to draft players they want to coach and/or their daughter wants to play with.

3. League Schedule – Skill evaluation sessions grouped by grade levels begin the first Saturday in November. The schedule is developed by scheduling two weeks of practice with game to start the weekend after Thanksgiving. The season should end around the first weekend in February.

Every effort will be made to schedule three games every two weeks with practices scheduled periodically throughout the season if gym time is available.

4. Coach Selection – The League Director will identify individuals who have noted on their child's registration form or otherwise indicated a desire to coach or assist in coaching a team. Preference will be accorded to coaches who satisfy the following criteria:
 - a. Have demonstrated sportsmanship and mature behavior in handling young people.
 - b. Have exhibited a proper understanding of the purpose and objectives of the Girls Recreation Basketball Program and the USCAA Athletic Association.
 - c. Have the potential to enhance the Girls Recreation Basketball Program, in general, and contribute to the positive development of the participants, in particular.
 - d. Have the interpersonal skills to effectively communicate and cooperate with the commissioner, league director, game administrator, referees, other managers and parents.

All travel coach selections are subject to USCAA Board review and approval.

5. Game Equipment – The League Director will provide coaches with equipment and access to equipment necessary to conduct a game.
6. Disciplinary Issues – The League Directors will report to the Girls Basketball Commissioner any dispute, game protest, game forfeiture or violation of the USCAA Code of Conduct or Program Reminder for Parents that occurs within his/her grade group. Such report should be communicated (verbally or in writing) as soon as possible after the incident arises in order that the problems can be resolved as quickly as possible.

Disciplinary problems involving a referee's action/decision which occurs during or after game will normally be reported by the referee to the referee Coordinator. The League Director will be advised promptly of any disciplinary problem that has occurred within his/her league; however, all such matters will be adjudicated by the Disciplinary Committee, consisting of the League Director of the grade group involved, the Basketball Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner.

7. Equipment – will be responsible for the distribution/collection of the leagues equipment to/from the coaches. This includes performing a reconciliation of issued verses returned to insure that the shrinkage is held to a minimum.

Coaches Responsibilities

- The coach is responsible to ensure that the USCAA Code of Conduct is followed by himself and the assistant coaches. In addition, the coach will insure that the parents have seen the USCAA Program Reminders for Parents. The coach is responsible for the following:
 1. for knowing and following the league rules
 2. selecting assistant coaches
 3. insuring that there is an individual designated as the coach at every game/practice who is responsible for the players
 4. reporting problems that occur regarding players, referees, coaches and/or parents to the League Director in a timely manner
 5. distributing the team's uniforms and maintaining team equipment

Player responsibilities

- Only players registered with the USC Parks & Recreation Department can participate. This includes situations where a team is short players. Players can be added from another USCAA team according to league rules.
- Players must wear the numbered shirt that was provided to them.
- Misconduct while participating in the program will be reported to the League Director for review. No disciplinary action can be taken by a coach against a player unless the disciplinary action is approved by the League Director.
- Players with schedule conflicts must decide which event they will attend. There are no rules or requirements set by the basketball program regarding conflicts. Players will not be penalized if they miss a game or practice.

Disciplinary Committee

- The Disciplinary Committee will consist of 3 or 4 members of the USCAA GIRLS BASKETBALL PROGRAM, the Basketball Commissioner as Chairman, the Assistant Commissioner as Vice Chairman and the League Director for the Grade Group involved in the disciplinary problem.

- The committee will address any incident relating to a coach, assistant coach, player, and fan or team misconduct before, during or after a game or practice. Any abuse of referees by any participant in the Basketball Program will also be reviewed by the Committee. Incidents involving playing time disputes, game protests or game forfeitures will normally be handled by the League Director and only referred to the Disciplinary Committee if the “USCAA Code of Conduct” is violated.
- The Disciplinary Committee will determine the appropriate action to be taken against any participant who exhibits behavior detrimental to the purpose and objectives of the USCAA Basketball Program. Action that results in suspension and/or ejection from the program will be presented in writing to the USCAA Board of Directors. The suspension could be enforced across multiple USCAA sports programs.

Travel Basketball Program

Purpose

- The purpose for the travel program is to provide the better players the opportunity to participate at a higher level, but the self-esteem of the players is primary. Selecting a coach who will impart a positive experience upon the players is of primary importance. In addition, selecting a coach who properly represents the USCAA and follows the guidelines of the USCAA is important. The size of the team is small so that all the participants receive significant playing time. The Travel Coaches are provided coaching principles and playing time guidelines they must follow.

General

- The travel program is paid for with fess assessed to the participants and Tournament revenues if a tournament is sponsored.
- Teams may be selected for the following grade groups:
 - 4th Grade
 - 5th Grade
 - 6th Grade
 - 7th Grade
 - 8th Grade
- There may be a second “B” team fielded in any of the grade groups or from combined grade groups (combo team) depending on the number of players in each grade group and the availability of gym time.
- Teams in other grades may be considered on a year-to-year basis based on the recommendation of the Travel League Director and with the approval of the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, and USCAA Board.
- The teams can participate in leagues and tournaments from November 1st through March 31st.

Player Selection

- A player must play in the USC recreation program to be considered for the travel program. Players may only be selected for a team in their grade group. On an exception basis, players may be temporarily placed on a roster in an older grade group to meet tournament participation requirements.
- Players can be identified by their regular season coach, league director, or basketball commissioner as a potential travel player. The evaluation process involves monitoring the player's performance during the regular season and past travel performance. Tryouts can be by invitation only, by recommendations or to the entire grade group, depending on the size of the group at the Commissioner's discretion. The commissioner will use unbiased evaluators.
- Tryouts are held for the selection of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade teams.
- This process is followed each year. A player's selection to the team in one year does not guarantee that they player will make the travel team the next year.
- Players participating on other basketball teams, Winter Soccer, Gymnastics, etc. must commit their first priority to the USCAA Travel team. USCAA games take priority over other competing teams. Specific attendance and participation guidelines will be established, periodically reviewed and updated, and communicated to coaches and players.
- Travel games and practices should not be scheduled to conflict with an in-house game.

Travel Coach Selection

- The Girls Basketball Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and Travel League Director select the Travel Coaches. While the purpose of the Travel program is to develop players in a more competitive setting, the Travel Coaches are selected using the following criteria:
 1. The coach needs to be positive and fair dealing with the players. Maintaining the player's self-esteem is primary.
 2. The coach is a good representative of the USCAA interfacing with the Girls Basketball Commissioner and other communities.
 3. The coach follows and enforces the guidelines, policies and procedures of the USCAA.
 4. The coach will not promote either his or his/hers daughter's interest above that of the team.

Travel coaches are selected after the player evaluation process is completed and player selections are made. All travel head coach selections are subject to USCAA Board review and approval.

USCAA Basketball Tournament

- USCAA traditionally holds a girls basketball tournament for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, usually at the beginning of February. The tournament involves both high school gyms on Saturday and Sundays over two weekends.
- The Basketball Commissioner will appoint a Tournament Director each year to run the tournament. Traditionally, the 8th Grade Coach serves as the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's duties shall include:
 1. Preparing a tournament budget, which includes team entry fee, admission fee, referee fees, anticipated concession revenues and awards. The budget must be approved by the Basketball Commissioner.
 2. Establishing a list of teams to invite and extending invitations.
 3. Determining the number of teams in each grade level.
 4. Tournament administration in include receiving team fees to forward to the Basketball Commissioner, scheduling games, referees, concessions, announcers, scorekeepers, clock operators & gym cleanup.
 5. Providing a report of tournament income and expenses to the Basketball Commissioner.
- Other tournaments may be held for 4th Grade and "B" teams, depending on interest, gym time availability, and funding.