

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Leisure Ministries

2011-2012 Community Basketball League

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Our purposepage 2

Chapter 2: Safe Sanctuariespage 3

Chapter 3: Registration / How teams are picked...page 5

Chapter 4: Practice / Uniformspage 6

Chapter 5: Game Day.....page 7

Chapter 6: Special Dates.....page 9

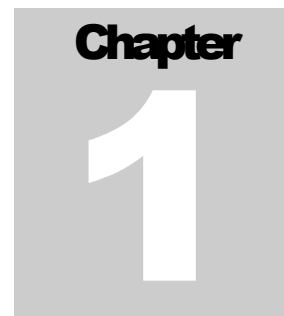
Chapter 7: Awards.....page 10

Chapter 8: How are we doing.....page 11

Appendix 1: Age Level Rules.....page 12

Appendix 2: Evaluation Form.....page 14

Appendix 3: Glory Award Ballot.....page 16



Leisure Ministries Purpose

The mission of our Leisure Ministry outreach program is to provide recreational activities for the community, as well as Bethany members, as a means of encouraging Christian fellowship and growth through the appropriate use of leisure activities in a Christian atmosphere

Welcome to the 2011-2012 season of Bethany’s Community Basketball League! We are excited to have you here and hope that you and your children have a great season of sportsmanship and competition. This handbook should answer most of your questions regarding the season, but please feel free to contact us with any further questions you may have.

Two familiar faces you will see around the gym are Terry Abernethy, the director of Leisure Ministry and Lynn Mazell, has-been helper. If you have any questions regarding the basketball season, please contact either one of us as follows:

Terry Abernethy 873-7261 terrya@bethany-umc.com

Lynn Mazell 873-7261 gym@bethany-umc.com

Safe Sanctuaries

Bethany United Methodist Church practices “Safe Sanctuaries”, which is a policy mandated by the United Methodist Church.

Safe Sanctuaries is a policy designed to prevent child abuse and to assure the safety of all children and youth while they are at Bethany. Employees and volunteers are subject to criminal background checks and must adhere to the procedures of the “Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Policies” of Bethany United Methodist Church.

Our congregation’s purpose for establishing this policy and accompanying procedures is to demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all of our youth.

How can I help?

The “Safe Sanctuaries” policy mandates that all youth are accounted for at all times. This means that parents must sign their children in and out of practice. It is not permissible for parents to drop their children off outside or for us to allow children to leave when we have not seen a parent. While this may take an extra minute or so of your time, we trust that you understand the importance of keeping track of the hundreds of children that come and go during practice sessions. Your assistance in this area is greatly appreciated.

We also need your help with regards to:

- Children who are dropped off long before or after their scheduled practice time. In this case there is no coach to supervise them and they have effectively been left unattended.
- Siblings who are dropped off during practice time. We cannot ask the coaches to be responsible for children who are not on their team.

COMMUNITY BASKETBALL

- Children who are running through the hallways and parking lot, even when their parents are in the gym. Please keep an eye on your children and make sure they stay in the gym with you during practice and games.
- Children disrupting basketball practice by taking balls and shooting baskets when a team is trying to use that area for practice. This holds true for game day as well, when teams are trying to warm up.

Again, your assistance with the above is greatly appreciated.

Registration

Space is limited, so please register on time.

New this year we will only take registrations through the online registration system at www.bethanygym.com.

- Bethany UMC members and 2010 participants are allowed to register beginning September 17, 2011.
- Registration will open to the general public on October 1st.
- Registration is on a first come, first serve basis with waiting lists taken for each age level as they are filled.
- Registrations without payment will be placed on a waiting list only.
- Please keep remember your Sports Sign Up password so you can go into the site and change any personal information. That way we will be able to contact you in the future.

How are the Teams picked?

The purpose of our draft is to try and divide the teams as evenly as possible with regards to basketball skills. While competition is certainly not the main emphasis of our league, we do try and keep the teams as “even” as possible. During the draft, players are ranked (from 1 to 4) according to their skills, and coaches choose their teams based on those scores. We try to achieve on each team an equal amount of “4” players, “3” players, etc. Due to the size of our league, we cannot take special requests when it comes to placing your child on a particular team.

Practice

Each team is given only one hour a week in which to practice.

You can see that with only one hour a week, it is truly important to be on time. You should also communicate with your child's coach if you are going to be out of town during a practice session or a game.

Children should show up for practice dressed in athletic clothing and appropriate shoes. Please note that we do not allow flip flops, crocs or "rollies" on the gym floor.

As mentioned in Chapter Two, parents must sign their children in and out of practice.

The court is reserved for players and coaches only. Please help us by keeping siblings off of the court.

Because we have to cancel some practices during Thanksgiving and The Living Christmas Story, coaches are allowed to schedule "off-site" practice sessions if they can find a place to do so. As of January 1st, teams are only allowed to practice once a week.

There will be no practice during Christmas holidays (December 20 – December 31).

Uniforms

Each player is provided a t-shirt with their team name.

You will need to provide gym shorts and shoes for your child. Please note that for safety reasons, athletic style shorts that do not have pockets or zippers should be worn.

Some teams may want to coordinate uniforms by having parents purchase similar shorts and shoes. This is entirely up to you as parents and should be a team decision.

Game Day

Please be on time, and let your coach know ahead of time if your child can't make it.

As stated above, it is of utmost importance that your child be on time for all games. If for any reason you know you will be running late, or miss the game altogether, please let your coach know ahead of time so that he/she can plan accordingly.

With regards to snacks, please note that there should be no food or drink in the gym itself. Snacks are fine as long as they are enjoyed in the hallway or entrance area and as long as someone cleans up afterwards. We have no janitorial services on the weekends, so keeping the gym clean has to be a joint effort.

About the Refs

All of our refs have been hand-picked to work with each age group. If you don't understand a call, please speak with your child's coach first. If the coach does not understand a call, he/she should speak with the ref after the game. Never at anytime should a parent approach a referee to express their displeasure about a call.

Our policy regarding the referees is as follows:

- The referees have complete control of the game with their call final.
- The Leisure Ministries Director or designees will only come onto the court when called by the referee.
- Everyone is expected to show respect for the rules of the game, other people, and the facility.

About the Clock

Running such a large league requires some pretty tight scheduling. As such, **our rules for the clock are a bit different** from what you will see in high school or college basketball. Here is a short list of those differences:

- In the Co-ed, Boys 7-8 and Girls 7-10 year-old leagues, we use a running clock (non-stop). The exception to this rule is when the referee calls for the clock to stop so that he can explain something to the players without running time.
- In the Boys 9-10 and 11-12 year-old and the Girls 10-12 year-old leagues, we use a running clock. The clock will stop for shooting fouls only when the referee signals the scorekeeper that it is a shooting foul. The clock will stop for all whistles during **the last ten seconds of the first three quarters and during the last two minutes of the final quarter.**
- The scorekeeper cannot grant a time-out and will not stop the clock based on a coach's request. All time-outs are approved and signaled by the referees only.
- The running of the game is strictly between the referees and the scorekeepers.

About the Scorekeepers

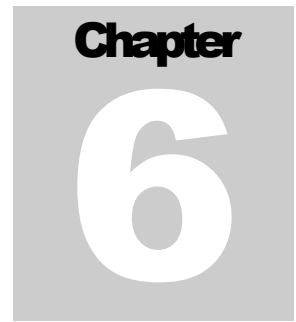
Our scorekeepers are instructed to keep score in the following order:

1. note the basket on paper next to the player's name
2. note the basket on paper as a team score
3. update the scoreboard

Please note that the official score is what we have **on paper**, so attention is paid to that first. For that reason, there may be a slight "lag time" between a basket being made and the score appearing on the scoreboard.

As stated above, the scorekeepers work for the refs. Therefore, we ask that you do not approach them regarding the clock or score. If a mistake has been made, it is the referee's responsibility to inform the scorekeeper.

Also, please note that we do not post scores above a twenty point lead



Special Dates

Mark your calendar for these important dates!

Our season will be filled with exciting times, but these are a few of the special days you want to make a note of.

- Opening Day December 10th
- Picture Day January 21st & 28th
- Spirit DayFebruary 11th
- Tournament begins.....February 17th & 18th
- Tournament & Finals February 24th & 25th

We are aware that some game days fall into three and four-day weekends, but we cannot reschedule these games and still have enough Saturdays to plan a full season. We will also play through any Saturdays that may coincide with local high school playoffs.

* Pictures will be taken on both the 21st and 28th of January. The day for your team will be given to you when we get closer to that time.

Awards

Which teams and/or players are given awards?

We hand out awards at the end of the season based on the level of play, the season leaders and the championship winners. Participation awards are given to all players in the co-ed league. For all others, we give one award to each player on the winning team for the season, and we award each player on the 1st and 2nd place teams in our tournament at the end of the season.

The Glory Awards

Sportsman: A person who can take loss or defeat without complaining, victory without gloating and treats his opponents with fairness, generosity and courtesy.

Sportsmanship has always been a priority with our Community Basketball League and we would like to recognize outstanding behavior. There will be an end of season award recognizing players for their good sportsmanship.

This is not a popularity contest. Parents, help your children to watch the actions of fellow teammates. How do they treat others on the team? How do they treat their opponents and officials? How do they treat you?

Talk to your children about their team and the actions and attitudes that are being displayed. Also, help them to understand what it takes to be a good sport.

Each player (age 7 and up) and each coach will be asked to cast a vote for the player on their team with exceptional sportsmanship. The form can be found on appendix page #1. Players are required to list at least one reason why they think this person deserves the award. The forms will be compiled and an impartial panel will select a winner from each team by evaluating the “why’s”.

Chapter
8