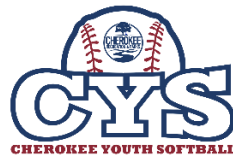




Cherokee Recreation and Parks Athletic Handbook



Cherokee Recreation & Parks Beginning & End Dates for 2025-2026

Revised 6/10/2025

Activity	Registration Dates	First Practice Date	Last Day of Regular Season	End of Season Tournament Dates
Youth Lacrosse (Fall)	June 9 th August 3 rd	August 11 th	November 1 st	TBD
Youth Softball (Fall)	June 2 nd -July 27 th	August 9 th	October 11 th	October 13 th -17 th
Youth Volleyball (Fall)	June 30 th -August 3 rd	August 18 th	October 25 th	October 27 th -30 th
Youth Flag Football (Fall)	July 7 th - August 17 th	August 25 th	November 8 th	November 10 th -15 th
Youth Basketball (Winter)	Aug 4 th -September 29 th	November 1 st	January 31 st	Feb. 27 th -March 1 st
Youth Lacrosse (Spring)	Dec 8 th - Feb 2 nd	Feb 7 th	May 2 nd	TBD
Youth Softball (Spring)	Dec. 8 th - January 20 th	February 7 th	May 2 nd	May 4 th -8 th
Youth Volleyball (Spring)	Jan 5 th -February 8 th	February 23 rd	May 2 nd	May 4-8 th
Youth Flag Football (Spring)	Jan 12 th - March 1 st	March 16 th	May 16 th	May 18-20 th
Youth Basketball (Summer)	April 13 th – May 15 th	N/A	June 24 th	N/A
Adult Softball (Fall)	August 4–September 7	N/A	Nov 6 th	N/A
Adult Flag Football (Fall)	TBD	N/A	TBD	N/A
Adult Basketball (Fall)	Aug. 4 th – Sept 7 th	N/A	Nov 17 th	N/A
Adult Kickball (Fall)	July - August	N/A	August 13 th – Oct. 29 th	N/A
Adult Softball (Spring)	Jan - February	N/A	May	N/A
Adult Flag Football (Spring)	Jan - March	N/A	April	N/A
Adult Basketball (Spring)	November - January	N/A	April	N/A
Adult Kickball (Spring)	February - April	N/A	June	N/A
Adult Softball (Summer)	April - May	N/A		
Adult Flag Football (Summer)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Adult Basketball (Summer)	April - May	N/A	July/August	
Adult Kickball (Summer)		N/A		

Notes: Dead weeks and other specific calendar information can be found on the sport specific calendar of events. Some sports may not make due to low enrollment numbers.

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WELCOME

Dear Participants and Families,

Welcome to Cherokee Recreation & Parks Athletics and thank you for being a part of our sports programs. Whether you're joining us for a youth league, an adult team, or one of our tournaments or special events, we're proud to have you as part of our growing community.

Sports are one of the most powerful tools we have for building character, strengthening communities, and fostering lifelong values. For our youth, sports offer opportunities to develop teamwork, discipline, respect, and perseverance—traits that shape them not only as athletes, but as individuals prepared to lead healthy, productive lives. For our adult participants, sports offer a chance to stay active, build friendships, relieve stress, and continue engaging in the joy of recreation and competition.

At every level—youth and adult—the support of coaches, officials, volunteers, family members, and staff plays a vital role in making the athletic experience safe, positive, and rewarding. Your involvement and sportsmanship help create an environment where participants of all ages can grow, compete, and thrive.

On behalf of the entire Athletics Division, thank you for choosing Cherokee Recreation & Parks. We are committed to providing quality programs, top-tier facilities, and a welcoming atmosphere for everyone. Cherokee County is a special place to play, and we're excited to share another season filled with memorable experiences and meaningful connections.

We look forward to seeing you on the field, court, or diamond—and to a great season ahead!

Yours in Sports,

Shawn Schumacher
Athletics Division Director
Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency

Cherokee Recreation and Parks Mission

“MAKING LIFE BETTER by cultivating active communities through recreation while preserving our parks and facilities”

Our Vision

“Cherokee Recreation and Parks, acknowledged as a trend-setting and innovative leader in its field of expertise, offers a diverse array of exceptional public parks, recreation facilities, and programs, making our county the premier destination to visit, live, work, and play.”

Our Values: INTREPID

Inspiring the community

Noble Stewardship & Sustainability

*Improvement through **T**eamwork*

*Health & **R**eliable Safety*

Exceptional Fun & Play

*Integrity & **P**rofessional Service*

Innovative Accessibility & Inclusion

Diligent Conservation Efforts

Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency

Sportsmanship Statement

We believe that organized sports are created to allow children to have fun. We believe that children should participate in a milieu that fosters good sportsmanship, personal growth in physical skill, self-esteem, and a sense of community involvement and allegiance. We believe that in amateur athletics at this level it truly is not whether you win or lose but how you play the game. Sports provide children with age-appropriate opportunities to mentor younger and less experienced players and to learn how to win graciously and to lose with dignity. In short, if adults who organize and coach recreational sports encourage it, athletic completion for children not only provides enjoyment for the participants but provides for the children real-life lessons: how to cooperate with others, how to compete, and how to deal with authority figures.

In this context, we, as a community, hold the following:

For players:

- Treat teammates and opponents alike with respect and kindness
- Play hard to win but within the rules of the game
- Respect and abide by the decisions of the officials
- Win with dignity, lose with grace
- Represent your team, your family, and your community with pride
- Take every opportunity to encourage teammates to succeed

For coaches:

- Always be an example of good sportsmanship to your players
- Accept the decisions of officials in a respectful manner
- Teach your players through positive reinforcement, not by demeaning them
- Remember it is an honor to be called coach, don't abuse it
- Remember that opposing players are, like your players, only children
- Foster in your players a love of the game, not a lust for winning

For parents/spectators:

- Remember you are watching children, no matter the color of their jersey
- Children learn from your behavior; be an example of good sportsmanship
- Leave the coaching to the coaches and the officiating to the officials
- Recognize and applaud good play on both sides
- Support your child by attending his/her games
- Encourage your child's commitment to his/her team

GENERAL ATHLETIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A. Registration Information

- Registration begins approximately two months prior to player assessments each season.
- Early registration is not permitted, and a late fee may be applied for late registrations.
- The age control date for each youth program will be noted in each league specific rules and regulations section.
- **Adult Athletics:** Players must be 16 years of age prior to the start of the season to be eligible for CRPA Divisions and participate in GRPA District and State tournaments must be 18 years old.
- To register, visit www.playcherokee.org and click Register Now.
 - Register Now > Youth Athletics > Choose Sport > Register
 - Register Now > Adult Athletics > Choose Sport > Register
- A copy of the child's birth certificate must be provided upon request. (**Adult Athletics:** A valid Government issued ID must be provided upon request.)
- Registration cannot be accepted over the phone, fax or email.
- Registration cannot be accepted by volunteers.
- Registration can be taken in person at Cherokee Recreation and Parks Offices at the South Government Annex (during business hours) located at 7545 Main Street, Bldg. 200 Woodstock, GA 30188
- All debit/credit card transactions have a 3% convenience fee.
- Returned checks are subject to a **\$35 fee**.
- **When paying in cash, please have the correct amount.**

B. Cancellation Policy

- All teams/divisions not meeting minimum enrollment will be cancelled or combined with another team when possible.
- If your team is cancelled, you will be notified. Leagues may be cancelled due to low enrollment, lack of coaches, etc.
- A full refund will be given for the cancellation of any league.
- All refunds for cancelled leagues will take 30 days to process.

C. Refund Information

- Refund requests can be completed in person at the Woodstock Recreation Center or L.B. "Buzz" Ahrens, Jr. Recreation Center Monday – Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. within five (5) working days of the beginning date of the season. (The beginning date of the season is the draft date for each region)
- Refund requests may also be made electronically via email to the program specific coordinator within five (5) working days of the beginning date of the season. (The beginning date of the season is the draft date for each region)
- Refund requests must be in writing and are subject to approval by the Cherokee Recreation and Parks Agency staff.
- **There will be no refunds after the official start date for each season/program. (Please see program specific dates in section IX)**
- Refund checks will take 30 days for processing. There are No Cash Refunds.
- Participants requesting a refund will be charged a \$5 processing fee and any other applicable fees including the cost of uniform, etc.

- There are no sibling discounts for any Cherokee Recreation and Parks Athletic Programs.

D. Inclement Weather

- The safety of the participants, officials, and spectators is the primary concern in cases of inclement weather. Once a game has started, the league coordinator and/or officials will have the responsibility to remove the players from the field if the conditions become extreme. If ordered to do so, please find a safe shelter until instructed to return to the playing field or told that the game has been cancelled. The storm will be considered over 30 minutes after the last sight of lightning. Light rain showers, without thunder and lightning will not justify delaying or cancelling a game.
- **CYB Only:** CCSD Policy- if school is declared closed for inclement or any other unusual situation then all CYB league play (practice or game) may be cancelled.
- CRPA reserves the right to change the number of regular season games due to weather/game cancellations. (**Adult Athletics:** Playoff structure may also be altered to complete the season if weather is an issue.)

E. Fee Waiver Program (Youth Only) / Payment Plans

- The Cherokee Recreation and Parks Agency recognizes the need to provide leisure activities for the entire community. A family or individual can apply for a fee waiver once per year. Some restrictions may apply. Please call (770) 924-7768 for more information. This only applies to youth athletic programming.
- Payment plans are at the discretion of each program coordinator. All payment plans must be completed in person and final payments must be made prior to the first game of the season. Please contact your program coordinator for specific details on payment plans.

F. Registration Requirements

- If the participant requires any special accommodation, the ADA Compliance Coordinator is required to be notified within fifteen (15) business days prior to the beginning of the league to attempt to accommodate.
- Participants (or their parents or guardians) must sign a waiver/release form prior to participation in any league.
- Drafts- No favor/request can be accepted in order to maintain the integrity of each league.

G. Calendar of Events

- A Calendar of Events will be provided during registration for each season to highlight all important dates and information needed. All League calendars will also be available at www.playcherokee.org
- Please see league specific policies and procedures in section IX for more detailed calendar information.

H. Parent Orientation Meeting

- CRPA requires that all teams (head coaches) conduct a mandatory parent meeting during the first week of practice. In order for your child to play in the league, it is mandatory that one or both parents/guardians attend. Important information such as policy and procedures, safety and first aid, medical alerts, expectations, responsibilities and team rules will be discussed in detail. This meeting is

held to lay the foundation for open communication among coaches, parents and participants. Meetings can be conducted in person, electronically, or virtual.

I. Medical Information

- All minor injuries will be treated by CRPA Staff or coaches. Any major or life-threatening injury or accident that may occur on the playing field or at the facility, during scheduled game/practice times will be handled as follows:
 - 911 will be called immediately
 - Parent/Guardian will be contacted
- Based on the professional decision of the EMT unit, the participant may be transported to the closest medical facility for immediate care. If medical transportation is required, the charges incurred will be billed to the parents/guardians and/or parents'/guardians' insurance policy. It is prohibited to transport a participant in a personal vehicle.
- Please notify CRPA if your child has a pre-existing medical condition (i.e. allergies, medications, physical impairments, etc.) on the registration form. Also, notify the coach at the mandatory team meeting. This is essential to determine the severity of an accident and to assist medical personnel who respond to the scene.

J. Uniforms/ Equipment

- A portion of your registration fee is used to supply the team with uniforms. Uniforms are expected to be worn in the condition that they are given out. **DO NOT USE BLEACH** or other harsh abrasives to clean uniforms/equipment. Unauthorized alterations to the uniform will require the parent/guardian to pay for a replacement uniform.
- Coaches/Players/Adult Athletic Teams are not permitted to wear apparel that may be deemed inappropriate by Cherokee Recreation & Parks Staff including, but not limited to logos, slogans, mottos that are aggressive/negative in nature.
- During games the coaches are required to wear proper coaching attire. A coach's dress code will be strictly enforced and should include the proper coaching shirt along with appropriate pants/ shorts/ shoes. **NO JEANS ARE ALLOWED. NO EXCEPTIONS**
- Cherokee Recreation & Parks staff will provide game day equipment necessary such as game balls.
- **CYGF, CYS, CYL:** Equipment will be issued to each team, and an inventory will be taken of those contents. Wear/tear on equipment is expected and will be replaced as needed.
 - Head coaches will be required to pay a refundable deposit prior to receiving equipment.
 - Any lost equipment will be replaced by the head coach at their own expense.

K. Volunteer Coaching Appointments

- It is mandatory that each volunteer complete and pass a criminal background check.
- All volunteers must pay for their own criminal background check. The cost is \$22.50.
- Coaches will be assigned to leagues/teams as needed based on participation numbers.
- There are no guarantees of receiving a coach appointment from season to season.
- Cherokee Recreation & Parks accepts the service of all volunteers with the understanding that such service is at the sole discretion of Cherokee Recreation & Parks. Volunteers agree that the organization may at any time, for whatever reason, decide to terminate the volunteer's relationship with Cherokee Recreation & Parks or to make changes in their volunteer assignment.

L. Player Selection

- **Player Assessments-** An “Assessment Day” will be held to give coaches an opportunity to evaluate all eligible players depending on registration for each individual region/division. Eligible players that do not attend will still be eligible for the draft, but special circumstances may affect their draft-round status. If in any way the spirit and intent of player assessments or draft is abused, CRPA may make decisions on a player placement in the best interest of the program.
- **Draft-** A draft will be scheduled after the player assessment process is complete. Only approved coaches will be allowed at this meeting (Head Coaches Only or One Team Representative if coach is not available).
- Teams will draft according to the established rotating chart based on the number of teams in the region/division. Each team will draw for their draft pick. Team draft order shall vary in each round so that each team will average out to approximately the same pick in each round. The sequence shall be resumed and so on until team sizes are reached by the drafting of all eligible players available for drafting.
- There shall be only one draft per region/division.
- In the event the numbers only allow for one team, no draft/evaluation will take place. A coach will be appointed to that division/group/region.
- Unless requested otherwise, by their parents, in writing to the program supervisor before the draft, siblings must be taken as consecutive draft choices by the same team.
- The child or legal dependent of a team coach—whether a parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or other immediate family member—shall be automatically assigned to that coach’s team. League-specific team selection guidelines shall define the applicable draft round(s) or placement procedures for coach-affiliated players, including those of Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches.
- Only players who attend player assessments may be drafted initially. The names of those participants not attending assessments will be placed in a “HAT” and drawn for at the end of the draft.
- The draft-able players will be drafted if there are enough players to make an even round, so everyone has the same number of draft choices. Then the names of those players who are not drafted, along with participants who are registered in the program (not on a waiting list), but did not attend player evaluations, will be placed in a hat and drawn in draft order. In the last round drawn from the hat, if there are not enough players left for each team to receive a player, blanks will be inserted in place of names so that every team has a draw. The blanks will later be filled by potential participants who are on the waiting list in order that they sign up.
- Players, registered after player assessments including returning players, will be placed on a waiting list (some may be placed on a waiting list once player assessments begin, or prior to, if necessary) and will be assigned to the teams that need players in the same manner as stated above (HAT PICK- element of chance), provided vacancies exist.
- In all trades involving a team where a head coach was not named at the time of the draft, the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Staff must grant approval of the trade.
- All trades must be completed in the draft room immediately following the draft with both head coaches and the draft coordinator present. The draft coordinator will have final approval on all trades as it may affect the integrity of the league. All rosters must be signed by the coach that attended the draft.
- Players wanting to register after registration has concluded will be placed on a waiting list and maybe assigned to the teams that need a player.
- **To request that a player not be drafted by a head coach, the following conditions must be met: A written parental request must be received seven (7) days prior to player evaluations. (This can be done on the registration form or by email)**
 - The intent of this rule is to ensure that players are not forced to play for a particular coach that they have played for in the past and/or had a negative experience that includes (safety concerns, lack of fundamental teaching, lack of rule knowledge, berating of players, etc.) This rule is NOT intended

for carpooling purposes or for any coach, player, or family to manipulate the rule to gain a competitive advantage in the draft process. Cherokee Recreation & Parks staff may be required to intervene in certain situations to maintain the integrity of the league for this specific rule.

- **A duplicate copy will be sent to the head coach listed.**
- **Head Coaches must sign their official roster prior to leaving the draft room.**

N. Coaching Certification/Training

- Cherokee Recreation & Parks requires each program to provide mandatory coaches training day for all coaches and/or require coaches to obtain a nationally recognized coach's certification.

O. More General Information

- Other documents such as registration forms, player assessment forms, background applications, etc. can be provided when requested.
- CRPA, on occasion, may photograph or videotape registrants, participants and spectators in programs, special events or facilities. Such photographs are for CRPA use only and may be used in publications, brochures, pamphlets, flyers websites or video productions.
- All play dates, days, times and leagues are subject to change due to inclement weather and/or number of participants.
- **Dual participation (Youth Athletics Only)**- no player may participate (play or practice) with another team outside of CRPA during the same season (i.e., travel teams, school/feeder teams, church teams, and/or any other league, park, etc.). Each season is defined by the sports first official practice date. Players found guilty of this violation will be removed from the league immediately with no refund. Other sports or activities do not count toward dual participation. EXCEPTION: See league specific policy and procedures on dual participation.
- **Weapons Not Permitted on School Grounds**: It is unlawful for any parent, legal guardian, or visitor with exception of law enforcement and other public safety officials acting in their official capacity, to possess, carry or have within their control any weapon, or explosive compound as defined by Georgia law on any property owned by or leased to the Cherokee County School District, except as permitted by the Official Code of Georgia OCGA 16-11-127.1.
- Cherokee Recreation & Parks staff reserves the right to determine what constitutes unacceptable/disruptive behavior. Cherokee Recreation & Parks staff also reserves the right to deny admittance and/or removal of anyone from facilities/grounds.
- No solicitation of any kind will be allowed in the park without prior consent from CRPA.
- Alcoholic beverages and intoxicants are prohibited. **Cherokee County Ordinance No. 2015-0-003 Section 42-41** prohibits possession of alcohol in the county parks system, including parking lots.
- If teams/parents/spectators are found with alcoholic beverages or tobacco products on the premises and/or dugout/gym, the player and head coach will be ejected and serve a 2-game suspension. Any subsequent actions will be grounds for removal from the league.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to inhale, vape, exhale, burn, or carry any turned-on e-cigarette, lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or other combustible substance in any manner or form within 25 feet of a playground, picnic pavilion, athletic field or court including the adjacent spectator areas, or outdoor pool or aquatic playground.
 - **SMOKING/VAPING IS NOT PERMITTED AT ANY CRPA FACILITY OR PARK.**
- Cherokee Recreation & Parks reserves the right to suspend any or all players, coaches, and managers for unbecoming conduct either before, during or after a game.
 - Any team or player suspended from any of our leagues could face suspension in any other CRPA program or event.

VOLUNTEER COACHES

A. Responsibilities and Expectations:

1. A coach should be enthusiastic without being intimidating. He or she should be sensitive to the children's feelings and genuinely enjoy spending time with them. He or she should be dedicated to serving children and understand that youth sports provide physical and emotional growth for participants. Remember, youth sports are for children.
2. A coach needs to realize that he or she is a teacher, not a drill sergeant. He or she should help children learn and work to improve their skills. Personal gains are never a consideration. The job does not depend on winning. The best interest of the child transforms into the best interests of the game.
3. The safety and welfare of the children can never be compromised. A coach will consider these factors above all others.
4. A coach needs a tremendous amount of patience. Don't push children beyond limits in regard to practice. Children have many daily pressures, and the youth sports experience should not be one of them. Playing sports is meant to be fun.
5. A coach should care more about the players as people than as athletes. The youth sports program is a means to an end, not an end to itself.
6. A coach should encourage his players to dream and set lofty goals. It is important to remain positive and refrain from discouraging remarks. Negative comments are remembered far more often than positive affirmations.
7. A coach needs to remember that the rules of the game are designed to protect the participants, as well as to set a standard for competition. He or she should never circumvent or take advantage of the rules by teaching deliberate misconduct. A coach who puts his or her opponents' team at risk should not be involved with children.
8. A coach should be the first person to demonstrate good sportsmanship. He or she should take a low profile during the game and allow the kids to be the center of attention.
9. Parents and players place a lot of trust and confidence in the coach. The coach has an important role in molding the athletic experience of the child.
10. A coach can measure success by the respect he or she gets from the players, regardless of victories or defeats. Children who mature socially and physically while participating in sports are the best indication of good coaching.
11. Coaches will be required to wear coaching shirts. CRPA will provide coaching shirts for each team's coaching staff or they may provide their own in likeness of their team with prior approval from CRPA staff.
12. A coach must always Be Early, Be Prepared and Make It Fun! It is your leadership as a coach that children will remember over the games themselves.

B. National Youth Sports Coaches Association Certification Program

The Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency strongly encourages that ALL coaches who want to coach in a league complete the NYSCA Certification course. This is done to properly prepare everyone for the responsibilities they are about to undertake as well as to protect the child, the coach, and the league. The NYSCA program will cost the volunteer coach \$20 per coach/ per year, and membership must be kept current each year to remain eligible for a coaching appointment. Go to www.nays.org for more information about this coaching certification program.

Program Description

The National Youth Sports Coaches Association is designed to “sensitize” volunteer coaches to their responsibilities when working with children in sports and hold them accountable to a strict CODE OF CONDUCT defined by the NYSCA Coaches’ Code of Ethics Pledge. More than one million coaches have been certified worldwide through more than 2,200 NYSCA chapters that exist among parks and recreation departments, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs/YWCAs, church recreation programs, PALs, Optimist Clubs, and military youth activities. The clinics feature information on the psychology of coaching children, maximizing athletic performance, first aid, nutrition, safety, organizing fun and interesting practices, how to teach fundamentals of the sport, plus many other important areas. Coaches who complete the program receive a variety of benefits.

C. NYSCA COACHES’ CODE OF ETHICS PLEDGE

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I will promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and I will teach these rules to my players.
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.

Upon completion of registration and acceptance of being approved as a volunteer coach all league rules, policy & procedures, the Code of Conduct & Code of Ethics will strictly be enforced.

D. Coaches' Code of Conduct & Code of Ethics

1. *I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.*

A. Expected Behavior:

1. Using appropriate language in appropriate tones when interacting with league officials, game officials, parents and spectators.
2. Including all players in team activities without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, body type, national origin, ancestry, disability, ability, or any other legally protected classification.
3. Treating all players, league officials, game officials, parents and spectators with dignity and respect.
4. Playing all players according to the equal participation rules established by the league and the spirit of those rules.
5. Encouraging youth to participate in other sports and activities to promote all aspects of their development.
6. Allowing reasonable absences from practice.

2. *I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.*

B. Expected Behavior:

1. Recognizing the differences of each child and treating each player as an individual while demonstrating concern for their individual needs and wellbeing.
2. Encouraging all players, regardless of skill level, to be included as a member of the team and to remain involved in sports.
3. Recognizing that some physical tasks, drills and demands are not appropriate for all youth.
4. Recognizing that youth may vary greatly in physical, social and emotional maturation and considering these factors when setting up competitions and when interacting with youth.

3. *I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.*

C. Expected Behavior:

1. Maintaining a high level of awareness of potentially unsafe conditions.
2. Protecting players from sexual molestation, assault and physical or emotional abuse.

3. Correcting or avoiding unsafe practice or playing conditions.
4. Using appropriate safety equipment necessary to protect all players.
5. Seeing that the players are provided with adequate adult supervision while under the coach's care.

4. I promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players

D. Expected Behavior

1. Keeping basic first aid supplies available in all practice and game situations.
2. Recognizing and administering proper first aid to an injured player.
3. Demonstrating concern for an injured player, notifying parents and cooperating with medical authorities.
4. Protecting the players' wellbeing by removing them from activity when injured and not returning them to activity if they are compromised by injury.

5. I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.

E. Expected Behavior:

1. Establishing practice plans that are interesting, varied, productive and aimed at improving all players' skills and individual abilities.
2. Devoting appropriate time to the individual improvement of each player.
3. Conducting practices of reasonable length and intensity appropriate for the age and conditioning of the players.

6. I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.

F. Expected Behavior:

1. Adopting the position, teaching and demonstrating that it is our basic moral code to treat others as we would like to be treated.
2. Abiding by & supporting the rules of the game as well as the spirit of the rules.
3. Providing an environment conducive to fair and equitable competition.
4. Using the influential position of youth coach as an opportunity to promote, teach and expect sportsmanship and fair play.

7. I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all Cherokee Youth Girls Flag Football events.

G. Expected Behavior:

1. Being alcohol and drug free at all team activities or in the presence of players.
2. Refraining from the use of any type of tobacco products at all team activities or in the presence of your players.
3. Refraining from providing any type of alcohol, drug or tobacco products to any of your players.
4. Encouraging parents to refrain from the public use of tobacco products or alcohol at team activities.

8. I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and I will teach these rules to my players.

H. Expected Behavior:

1. Become knowledgeable, understanding and supportive of all applicable game rules, league rules, regulations and policies.
2. Teaching and requiring compliance with these rules among players.

9. I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.

I. Expected behavior:

1. Teaching techniques that reduce the risk of injury to both the coach's own players and their opponents.
2. Discouraging illegal contact or intentional dangerous play and administering swift and equitable discipline to players involved in such activity.

10. I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.

J. Expected Behavior:

1. Maintaining a positive, helpful and supportive attitude.
2. Exercising your influence to control the behavior of the fans/spectators.
3. Exhibiting gracious acceptance of defeat or victory.
4. Accepting and adhering to all league rules and policies related to the participation of adults and youth.
5. Fulfilling the expected role of a youth coach to adopt a "children first" philosophy.
6. Allowing and encouraging the players to listen, learn and play hard within the rules.
7. Placing the emphasis on fun and participation.

E. Enforcement of the Code of Conduct

Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency, along with the National Youth Sports Coaches Association, is dedicated to raising the standard of service to youth in sports through the enforcement of this Code of Conduct among its membership.

This Code of Conduct defines the expectations for adults serving as coaches in youth sports and provides the tools to be used, when necessary, to check behavior and to respond with resolve to protect all children from the psychological, emotional, physical or social abuses that can be perpetrated against them by youth sports coaches.

CRPA and the NYSCA firmly believe that for sports experience to be positive, safe and a learning experience for youth, volunteer coaches must be trained and held accountable for their behavior when working with and around children. Every NYSCA member coach is required to sign and adhere to a Coaches' Code of Ethics Pledge. The **Code of Conduct** has been developed to help explain how each of the "canons" of the Code of Ethics should be manifested in the actions and behaviors of an NYSCA Certified Coach.

It is the duty of Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency, as a NYSCA Chapter, to respond to complaints lodged against an NYSCA member coach that has allegedly violated the Code of Ethics. This is accomplished by initiating the "Complaint Against a Coach Procedure." The purpose of this procedure is to hear the complaints and to determine what, if any, action should be taken towards correcting the member coach's behavior. In order to provide the league the flexibility to take appropriate action when an NYSCA member coach is found to have violated the Coaches' Code of Ethics, a range of possible actions has been developed to accompany the Code of Conduct.

1. Possible actions include:

- a. Warning to and/or Apology from the coach
- b. Probation
- c. One Game Suspension
- d. Multiple Game Suspension
- e. Season Suspension
- f. Permanent Revocation of Certification

When reviewing a complaint and deciding what action is the most appropriate in a given situation, the Chapter Director/ Committee must take into consideration various extenuating circumstances.

2. Factors that might suggest a more lenient sanction include:

- a. First Offense
- b. Remorse
- c. Apparent Desire to Reform
- d. Other Good Coaching Attributes
- e. Dedication to Youth Sports

3. Factors that might suggest a harsher sanction include:

- a. Child Endangerment
- b. Violation of Law
- c. Prior Complaints/Review Action
- d. Lack of Remorse
- e. Number of Ethics Canons Violated
- f. Number of Expected Behaviors Violated
- g. Breach of Duties as a Role Model
- h. Extraordinarily Poor Judgment around Children

F. Complaint Against a Coach Procedures

When Cherokee Recreation & Parks receives a complaint about a member coach, the league will:

1. Gather information and eyewitness accounts of the event(s) that took place from everyone involved to determine if a violation of the letter or intent of the Coaches' Code of Ethics Pledge has occurred. This may include the site supervisor, game officials, and other coaches, parents and children.
2. Require the member coach to attend a meeting (in person or over the phone is acceptable) to address the complaint and to offer his/her side of the incident.
3. CRPA Staff under supervision of the CRPA Director has the authority to determine the severity of the situation and whether or not the affected coach has violated the expected behaviors outlined under each of the canons of the Code of Ethics Pledge that comprise the NYSCA Code of Conduct.
4. CRPA Staff, after approval from CRPA Director, has the authority to enforce the appropriate range of disciplinary actions outlined in the NYSCA Coaches' Code of Conduct. This information will be logged in the member's file.
5. There is no appeal process following an ejection.

G. Coaches ejected from a game/park by an administrator, official or umpire.

1. When a coach is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field and park immediately and take no further part in that game. Any coach ejected from a game is automatically suspended for their next two (2) physically played games for that team but may be in attendance at the game site from which they are suspended. If any further altercations and arguments are made prior to leaving the premises, a multiple game suspension or expulsion is possible. There is no appeal process following an ejection.
2. In the event that a coach(s) is ejected from the park after the game by an administrator or CRPA staff, that coach(s) will be suspended for their next two physically played games for that team. There is no appeal process following an ejection.



PARTICIPANTS

A. Responsibilities and Expectations

Participation in youth sports programs can have a lasting and meaningful effect on children's lives.

Therefore, it is the goal of Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency to provide the highest quality of athletic programs to ensure that a child's experience with sports is a positive one. It takes the cooperation of everyone involved, including the participant, to make this happen. Therefore, the league has established the following responsibilities for participants to adhere to.

1. Players will listen to their coaches and be respectful of their elders.
2. Players will take care of the facilities, equipment, and uniforms, which they are given.
3. Players will make sure to eat the right foods and drink plenty of water before and after practices and games.
4. Players will avoid all types of taunting and belittling remarks to their teammates or opponents.
5. Players will show good sportsmanship at all times, win or lose.
6. Players will not make sports a priority over schoolwork or family.
7. Players will refrain from horseplay and all other dangerous activities, in which they may become hurt.
8. Players will participate for the love of the game and competition and not to win at all costs.

B. Players Code of Ethics

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
2. I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot.
3. I will expect to receive a fair and just amount of playing time.
4. I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
5. I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
6. I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun!
7. I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

8. I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it's important to me.

9. I will do my very best in school.

10. I will remember that a sport is an opportunity to learn and have fun.

Upon being a registered player all league rules, policy & procedures, Code of Conduct & Code of Ethics will strictly be enforced.

C. Corrective Action Policy

Parents who do not follow the Code of Ethics will be subject to a Corrective Action Policy. It is the philosophy of Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency that parents should not spoil the experience of participation in youth sports for their children. Furthermore, the league will never punish a child for the actions of his or her parent(s). Therefore, the following guidelines have been established for addressing problem parents.

For violations of the Code of Ethics or Responsibilities and Expectations, the following steps will be followed:

Step 1 – Verbal Warning – League Administrator/ Coach will discuss undesirable conduct with parents and stress that this behavior will not be tolerated. Coach will document this conversation and give it to league administrator.

Step 2 – Written Warning - League Administrator, Coach or Official will notify the league of continued breach of Code of Ethics and league will bring parent(s) in for a meeting to discuss actions and what the proper behavior is. Furthermore, there will be

a formal letter of reprimand given to parent(s) stating that the next offense will lead to the parent being banned from the sporting event venue for a period of one game.

Step 3 – Game Suspension - League Administrator will ban the parent from attending the next scheduled contest and another letter will be given to parent(s) stating that the next offense will lead to the parent being banned from all future contests.

Step 4 – Season Suspension -The parent(s) will be banned from attending all league contests after a 4th offense. The parent(s) will then have to make a formal request to be reinstated into this league. The parent(s) will then have to meet with the League Administrator and CRPA Director prior to the start of the season to determine if the parent(s) is capable of behaving within the spirit and letter of the guidelines of this program.

These guidelines are not absolute in dealing with behavioral problems.

Severe situations could merit harsher sanctions against the parent(s).

PARENTS & SPECTATORS

A. Responsibilities and Expectations

In order for a program to be truly successful, it takes the cooperation of everyone involved: players, coaches, officials, league administrators, spectators and especially parents. Parents and spectators have the following responsibilities and expectations when participating in Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency Athletic Programs:

1. Parents have a responsibility to their children: To make sure that your child gets the most out of his or her playing experience, parents should show their unwavering support, including positive reinforcement of your child's performance and effort. This is absolutely essential, especially at an early age, to ensure their healthy development. Parents should also be positive role models, including, but not limited to, showing proper sportsmanship at all times and refraining from negativity of any kind.

2. Parents have a responsibility to the coaches: Coaches volunteer their personal time to spend it with your child. They need you to be supportive of their decisions and not undermine their efforts. If you don't agree with a coach, you are expected to tell that coach BUT make certain it is done at the right time and place and not in front of the children. Parents are also expected to drop off and pick up their children on time for games and practice, and it is highly encouraged for parents to stay and participate in order to maintain control of the group and to assist the coach as needed.

3. Parents/ Spectators have a responsibility to the league: League administrators cannot be at all games and practices of all teams. Therefore, in order to maintain the protective shell around these programs, it is essential for parents/spectators to report abusive behavior or any other situation that needs to be addressed to the league administrator. This is the only way that these programs can achieve their intended goals.

4. Parents/ Spectators have a responsibility to other parents: Personal gain and satisfaction should not be derived from a child's performance. Competition and taunting between parents is never acceptable, and no parent/spectator should ever feel embarrassed or disappointed by their team or child's performance. Good plays should always be cheered, and disappointments should always be consoled, no matter whose team it affects.

5. Parents/ Spectators have a responsibility to themselves: It is your responsibility to enjoy watching your child and other children participate and learn. The joy and pride associated with watching children participate in sports should be experienced to the fullest, because a lifetime of memories is created before your very eyes.

B. Parent/ Spectator Code of Ethics

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.
2. I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
3. I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.

4. I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
5. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
6. I will remember that the game is for youth – not adults.
7. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
8. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
9. I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.
10. I will read the NYSCA National Standards for Youth Sports and do what I can to help all youth sports organizations implement and enforce them.

Parents/ Spectators/ Legal Guardians are required to follow all league rules, policy & procedures, Code of Conduct & Code of Ethics. This will be strictly enforced.

C. Corrective Action Policy

Parents who do not follow the Code of Ethics will be subject to a Corrective Action Policy. It is the philosophy of Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency that parents should not spoil the experience of participation in youth sports for their children. Furthermore, the league will never punish a child for the actions of his or her parent(s). Therefore, the following guidelines have been established for addressing problem parents.

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a formal letter of reprimand given to parent(s) stating that the next offense will lead to the parent being banned from the sporting event venue for a period of one game.

Step 3 – Game Suspension - League Administrator will ban the parent from attending the next scheduled contest and another letter will be given to parent(s) stating that the next offense will lead to the parent being banned from all future contests.

Step 4 – Season Suspension -The parent(s) will be banned from attending all league contests after a 4th offense. The parent(s) will then have to make a formal request to be reinstated into this league. The parent(s) will then have to meet with the League Administrator and CRPA Director prior to the start of the season to determine if the parent(s) is capable of behaving within the spirit and letter of the guidelines of this program.

These guidelines are not absolute in dealing with behavioral problems.

Severe situations could merit harsher sanctions against the parent(s).



ADMINISTRATORS & OFFICIALS

A. Responsibilities and Expectations

Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency is dedicated to raising community standards in youth sports. In order to do so, we must hold ourselves accountable by staying abreast of current topics and trends in the recreation industry. Training administrators and officials is essential in maintaining a level of professionalism and credibility in youth sports.

B. Administrators' Code of Ethics

1. *I* will run youth sports programs for the children involved, not the adults.
2. *I* will ensure that I am knowledgeable in the area of youth sports administration.
3. *I* will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for all participants.
4. *I* will provide support for coaches, officials and parents to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
5. *I* will require all coaches and officials to be trained in the responsibilities of being a volunteer within the organization and that they uphold the NYSCA/NYSOA Codes of Ethics.
6. *I* will implement and enforce the National Standards for Youth Sports.
7. *I* promise to keep informed about current issues involving youth sports programs.

C. Officials' Code of Ethics

I will hereby pledge to live up to the high standards of ethics and training for an Official by following the Code of Ethics.

1. *I* will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, fellow officials and league administrators at all times.
2. *I* will ensure that I am knowledgeable of the rules of each sport I officiate, and apply those rules fairly to all participants, teams and coaches.
3. *I* will not allow personal friendships and associations to influence my decisions during a contest.
4. *I* will refrain from the use of tobacco and alcohol products when in the youth sports environment.
5. *I* will remember that youth sports are an opportunity for children to learn and have fun.
6. *I* will place their safety above all else.

CRPA currently contracts with NGAUA (North Georgia Amateur Umpires Association), Cherokee County Officials Association (CCOA), Northeast Cobb Officials Association (NCOA) for contest officials. These associations also provide their own set of rules and regulations.

CYB Rule Changes and Reminders

For the 2024-25 season we changed the TEAM FOUL Rule to match GHSA. After 5 team fouls are accumulated, 2 shots will be taken for the remainder of the quarter. Team Foul counts will RESET each quarter except overtime.

All CYB games will have four (4) 10-minute quarters with a running clock until 1 minute in the 4th quarter.

Each team will have five (5) 30-second timeouts per game. Unused timeouts will not be carried to any overtime period.

Regular Season Only: If the game is tied after the 4th quarter, the game will have 1-minute overtime period. If the game is tied after the overtime period, then the game will end in a tie. Each team will be given one (1) 30-second timeout during the overtime period.

The CYB Invitational Tournament will be comprised of two brackets: One bracket for teams with an above .500 winning percentage and one bracket for teams with a .500 and below winning percentage.

For the 2025-2026 Post Season Tournament: In the event of a tie at the end of a post season game, a 1-minute overtime will be played (See regular season 1 minute overtime rules above). **If the game is still tied at the end of the overtime period, the game will go to sudden death- the first team to score after a tip off will be declared the winner.**

Refunds:

- Refund requests must be completed in person at the Recreation Center during regular hours prior to the official start date of CYB (The official start date is October 14, 2025.)
- After the official start date or **once a player is placed/drafted onto a team** there will be NO REFUNDS.
- Refunds will not be issued if a ride request isn't honored or if a player is drafted to a team in which they choose not to play with.

CYB Coach and Player League Uniform Specifics:

- Starting in week 6 of the regular season ALL players must wear the 2025-26 CYB issued jerseys/number, or they will be assessed as a technical foul (T1) and will not be allowed to play one quarter or the remainder of a quarter once it is brought to the attention of the game officials. **EXCEPTION**- Any CYB coach/ player accompanied by an official letter will be allowed to play or if the Gym Supervisor on duty has received direct explicit permission from the CYB League Director for that specific game. Unfortunately, this rule is in place to prevent those NOT registered in the league and to prevent players from other teams from trying to play illegally. If any coach or player is caught, they may be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season.
- During games the coaches are required to wear proper coaching attire. Coaches must provide their own shirts in likeness of their team or wear a business casual shirt and/or suit which is acceptable. A coach's dress code will be strictly enforced and should include the proper coaching shirt along with appropriate pants/ shorts/ shoes. NO HATS OR JEANS ARE ALLOWED. **NO EXCEPTIONS** (Failure to comply will result in a category T1 technical foul to start the game.)

2025-26 CYB Points of Emphasis

It is mandatory that CYB teams (1st-8th grade) participate in team pictures.

SECTION II-RULE #18- Any policy, procedure, rule or interpretation not covered in this handbook or any other CYB material will be ruled on by the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Athletic Staff. That decision is final.

If a coach, player, parent or spectator becomes involved in an altercation (verbal or physical) with anyone (before, during, after the game) they will be asked to leave the gym immediately and possibly face further league suspension/ expulsion. Head coaches should assume responsibility for their parents, players, and spectators. If anyone does not leave without disruption Cherokee Recreation & Parks staff will call 911 for assistance. This is a zero-tolerance policy.

Dual participation- no player may play (game) with any other BASKETBALL team outside of CYB during the current CYB season. (e.g., travel teams, competitive teams, feeder teams, church teams and/or any other league/ teams, etc.) Players found guilty of this violation will be removed from the league immediately with no refund. EXCEPTION- during Christmas Break player and/or teams may participate in other games outside of CYB such as a Christmas Break Tournament. **This dual participation rule includes middle school feeder team PRACTICE PLAYERS.**

The official start date of the CYB season is October 14, 2025. The Winter Break period is (December 21st – January 4th)

PLAYER SUBSTITUTION RULE- The clock will be stopped at the first dead ball situation closest to the 5-minute time frame (5:15-4:45) during the first, second, third quarters. All players that did not start that quarter will be substituted into the game and will play the remainder of that quarter.

A starter is defined as the player that started each quarter not the game.

The age control date for the CYB season is the current grade level of each participant.

CYB Playing Rules & Regulations

A. General League Information

1. All basketball games will be played by the basketball rules as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Exception: when local CYB rule supersedes federation rules. (SEE PLAYING RULES MATRIX)
2. All players MUST play for their respective school district. Any player found guilty of playing out of district (elementary or high school) will be removed from the league immediately with no refund. (Exception: some situations may arise when Cherokee Recreation & Parks exclusively reserves the right to place players in the best interest of the league including but not limited to filling empty roster spots.)
3. Cherokee Recreation & Parks will be working closely with school administration to confirm all players' eligibility for their respective school/team. Master rosters will be available to all gym directors.
4. Playing Up- Players may play up one league (grade/gender) above their current academic grade.

5. Playing Down- No player may play below their league (grade/gender), unless medical documents are provided proving it to be necessary.
6. Roster minimum/ maximum for recreation teams in grades 1st - 8th is 7/10 players. Cherokee Recreation & Parks will make every effort to cap rosters at these numbers. There may be exceptions to this rule based on participation number for any grade or gender.
7. Practice Regulations- No team may conduct more than two practices per week during the pre-season and no more than one practice per week during the regular season at CYB facilities. Teams may rent additional gym space (not affiliated with CYB) at their own cost.
8. No team may conduct a practice of more than 60 minutes in length, and no team shall practice on full court unless left vacant by another team. Under no circumstances shall a practice go beyond 9 PM on a school night this is a CCSD and Cherokee Recreation & Parks policy.
9. Sunday practices will be voluntary, and no disciplinary action from the team should be taken against any player should they miss these activities.
10. There are NO FORFEITS in regard to the minimum number of players on the court. There is no minimum number of players required to start/ finish a CYB game during the season. Teams can only forfeit due to not being present at game time OR a team has accumulated 2 technical fouls (T2 and T3 Category Only).
11. Players are not permitted to wear bracelets, necklaces, earrings, studs, etc. at any time except for medical identification and emergency tags.
12. Players are not permitted to wear ribbons, bows, ninja-style headbands, or hard items including, but not limited to, Hair clips, barrettes, etc.
13. A team's win/ loss record will be kept during the regular season.
14. An invitational tournament (single elimination) will conclude the regular season. Teams will be ranked according to their winning percentage. If teams have identical winning percentages and did not play head to head, tournament seeds will be determined by coin toss.
The CYB Invitational Tournament will be comprised of two brackets: One bracket for teams with an above .500 winning percentage and one bracket for teams with a .500 and below winning percentage. Due to the number of teams in a bracket Cherokee Recreation & Parks can add or remove teams from brackets for competitive balance.
15. CYB Invitational Tournament Inclement Weather Policy: In the event that scheduled Invitational games are postponed due to inclement weather or other factors unforeseen by the league, all games scheduled for that day(s) will be rescheduled. **The league will make every effort to complete the tournament by Saturday February 14th. If necessary, play dates are February 23rd through March 1st.**
16. League standings and game scores will be kept during the season and posted on www.playcherokee.org CYB League Director will update those standings periodically throughout the season. Our task is to provide accurate winners for each game. In the event a score is wrong, but the winner is correct we will not make any changes. Providing the scores for each game is for entertainment purposes only. NOTE: Only Head Coaches will be allowed to submit a game results change to their respective Gym Director or League Director.
17. Coaches are the only ones permitted to report game day or practice issues to the League Director. Any issues parents or spectators have must be submitted through coaches.
18. Any policy, procedure, rule or interpretation not covered in this handbook or any other CYB material will be ruled on by the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Athletic Staff. That decision is final.

B. CYB General Playing Rules

1. All CYB games will have four 10-minute quarters with a running clock until 1 minute in the 4th quarter. The Clock will stop for **timeouts** and **injuries**.
2. There will be a one-minute break between quarters and a three-minute break at half-time.
3. During halftime there will be no shooting allowed by ANYONE other than the two teams currently playing.
4. Each team will have five (5) 30-second timeouts per game. Unused timeouts will not be carried to any overtime period.
5. After every CYB game, Teams shall line up and shake hands.

6. **REGULAR SEASON ONLY:** If the game is tied after the 4th quarter, the game will have 1-minute overtime period. If the game is tied after the overtime period, then the game will end in a tie. Each team will be given one (1) 30-second timeout during the overtime period.
7. **PLAYER SUBSTITUTION RULE-** The clock will be stopped at the first dead ball situation closest to the 5-minute time frame (5:15-4:45) during the first, second, and third quarters. All players that did not start that quarter will be substituted into the game and will play the remainder of that quarter. The 4th quarter will be free substitutions for all eligible players.
8. The scorekeeper/timekeeper should assist the officials after stopping the clock and signaling that substitutions are required. At that time each team must substitute all players on the bench. Exception: 1) if a player is injured 2) a player gets in foul trouble (*note: foul trouble is defined as a player with 2 fouls in the 1st quarter or 3 fouls in the second or third quarter*) 3) a player has received a Category T2 or T3 technical foul (*see technical foul rule*) 4) a starter subs for another starter. Starting in the 4th quarter substitutions teams may use free substitution immediately after the next dead ball whistle. It is the responsibility of the scorekeeper/timekeeper to note the players who start each quarter and subs as they enter the game and to make sure it is done correctly.
9. **MERCY RULE-** Any time during the game if a team's lead reaches 25 points or more for ANY grade, the officials will announce a running clock for the remainder of the game. During this time the clock will only be stopped for injury and timeouts. No backcourt pressing is allowed during this time by either team. At any time, a team's lead reaches 40 points the game will be stopped by the officials (game over).
10. **Only approved coaches will be allowed on the team bench, 3 MAXIMUM. (A maximum of 2 coaches and 1 statistician/scorekeeper allowed- ALL must pass a criminal background check.) Only the HEAD COACH may address CYB staff, referees, or the volunteer score keepers. Coaches must have their CYB Issued Coaches Credentials on or present with them at all times.**
11. **COACHES SEATBELT RULE-** During the game the head coach shall remain seated on the team bench, except to rise in certain situations (injuries, to call time-outs, confer with table personnel for a correctable error, dealing with disqualifications). The assistant coach must remain seated, should only communicate with their team personnel, and not communicate with officials.
12. If a coach, player, parent or spectator becomes involved in an altercation (verbal or physical) with anyone (before, during, after the game) they will be asked to leave the gym immediately and possibly face further league suspension/ expulsion. Head coaches should assume responsibility for their parents, players, and spectators. If anyone does not leave without disruption Cherokee Recreation & Parks staff will call 911 for assistance. This is a zero-tolerance policy. Players and coaches are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship before, during and after a contest, even if the game officials do not have jurisdiction. Behaviors such as taunting, fighting, etc., are forbidden.

C. **Technical Foul Rule**

- In all levels of basketball play, fouls are personal or technical. Technical fouls are not usually the result of play on the court but are generally due to a lapse in sportsmanship. From youth leagues to the pros, conduct those results in a technical foul is essentially the same, but the penalties are different. CYB plays according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations which is the standard across the nation.
- Any player that receives a category T2 technical foul in the first half must sit the remainder of that half and WILL NOT be allowed to return until after halftime.
- Any player that receives a Category T2 technical foul in the second half must sit the remainder of the game (including any overtime periods) and WILL NOT be allowed to return to the game.
- Any player or coach that receives a Category T3 technical foul or two Category T2 technical fouls resulting in an EJECTION will be suspended for the remainder of that game plus two additional games. They must leave the gym immediately. 911 will be called if necessary. During the suspension that player or coach will be allowed to practice but cannot be on the team bench during the next two games. Game Officials and Gym Supervisors must submit a written report within 48 hours of the incident.
- Any player or coach that receives 2 Category T2 technical fouls during the same game will result in an automatic EJECTION and must leave the facility immediately.
- Any team that receives 2 Category T2 and/or Category T3 technical fouls during the same game will result in an automatic FORFEIT.
- Any player or coach that is EJECTED twice during the season will be SUSPENDED for the remainder of the season including any tournament games with no refund.
- There is no appeal process for receiving a technical foul, ejection or suspension.
- CPRA Staff will rule upon any item not covered and that decision will be final.
- All players who are involved in an on or off court altercation and any substitutes who leave the bench area during the altercation shall be ejected from the current contest plus receive a possible two game suspension.

- Cherokee Recreation & Parks may review game footage to determine any active participants involved in any altercation, or to determine athletes leaving their bench during altercation, or to verify the correct number worn by a player in either of these situations. Note: penalties may then be levied, modified or changed based on this film review.

Cherokee Youth Basketball Technical-Foul Penalty Chart

Type of Technical Foul	Charged To:	Counts Towards
<p>Technical ONE (T1)-</p> <p>Administrative: Inaccurate scoresheet, uniforms, coaching attire, More than five players on the court, Illegal Defense (Grades 1-4th), teams not ready to start half, not occupying assigned bench, excess-timeouts, violation after team warning for delay, entering court; no report; not beckoned.</p>	<p>Team</p>	<p>1. Team-Foul Count</p>
<p>Technical TWO (T2)-</p> <p>Players: Changing number without reporting; face-guarding, grasping basket, dunking dead ball, slapping backboard; Unsporting act/conduct verbal or physical towards officials or game participants, reaching through plane to touch or dislodge ball; contact opponent during dead ball; use of tobacco, removing jersey/pants.</p> <p>Bench Personnel: Unsporting act/conduct verbal or physical towards officials or game participants.</p> <p>Head Coach or Assistant Coach: Unsporting act/conduct verbal or physical towards officials or game participants. Failure to comply with CYB Seat Belt rule.</p>	<p>Player, Bench personal, Head Coach, and Assistant Coach (Only the person guilty of the infraction is given the Technical Foul.)</p>	<p>1. 5 personals 2. Team-Foul Count 3. 2 Personal Technicals 4. 2 Team Technicals</p>
<p>Technical THREE (T3)-</p> <p>Players or Bench Personnel: Any profanity or unacceptable physical contact with a game official or participant, team members leaving bench for unauthorized reason (ex. Fight, altercations).</p> <p>Head Coach or Assistant Coach: Any profanity or unacceptable physical contact with a game official, participant and/or spectators.</p>	<p>Player, Bench personal, Head Coach, and Assistant Coach (Only the person guilty of the infraction is given the Technical THREE and immediately EJECTED.)</p>	<p>1. Team-Foul Count 2. 2 Team Technicals 3. Ejection</p>

*** A flagrant foul is either treated as a category T2 or T3 depending on the official's judgment of the foul.**

D. HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES

1. There are NO DRAFTS for grades 9th – 12th in CYB. All registration is done as a complete team.
2. Teams may be comprised of players from any high school as long as they are AGE/GRADE eligible to participate. Teams may choose the CCSD High School of their choice to represent when completing registration and uniform ordering.
3. Each team must provide a coach who is at least 25 years of age or older with a current approved background check on file with Cherokee Recreation & Parks. At NO time can a team have a person under the age of 25 sit on the bench to serve in any type of administrative or supporting role (Example: assistant coach, team manager, statistician, etc.). **The coach MUST be wearing the CYB 2024-2025 issued credentials to be sitting on the bench.**
4. Teams are allowed to have players from multiple grade levels play on their team. They must register and compete in the grade level that corresponds with the highest-grade level player on their team. **8th grade students are allowed to participate in the 9/10th grade division.**
5. All CYB playing rules and regulations apply to the high school division. Dual participation is not allowed at the high school level. Playing on multiple teams within CYB or other outside programs is forbidden and grounds for the team or individual being completely removed from the league.
6. **Once a player has made the high school team (Freshman, JV, or Varsity) they cannot participate in CYB. High school players at no time during the current CYB season (October 14th, 2025- March 1st 2026) may appear on a high school roster.**
7. CYB High School teams will be given 10 uniforms before the season starts. It is the team's responsibility to keep up with the uniforms. CYB will not provide any extra uniforms regardless of how many players are on the roster.
8. **Team uniform sizes must be submitted online to the League Director, NO LATER THAN 5pm on October 17th.**
9. **The High School Official Rosters (JotForm) must be completed and submitted to the League Director by 5pm on Wednesday November 19th.**
10. **Any additions to the official roster must be submitted to the League Director by 5pm on the Wednesday prior to your first scheduled game that week. Teams can only carry a maximum of 15 players on their official roster. For each contest, only 10 players can be in the current CYB uniform and are allowed to participate.**
11. **No additions to CYB High School rosters can be made after December 20, 2025.**
12. Once a player/parent signs Official League roster he/she cannot appear on any other roster (CYB, High School, Travel, etc....) nor can they be removed from your roster unless it is done for disciplinary reasons by the League Director.
13. If a player is removed from your team by the League Director for any reason, that team will not be able to add a player to the roster in his/her spot (Example: 15 roster spots and a player is removed by the league, the teams' official roster is now 14 players).
14. Upon request of Cherokee Recreation & Parks staff, teams must be able to provide a current copy (Electronically or Hard Copy) of their OFFICIAL ROSTER, signed by the League Director at each game (This is not the same as the team scoresheet).
15. All players that are in uniform must be able to provide proof of identification upon request by Cherokee Recreation & Parks Staff. Proof of identification must have a picture on it and be government issued or a school identification card.
16. Teams that are unable to provide a current copy of their OFFICIAL ROSTER or any player/s unable to provide proper identification will result in a forfeit of that game and possible removal from the league.
17. Players that are on the OFFICIAL ROSTER but NOT in uniform are not eligible to sit on the bench during the game.
18. **There is no mandatory substitution rule for the CYB High School Division. Teams may sub players as they see fit throughout the game.**

APPENDIX

PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING OUTLINE

The Cherokee Recreation & Parks requires that all teams conduct a “mandatory parent meeting” during the first week of practice, preferable the very first practice. In order for your child to play in the league, it is mandatory that at least one of the parents/ guardians attend. Important information such as policy and procedures, safety and first aid, medical alerts, expectations, responsibilities and team rules will be discussed in detail. This meeting is held in order to lay the foundation for open communication among coaches, parents and participants. Don’t forget your handbook!

- 1) Introduction (Coaches, Players, Parents, Administrators, etc.)
- 2) Review of Mission Statement
- 3) Player’s Responsibilities and Expectations
- 4) Player’s Code of Ethics
- 5) Player’s Corrective Action Policy
- 6) Parent’s/ Spectator’s Responsibilities and Expectations
- 7) Parent’s/ Spectator’s Code of Ethics
- 8) Parent’s/ Spectator’s Corrective Action Policy
- 9) Special Needs (i.e., disability, behavior disorder, medical alert, etc.)
- 10) Following the Chain of Command (Coach- Gym Director- Cherokee Recreation & Parks Staff)
- 11) Practice and Game Attendance and Drop Off/Pick Up
- 13) Assignment of the Team Mom/Dad- Roles and Responsibilities
- 14) Inclement Weather Procedures (770-924-7768 or www.playcherokee.org)
- 15) Equipment and Uniforms
- 16) Discussion of Rules and Regulations (CYB and Head Coach)
- 17) Methods of Communication-OPEN LINE AT ALL TIMES
- 18) Circles of Criticism and Affirmation
(What you say at home will eventually be heard at the gym)
- 19) Practice and Game Schedules
- 20) Open Discussion



CYB Gymnasiums Addresses and Water Only Policy

ACTIVE Academy (Old Teasley Middle)

8871 Knox Bridge Hwy
Canton, GA 30114

Arnold Mill Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

710 Arnold Mill Road
Woodstock, GA 30188

Avery Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

6391 East Cherokee Drive
Canton, GA 30115

Ball Ground City Gym (WATER ONLY GYM)

480 Old Canton Road
Ball Ground, GA 30107

Ball Ground Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

321 Valley Street (use bus entrance located behind the school)

Ball Ground, GA 30107

Bascomb Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

1335 Wyngate Parkway

Woodstock, GA 30189

Boston Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

105 Othello Drive

Woodstock, GA 30189

Carmel Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

2275 Bascomb Carmel Road

Woodstock, GA 30189

Clark Creek Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

3219 Hunt Road (use bus entrance past the main entrance)

Acworth, GA 30102

Cherokee High School/Cherokee High North (CHS Old Gym and CHS New Gym located side by side)

930 Marietta Hwy.

Canton, GA 30114

(WATER ONLY GYM)

Clayton Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

221 Upper Burris Road

Canton, GA 30114

Creekland Middle School (WATER ONLY GYM)

1555 Owens Store Road

Canton, GA 30115

Free Home Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

12525 Cumming Highway

Canton, GA 30115

Hasty Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

205 Brown Industrial Parkway (use bus entrance located off Hwy. 20)

Canton, GA 30114

Hickory Flat Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

2755 East Cherokee Drive (use entrance on Hickory Flat Road)

Canton, GA 30115

The Hickory Flat Gym (WATER ONLY GYM)

4835 Hickory Road

Canton, GA 30115

Holly Springs Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

1965 Hickory Rd.

Canton, GA 30115

Indian Knoll Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

3635 Univeter Road (use bus entrance to the left of the main entrance)

Canton, GA 30115

Johnston Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

2031 East Cherokee DR.

Woodstock, GA 30188

Knox Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

151 River Bend Way (use bus entrance/ second entrance behind the school- River Green Neighborhood)

Canton, GA 30114

L.B. Buzz Ahrens Recreation Center (The Buzz)

7345 Cumming Highway

Canton, GA 30115

Liberty Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

10500 Bells Ferry Rd.

Canton, Ga. 30114

Little River Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

3170 Trickum Rd. (use bus entrance located to the right of the main entrance)

Woodstock, GA 30188

Macedonia Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

10370 East Cherokee Drive

Canton, GA 30115

Mountain Road Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

615 Mountain Road

Woodstock, GA 30188

Oak Grove Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

6118 Woodstock Rd

Acworth, GA 30102

R.M. Moore Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

1375 Puckett Road

Waleska, GA 30183

Sixes Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

20 Ridge Road
Canton, GA 30114

Teasley Middle (WATER ONLY GYM)

151 Hickory Log Trail
Canton, GA 30114

Woodstock Elementary (WATER ONLY GYM)

230 Rope Mill Road
Woodstock, GA 30188

Trinity Presbyterian Church (WATER ONLY GYM)

1136 Trinity Church Road
Canton, GA 30115

Cherokee Recreation & Parks Recreation Center (WATER ONLY GYM)

7545 Main Street, Bldg. 200
Woodstock, GA 30188