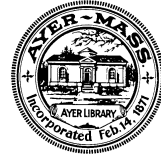


Ayer Parks Department

Town Hall ♦ One Main Street ♦ Ayer, MA 01432
978-772-8217 ♦ 978-772-8222 (fax)



Ayer Youth Basketball PreK-4 Divisions

October 2, 2023

Ayer Youth Basketball Players and Parents,

As many of you may have already 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 Page Hilltop gym for most weeknights and all day Saturdays. While this may throw off some of our normal scheduling, we expect to be able to offer a full basketball season for all of the Pre-K through 4th 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 are subject to a \$10 late fee. Applications received after **November 1** will be placed on a waiting list and will not be guaranteed entry into the program.

The AYB program is always in need of volunteers for coaching. At these levels in particular, an ability to deal with and relate to children is more important than specific basketball skills. Coaching guidelines 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.

We look forward to seeing everyone this fall and having another great season of basketball! If you have any questions, feel free to call Jeff Thomas at the Park Department office at 978-796-5915.

Chris Tavares, AYB Chairman
Jason Leone, Member
Rob Weeks, Member
Jeff Thomas, AYB Coordinator

2023-24 Ayer Youth Basketball FAQs

- **What is Ayer Youth Basketball? What are the different divisions that are available for?**

Ayer Youth Basketball is a program managed through the Ayer Parks Department. It is open to anyone from Pre-K through 4th grade. Upon entering 5th grade, players become eligible for the Ayer/Shirley Youth Basketball travel program, which is overseen by the ASYB Board. The AYB levels are as follows:

Miniballers (Pre-K)

As you might expect, the Miniballers program is designed to introduce very young players to some basic concepts of the game while keeping it fun and simple. Sessions are 45 minutes on Saturday afternoons and run from Early January through mid-February.

Kindergarten-2nd Grade Division

Designed to introduce youngsters to the game and develop rudimentary skills while maintaining a fun atmosphere. Players are separated into boys and girls divisions at the 1st-2nd grade levels. All games and practices take place on Saturday mornings and last about an hour. The program runs from early December to mid-February. If gym space allows, there may also be some occasional weekday practices offered.

3rd/4th Grade Division

Sessions are Saturday mornings as well as 1-2 weekday practice each week. More advanced skills are introduced to help prepare younger players for competitive play. Players are separated into boys and girls divisions. Games are played on Saturdays with coaches refereeing. The program runs from mid-November to mid-February.

- **Is financial aid available?**

Financial aid is available to anyone who **needs** assistance. Please note that funding for Ayer Recreational Basketball 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 the Ayer Parks Department at 978-796-5915.

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

Coaches and assistants are chosen by the Ayer 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. Coaches are all required to submit to a CORI check.

In the first few weeks of the 1st-4th grade levels, coaches will 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, generally with 8-10 players per team. At the Pre-K and Kindergarten levels teams are put together randomly each week, as there is more of an emphasis on individual skills instruction, with team concepts worked in as the season progresses.

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

Because the goal at the 1st-4th grade levels 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 Park Department at 978-796-5915 if this is an issue. If you foresee any potential conflicts or schedule issues, please include them in the registration form.

Ayer Youth Basketball

PreK-4th Grade

2023-24 Registration

You may also register online at the Town of Ayer website!

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. Registered players will be contacted with more information in early November regarding starting dates and practice sessions for those programs.

Division	Format	Fee	Starting Date*	Location
Miniballers (Pre-K)	Skills and Drills	\$25.00	January 6	Page Gym
Kindergarten	Skills and Drills	\$35.00	December 2	Page Gym
1 st grade boys	Skills/Game Intro	\$40.00	December 2	Page Gym
2 nd grade boys	Skills/Game Intro	\$40.00	December 2	Page Gym
1 st -2 nd grade girls	Skills/Game Intro	\$40.00	December 2	Page Gym
3 rd -4 th grade boys	In Town Instructional	\$40.00	November 11	Page/HS Gym
3 rd -4 th grade girls	In Town Instructional	\$40.00	November 11	Page/HS Gym

*Dates subject to change base on gym availability

If you have any questions, contact the Ayer Parks Department at 978-796-5915. Please fill out the following form and submit it with payment made out to the Ayer Parks Department. 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 _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Potential scheduling conflicts (If any): _____

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 hear by 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 may suspend or remove any player from the program for detrimental behavior at their discretion.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Email (please print clearly): _____