

Ayer Shirley Youth Basketball

5th-8th Grade Divisions

October 2, 2023

Ayer Shirley Youth Basketball Players and Parents,

As many of you may have heard, the ASRSD High School gym was forced to be closed and it is uncertain when it can be reopened. This put our 2023-24 basketball season in jeopardy due to the high school needing to shift their teams' games and practices to other ASRSD facilities. We have recently received a commitment from the district that at minimum we should be able to utilize the Middle School gym all day Saturdays and some parts of Sundays. While this may throw off some of our normal scheduling, particularly with practices, we expect to be able to offer a full basketball season for all the 5th-8th grade divisions.

In this packet you will find information about the program as well as registration material to help get you signed up. The registration deadline is **November 1**. Any registrations received after that is subject to a \$10 late fee, and applications received after **November 1** will be placed on a waiting list and will not be guaranteed entry into the program. Those wishing to register online can do so starting October 4 by visiting the Parks Department page on the Town of Ayer website.

The ASYB program is always in need of volunteers for coaching and assisting. If you are unsure of your ability to do so, coaching clinics are offered to help those who feel they may not possess the necessary knowledge to instruct young players. Please consider volunteering for a coaching position when filling out the registration.

Players and parents also need to fill out a code of conduct form. This is a requirement for all players participating in ASYB. Please be sure to return the completed form on the back of your registration.

Players in 7th and 8th grade who are planning on trying out for the Middle School team and are unsure if they will also want to play recreation basketball are encouraged to still register for the ASYB program. If a player makes the Middle School team and then chooses not to play in the recreational program, they will be given a refund of their registration fee. Those who attempt to register after the November 1 deadline risk not having a roster spot available. It should be noted that in the past, most Middle School players have chosen to play both. The 7th-8th grade recreational format is designed to work in partnership with the school program and has minimal, if any, overlaps.

We look forward to seeing everyone this fall and having another great season of basketball!

2022-23 Ayer-Shirley Youth Basketball FAQs

- **What is ASYB? What are the different divisions that are available?**

Ayer-Shirley Youth Basketball is open to anyone from 5th to 8th grade. There are four divisions: Boys 5th-6th Grade, Girls 5th-6th Grade, Boys 7th-8th Grade, Girls 7th-8th grade.

- **Why is there a cutoff date for registration (November 1)?**

Uniforms and equipment need to be ordered at least a month prior to the season's start in order to assure on time arrival and distribution. Teams must also be formed early enough to allow a game and practice schedule to be drawn up.

- **Is financial aid available?**

Financial aid is available to anyone who needs assistance. Please note that funding for ASYB is based on registration fees and excessive F/A requests can lead to a reduction in the quality of the program. For more information on how to acquire F/A, contact Jeff Thomas at 978-796-5915.

- **How are coaches selected? How are teams formed?**

Coaches and assistants are chosen by the Ayer Shirley Youth Basketball Board in mid October from a pool of those who have shown interest. Selection is based on experience and basketball knowledge. Those who have coached in the previous year get priority.

In the first few weeks, coaches at each level have a player evaluation session to get a look at the players in their division and an idea of the best way to balance teams. Teams are then selected for the upcoming season with an emphasis on forming teams that are equally competitive. There will be a mixture of players from both towns on each team, utilizing gyms from Ayer and Shirley for games and practices.

- **When are practices and games?**

Starting in early November, players will have an opportunity for preseason workouts prior to team selections. Once teams are formed, 7th-8th grade teams will practice one weeknight each week. 5th-6th grade teams will have 1-2 weeknight practices each week. There may also be occasional individual skills sessions offered based on grade. Games are played on Saturdays, and game times vary between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Most teams are from Ayer/Shirley, Townsend, Ashby and Pepperell.

- **What if a player wants to be on another team after being selected?**

Because the goal is to balance the teams when they are being formed, it is difficult to move a player after they have been placed. It is suggested that you make any requests regarding team placement before teams are made. If there is a clear reason for moving a player (conflict with the coach/other players, etc.) every effort will be made to make a switch. Please call the Ayer Parks Department office at 978-796-5915 if there is an issue. Any changes in the travel divisions **must** be made prior to the season's first game. If you foresee any potential conflicts or schedule issues, please include them in the provided space of the registration form.

- **How can a player move up to a higher division?**

The ASYB program does not generally allow players to compete at levels beyond their current grade, but there are some exceptions. Please review the ASYB policy for changing divisions for further information.

Ayer Shirley Youth Basketball

2023-2024 Registration

5th-8th Grade Divisions

Applications must be received by November 1 or be subjected to a \$10 late fee. Any applications submitted after November 1 will be placed on a waiting list and will not be guaranteed entry into the program. Recreation teams will be formed in November. Games will be played beginning on December 3 and run through mid-February.

Divisions	Fee for registrations received by 11/1	Fee for registrations received after 11/1
5 th -6 th grade boys	\$100.00	\$110.00
5 th -6 th grade girls	\$100.00	\$110.00
7 th -8 th grade boys	\$100.00	\$110.00
7 th -8 th grade girls	\$100.00	\$110.00

If you have any questions, contact the Ayer Parks Department at 978-796-5915. Please fill out the form below and submit it with payment made out to the Ayer Parks Department. We also offer online registration and payment at <https://www.ayer.ma.us/parks-recreation>. Both parents and players must also sign the code of conduct agreement on the back of this form. You may drop off the registration at the Parks office located at 35 Bligh Street or mail it to **Ayer Parks Department, 1 Main Street, Ayer, Ma 01432**.

Player Name: _____ M/F _____

Player Shirt Size (Circle One) YL AS AM AL XL XXL

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ D.O.B. _____ Grade: _____

Health issues coaches need to be aware of: _____

I can volunteer as a: Coach _____ Assistant _____

Injury Waiver: As parent/guardian of the above named individual, I hereby absolve all coaches, administrators, referees, or other participants in this program from all liability and will not hold them responsible for injury incurred during practices or games. I also understand coaches have the authority to limit playing time and have responsibility to report any detrimental behavior to the ASYB board.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Email (please print clearly): _____

Ayer Shirley Youth Basketball

Code of Conduct

Participation in the Ayer Shirley Youth Basketball Program is considered a privilege for players, coaches and spectators. All three play a part in making the experience of youth basketball a positive experience for everyone to enjoy. Those who do not abide by the ethics detailed below during ASYB games will be asked to leave the building and may be subject to further consequences pending inquiry from the ASYB board.

Coaches' Code of Conduct:

- I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual, and expect age appropriate skills from all my players.
- I will distribute playing time evenly among player on my team within the guidelines of ASYB rules.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players and players on the other team.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players on and off the court.
- I will respect the decisions of referees.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach and that the game is for children and not adults.

Players' Code of Conduct:

- I will play within the rule and be adherent to the instructions of the referees and coaches.
- I will respect the decisions of referees and coaches.
- I will not intentionally try to inflict pain or injury to another player.
- I will exhibit good sportsmanship before, during, and after each game, regardless of the outcome.
- I will not partake in taunting, criticizing or jeering of opposing players or officials.

Spectators' Code of Conduct:

- I will not criticize, taunt or otherwise disrespect officials, players, or coaches from either team.
- I will offer only positive words of encouragement, preferably to both teams playing.
- I will not instruct players or coaches during games or practices.
- I will allow others around me to enjoy the game by not being overly boisterous or belligerent.

By signing below, you agree to abide by the Code of Conduct listed above and understand the privilege of participation in future ASYB events may be revoked for non-compliance. You further understand the importance of fair play and sportsmanship during youth sports competition and recognize the authority of referees and town coordinators to remove those who are exhibiting poor conduct during ASYB events.

Player Name_____

Town/team_____

Player Signature (Grade 5-8)_____

Date_____

Parent Signature_____

Date_____