

# Loudoun County PRCS Middle School Basketball League Rules and By-Laws

## 2024-2025 Season

1. All Leagues will encourage their Middle school players to honor the commitment needed to play for a Loudoun County PRCS middle school team and will honor their commitment to the Loudoun County PRCS Middle School League.
2. Each participating league will appoint a liaison/point person (e.g., Select Commissioner) that will attend meetings and respond to all issues and concerns regarding PRCS Middle School Basketball. This same individual will be responsible in communicating with Loudoun County PRCS weekly to confirm correct scores and/or other game details, as needed.
3. Team Personnel
  - a) The Loudoun County Middle School Basketball League will be composed of a Boys Varsity, Junior Varsity, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade team, and Girls teams will have a Varsity, and Junior Varsity team. (PRCS may decide to combine groups to facilitate Division formation).
  - b) The Boys league, and Girls leagues will follow 3c. (Minimum age in c.i, and maximum age as follows in c.iii).
  - c) Player age limits:
    - i) Players participating on a 6<sup>th</sup> grade team cannot turn 12 years old before March 31, 2024.
    - ii) Players participating on JR Varsity grade team cannot turn 13 years old before March 31, 2024.
    - iii) Players participating on a Varsity team cannot turn 14 years old before March 31, 2024.
  - d) Loudoun County Public School age and attendance policies are to determine the appropriate travel team for each player. Players may move up into Varsity to create the best roster to represent each school site. **Players cannot play down from their age groups.** This means **NO** player can move down a level. Varsity level boys and girls who are in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade cannot play Jr. Varsity; Jr. Varsity boys in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade cannot play 6<sup>th</sup> grade, etc.
  - e) Teams can play 6<sup>th</sup> grade or Jr. Varsity without filling the Varsity criteria as long as all rules are followed in 3.d.
  - f) Players must attend the Middle School they play for in order to participate on one of the Middle School's teams. **There will be no combining of players from different middle schools to form teams.** i) Exception: Private schools may participate in a league, provided all players attend the school and the school conforms to ALL of the rules presented in this document.
    - i) Exception: Private schools may participate in a league, provided all players attend the school and the school conforms to ALL the rules presented in this document.
    - ii) Exception: An individual who attends a private school may play for a team registered in the league, provided the player resides in the attendance boundary of the public school of which they would attend
    - iii) Exception: A fifth grader may play on a 6<sup>th</sup> grade or JV team registered in the league, provided the player resides in the attendance boundary of the school in which they are playing for, AND the team does not remove a 6<sup>th</sup> grader from the roster in favor of a fifth grader (12 player maximum).
  - ii) Exception: Watson Mountain 6/7 graders are permitted to play up into Brambleton MS 8<sup>th</sup> grade team due to currant boundary lines.

Brambleton, and Watson Mountain will share students through 2028. We will have one team from each MS category representing either Watson Mountain for 6, 7, and one team representing 8<sup>th</sup> attending Brambleton MS these combined students will have an opportunity to represent the school they attend during this special period where it will then conclude in 2028 with new boundaries being

drawn and both MS sites returning to their more normal status of each age group. At this time the school teams will be reevaluated as to which league will take over the operations of each site.

- g) Players cannot play in both House and Middle School Leagues. Players cannot play on both a High School team and a Middle School team.

#### Middle School Rosters

- a) Each team must have a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 12 players.
- b) Rosters and ALL FEES will be submitted by each League by **November 1, 2024**. Notify PRCS (sky.dantinne@loudoun.gov or Kirby.Burkholder@loudoun.gov@loudoun.gov) when complete. Registration in the scheduling software will be used to allow PRCS to communicate directly with coaches (when required). Team registration will include the following information for each player or coach on the team:

- i) Player Information:

- (1) Full name.

- (2) Date of birth.

- (3) Grade and school ii) Coach Information:

- (1) Full name.

- (2) Address.

- (3) Email.

- (4) Phone.

- c) No roster changes will be made after December 1 unless approved by PRCS during a meeting, which may be conducted in person or via email.

#### 4. Practices

- a) Organized select practices may not begin prior to November 13, 2023. The league will assign up to a maximum of 3 hours practice time per week. For practice time purposes, the week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday. If a blackout occurs during the week, then the following week/or make up week, an additional 3 hours can be added. Leagues may not sanction nor administer additional practice time.

#### 5. Playing rules for all regular season and tournament games are in accordance with National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) 2023-24 Basketball Rules Book, except those changed or emphasized within this document, including the following:

- a) Periods: 7 minutes
- b) Timeouts: 3-full and 2-20 second timeouts allowed per game.
- c) The home team must wear a light color jersey, and the visiting team must wear a dark color jersey. The offending team will change their jersey or wear a “pinnie.”
- d) Overtime period(s) will be 3 minutes long. Each team will receive one additional 20-second timeout in overtime (this adds to any left over from regulation time).
- e) A coaching “box” will be provided during each game (referees discretion).
- f) Teams leading by 20 or more points may not play backcourt defense at any time. **Violation of this rule will result in a referee warning on first offense and team technical foul for any subsequent offense.**

- g) If a team is up by 30 or more points in the second half only, there is a mandatory running clock (clock will stop for injuries, timeouts, free throws and the administration of technical fouls).
  - i. Clock will start/stop as normal if point differential goes to 29 or below and will revert to running clock rule as appropriate for remainder of game. It is the referees' responsibility to monitor the appropriate management of the game clock by the clock operator.
- h) Each team will supply a volunteer at least 16 years of age to keep score or to operate the clock. All scorebooks at the end of each game should be given back to the facility attendant to place in a secure location.
- i) All Middle School games will be officiated by PVOA during the 2023-24 season.

#### 6. Regular Season

- a) All divisions will play a 10-game schedule
- b) The regular season champion within each Division will receive individual awards.

#### 7. Post Season Tournament

- a) All Divisions will play a single elimination playoff, with teams seeded according to their finish during the regular season.
- b) The post-season tournament champion and runner-up teams will receive individual trophies.
- c) During the post-season tournament, the higher seeded team is always the home team (and will wear a light color jersey).
- d) Tiebreakers: The approaches that will be used to break all ties, including seeding for the post-season tournament, are as follows in descending order: If at any step two or more teams are tied it reverts to head to-head.
  - 1. Head-to-head record (regular season)
  - 2. Record against common opponents
  - 3. Total points allowed all regular season by team
  - 4. Coin Flip

#### 8. Infractions and Penalties: Loudoun County PRCS appointed travel commissioner will make the final decision regarding all alleged rules violations and conduct after consulting with the appointed Travel representatives from each league. The rule infraction will be discussed as an open forum with each commissioner making every attempt to include a fair decision. PRCS will then make the final ruling. Standing penalties for infractions are as follows:

- a) Any coach or player ejected from a game will sit out the next game, no exceptions. The coach or player is not permitted on the premises during the game.
- b) Any coach or player ejected from a game is required to leave the playing area immediately and is not permitted in the gym or surrounding hallways for the remainder of the game. Once alerted by the referee(s) of any ejection, it is the PRCS facility supervisor's responsibility to ensure the ejected coach/player does not re-enter the playing area or surrounding hallways for the remainder of the game.
- c) Any coach or player ejected for fighting will sit out two games, no exceptions. Second offense results in permanent removal from the league.
- d) Coaches or players receiving two direct technical fouls in a season will automatically be placed in a probationary status. Coaches or players who receive four technical fouls in a season will be removed from the PRCS Middle School League. Furthermore, harsh penalties may be enforced by the individual leagues.

Penalty for violations of the PRCS rule are automatic forfeit of any games in which the offending coach or player participated after receiving their fourth direct technical of the season.

- e) Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their team's fans and spectators in attendance. Coaches will be warned by the officials of any fan(s) who become(s) unruly, in the officials' judgment, and, if necessary, an official report will be filed to PRCS. If a report is filed on a given team more than two times throughout the duration of the season for intolerable spectator behavior, the coach will be suspended one game.
  - i. If a spectator is ejected at any point during the season, the coach of the team will receive a warning. Any subsequent non-player/coach ejections will result in a one-game suspension for the coach.
  - ii. Referees have the discretion to eject a spectator, along with the help of the facility attendant. Any spectator directed to leave the premises must do so immediately.
- 9. All players, coaches, league staff, and spectators are required to follow the Loudoun County Code of Conduct, at all times. (Please refer to the Loudoun County Web PRCS Web Site for more details). PRCS representatives (including facilities attendants and referees) have the right to remove unruly fans or participants. Any rules not covered above can be amended per PRCS ruling.