



2011-12 Basketball Program Grades 3-7

Parents - Read and Keep!
Information, dates, policies, etc.

THE PROGRAM

Over 5,000 boys and girls participated in the Blue Valley Recreation Commission's (BVRC) basketball program last season. The program serves youth currently in grades 1-7 and 9-12. The season begins, for grades 3-7, with practices in November. Games begin the first Saturday in December and are played on Saturdays and Sundays at area school gymnasiums. The program concludes approximately the last week of February. Information regarding the program for grades 9-12 will be listed in the high school newspapers in November. **Only residents of the Blue Valley School District or those attending a school within Blue Valley are eligible to participate.** Those not residing, but attending a school within the district, pay a higher, non-resident fee.

All children who register to play in the BVRC basketball program are given that opportunity provided registration deadlines are followed.

MANDATORY PARENT SEMINAR

One parent of every player must attend a mandatory sportsmanship seminar. Those who attended the seminar last spring or fall at the Church of the Resurrection need not attend a seminar this year. Attendance is taken and kept from year to year.

When: Tuesday, November 1
Time: 7-8pm
Where: Blue Valley North High School (12200 Lamar) Performing Arts Center

The seminar will be presented by Richard Bechard of the NAIA Champions of Character Initiative.

TO REGISTER

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

All players may begin registering on-line today by using our web site, www.bluevalleyrec.org. To register on-line, follow the instructions found on our web site. Please keep in mind that if you have never registered on-line for a class through the BVRC before, you will first need to initiate a customer ID. Please allow 48 hours (2 business days) to receive your customer ID from the BVRC. Don't wait until the last minute to register! If you are unable to register on-line, you may register at the BVRC Activity Center (6545 W. 151st St.) or at the Recreation Complex (9701 W. 137th St.). The final day to register for guaranteed placement onto a team is September 27. After September 27, registrants will be placed on a waiting list with no guarantee of placement on a team. *We do not accept phone-in or faxed registrations.

TEAM FORMATION (4TH- 7TH GRADES ONLY)

Coaches in grades 4-7 may submit a team roster by picking up a coaches packet at either BVRC office beginning August 3. All forms must be completed and returned to a BVRC office by September 12. The Activity Center is open Monday through Friday from 6:00am to 9:00pm, Saturday from 7:00am to 7:00pm, and Sunday from 12:00pm to 7:00pm. The Recreation Complex is open 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through

Friday. When submitting a team, the team roster form must be completed/submitted and each player must have registered as an individual (preferably via our on-line registration).

FEES

GRADES 3- 7: The “early bird” registration fee is \$122 for each child registered by September 6. Beginning September 7, the fee will be \$132. The fee includes 7 practices in November, plus one practice and one Saturday or Sunday game per week December through February. Additional practices or participation in tournaments, scheduled by some coaches, are not part of this program or fee. Players attending a school within the Blue Valley District, but not residing within the Blue Valley School District, must pay an additional non-resident fee of 25%.

WE OFFER A LEAGUE FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

Beginning in 3rd grade, teams are placed into divisions based on the strength of the team. Thus, the BVRC offers a league for a very skilled player as well as a beginner. Depending on the number of teams that register, there will be four to five levels of play within each age group. Team strength will be determined by recommendations from coaches, past performance (if appropriate) and seeding games that take place in December. Based on their win/loss record, teams from year to year will also have the opportunity to move up or down within these levels. The basketball advisory council and staff have the final say on team placement. Players who wish to play up one grade must submit a written request to staff and may be asked to appear before the Basketball Advisory Council. Final approval of all requests will be made by the Council.

THIRD GRADE

This is an instructional and non-competitive league. Those in third grade ('11-'12 school year) will have 7 practices in November, plus one practice and one Saturday or Sunday game per week December through February. Teams will play 3 seeding games and 7 regular season games. The games consist of two 20-minute halves, with a 4-minute halftime. The clock will run continuously, only stopping on timeouts and the last two minutes of each half.

- ◆ Parents are needed to serve as coaches
- ◆ Score will be kept, but no standings
- ◆ Required playing time for all players
- ◆ All practices/games in B.V. elementary schools
- ◆ League play for all skill levels
- ◆ Award for each player
- ◆ Assigned practice time
- ◆ Eight foot goals
- ◆ 28.5 size basketball used

FOURTH GRADE

Those in fourth grade ('11-'12 school year) will have 7 practices in November, plus one practice and one Saturday or Sunday game per week December through February. Teams will play 3 seeding games and 7 regular season games in addition to a post-season, single-elimination tournament. The games consist of two 20-minute halves, with a 4-minute halftime. The clock will run continuously, only stopping on timeouts and the last two minutes of each half.

- ◆ Parents are needed to serve as coaches
- ◆ Required playing time for all players
- ◆ All practices/games in B.V. elementary schools
- ◆ League play for all skill levels
- ◆ Assigned practice time
- ◆ Nine foot goals
- ◆ 28.5 size basketball used
- ◆ Post-season tournament

FIFTH THRU SEVENTH GRADES

Those in fifth - seventh grade ('11-'12 school year) will have 7 practices in November, plus one practice and one Saturday or Sunday game per week December through February. Fifth Grade teams will play 3 seeding games and 7 regular season games in addition to a post-season, single-elimination tournament. Sixth and seventh grade teams will be placed into divisions based on last year's records and will receive 10 games in the same division. The games consist of two 20-minute halves, with a 4-minute halftime. The clock will run continuously, only stopping on timeouts and the last two minutes of each half.

- ◆ Parents are needed to serve as coaches
- ◆ Required playing time for all players
- ◆ All practices/games in B.V. schools
- ◆ League play for all skill levels
- ◆ Assigned practice time
- ◆ Ten foot goals
- ◆ 28.5 size basketball used
- ◆ Post-season tournament

HOW TEAMS ARE FORMED

GRADE 3

Teams are formed within elementary school boundaries by staff and coaches. For example, if there are eighteen players from an elementary school, staff will meet with two coaches from that school and the coaches will each choose nine players. Combining two schools, due to low registration numbers, could be necessary. Players in 3rd grade will be contacted by their coach the last week of October.

GRADES 4-7

- Most teams, especially in the younger grades, are formed within the elementary or middle school a player attends.
- The majority of players find their own team on which they would like to play (schoolmate or friend is on a team, etc.), following the guidelines outlined below. A list of coaches from each school will be available on our website for those who are looking for a team. Those few players who are not able to find a team on which to play, and who register by September 27 are placed on a team by staff.
- Coaches are also allowed to form their own teams. However, teams must be formed according to high school boundaries (the high school boundaries for each school are listed below). For example, if Coach Smith lives in the Blue Valley North High School district, the players on his team must also live within the North district. High school boundaries can change frequently. When a boundary does change, players may choose to go onto a new team within the new high school boundary or they may choose to be “grandfathered” onto the team for which they played during the 2010-2011 season. However, once a “grandfathered” player leaves his/her original team, he/she must then play within the current high school boundary. Players who are new to the program for this season must play on a team within the high school boundary in which they reside.
- Players may choose not to play with their team from last year. In addition, the coach also has the option of not inviting a player back to the team. If a coach is not going to invite a player back to the team, he must personally notify the player before September 2. If a player is not going to return to last year’s team the player must personally notify his/her coach by September 2. All players not returning to their team will then be required to play within the appropriate high school area for this season. In these two instances, players will be responsible for finding a team on which to play. For those players unable to find a team, and who register by September 27, staff will place the player onto a team.
- If a coach from last year does not return and the team dissolves, the players are responsible for finding a team on which to play. A list of coaches from each school will be available on the website. Those players unable to find a team will be placed onto a team by staff (must register by September 27).
- Players new to Blue Valley basketball for this season may inquire at their school and with friends as to teams that are forming. If new players are unable to find a team, and register by September 27, they will be placed onto a team by staff.
- A player attending a private school will have the option of playing with his/her schoolmates or with a team within the appropriate high school boundary.
- Players may participate on only one BVRC team and must play in the grade they are in for the 2011-2012 school year.

TEAM ROSTER FORM, GRADES 4-7 ONLY

The team roster form is a form to be filled out by the coach and returned to BVRC. After confirming with a player and his/her parents that the player will be on that team, the coach will add the player to the roster. No player/parent signatures are needed. This form secures the player a roster spot with that coach for the 10-11 season. Once the player has committed to that coach and the player has been added to the roster, the coach may not remove the player from the team and the player may not switch to a different team for the 10-11 season. **The team roster form is not a registration form-all players must register individually.**

- During the period August 1-September 12 coaches may begin forming their teams. Once a player has agreed to play with a coach, he/she will be added to the team roster form.
- Those players who are not on a team roster form by September 12, and who register by September 27, will be placed onto a team by staff. As in all Blue Valley youth sports programs every player who registers by the published deadline will be placed onto a team. Practices will begin the first week in November and players will be notified by their coach as to which team they are on by the last week of October.

HIGH SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

The following schools feed into Blue Valley Northwest High School:

- Elementary schools – Cottonwood Point, Harmony, Heartland, Indian Valley, Oak Hill
- Middle schools – Harmony, Oxford

The following schools feed into Blue Valley North High School:

- Elementary schools – Leawood, Mission Trail, Overland Trail, Valley Park
- Middle schools – Leawood, Overland Trail

The following schools feed into Blue Valley High School:

- Elementary schools – Blue River, Prairie Star, Stanley, Sunrise Point
- Middle schools - Blue Valley, Prairie Star

The following schools feed into Blue Valley West High School:

- Elementary schools – Lakewood, Liberty View, Sunset Ridge, Cedar Hills, Timber Creek
- Middle schools – Lakewood, Pleasant Ridge

The following schools feed into Blue Valley Southwest High School:

- Elementary schools – Stilwell, Timber Creek, Morse
- Middle schools – Aubrey Bend

The following private schools have been approved to play in the Blue Valley Recreation basketball league: Ascension, Barstow, Kansas City Christian, Nativity, Saint Michaels, Westminster Academy, and Queen of the Holy Rosary Wea. Participants attending one of these approved schools may play together on a team from their school or they may play on a team in their high school area. Participants that attend one of these schools but live outside the Blue Valley boundaries are required to pay an additional non-resident fee of 25%.

HELP - WE NEED **COACHES** WILL YOU COACH?

Coaches are needed at most age levels and parents are strongly encouraged to assist with the program. Potential coaches should complete and return a coaches application to the BVRC by September 12. Coaches applications are available on the BVRC web page www.bluevalleyrec.org. Good sportsmanship and the ability to interact positively with youth are two key qualities of a BVRC basketball coach.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT

Good sportsmanship is a top priority within the BVRC basketball program for players, parents and fans. Parents and players will be asked to sign a code of ethics that will be returned before the first game (coaches will be given further information on this item).

Coaches are asked to be responsible for their teams. However, the BVRC staff and officials have complete authority to enforce good sportsmanship. A volunteer Sportsmanship Committee also assists the basketball program. Committee members are assigned to observe games once or twice throughout the season and then report on the positive and negative incidents observed. Volunteers are needed to serve on this committee. Those interested in serving should contact their coach.

The BVRC has strong rules regarding interaction with officials and ejections from games. If a coach or parent is ejected from a game they must immediately leave the gym and will be required to serve a one-game suspension. Staff and the Basketball Advisory Council may invoke stricter penalties should the situation warrant.

SCOREKEEPERS

Parents that are interested in getting more involved with the youth basketball program can volunteer to be the team scorekeeper. Each team will be required to have at least one parent who can keep the scoresheet for each game as well as one parent who can operate the scoreboard. Blue Valley Recreation will provide training to parents interested in running the scoreboard and game clock. You will be helping out your head coach by volunteering to be a scorekeeper.

SUGGESTIONS/PROBLEMS

Parents and coaches are encouraged to call the BVRC Sports Department at 685-6030, and speak with staff should a problem arise.

UNIFORMS

Teams purchase their own uniforms. The jersey **must be a two-color, reversible jersey or a team must have two sets of jerseys (one light colored and one dark) with numbers on the front and back.** This will avoid problems should two teams playing one another have the same color of jersey (the home team, listed first on the game schedule, wears the light colored jersey and the visiting team the dark jersey). A number on the front and back is required. Jerry Sports Shop is the official uniform supplier for the BVRC. For more information, contact Jerry's at 402-9994 or at www.jerrysportsshops.com.

PRACTICES

Everyone would love to have practices in their neighborhood school. However, that is infrequently the case, because: 1) 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades play at different basket heights and the school administration does not want the baskets changed from practice to practice, as they break quite often. Thus, your school may not be designated for your grade; 2) More than one team will practice in a gym at one time and coaches have indicated they prefer to have a like-grade practicing with their team so that scrimmages are possible. With this in mind, each age group is assigned to a gym that it will use for practices. Those gyms are determined by basket height, the number of teams in an age group and gym availability.

GYMS – WE ARE GUESTS IN THEM

The Blue Valley School District has allowed our basketball program to use their gyms. It is our responsibility, as players, parents and coaches, to take care of the gyms and schools. When in the schools, players and other children should be supervised at all times. Remember, we are guests in these facilities! **All participants are to remain in the gym unless they are using the restroom facilities.**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For individuals high school age and older, the basketball program offers various job opportunities. The BVRC is looking for high school students and adults to officiate games. We are also seeking adults to supervise gyms on Saturdays and Sundays for all games. Training sessions will be held to instruct those interested in these positions. These are great jobs for individuals looking to earn extra money over the winter! Call the BVRC Sports Department at 685.6030 to apply.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The program is administered by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission. An advisory council, made up of seven volunteer patrons, along with staff, sets rules, policies, etc., for the program. Each year, there are 2-3 openings on the Council. Those interested in serving should contact the Sports Department office at 685-6030, prior to September 1, 2011.

INCLEMENT WEATHER - GAMES AND PRACTICES

Our web site, www.bluevalleyrec.org, serves as the main vehicle by which to notify participants of changes or cancellations during inclement weather.

The current telephone number is: 913-685-6099 EXT: 5.

Patrons may also opt to receive weather alerts via text message to their cell phones. This can be accomplished by clicking on the cell phone icon on the www.bluevalleyrec.org home page.

TEAM PICTURES

Team and individual pictures are not included in the registration fee. However, a picture day for teams who wish to have pictures taken will be coordinated through the BVRC. Teams are responsible for payment to the photographer. Coaches will be notified at their organizational meeting about dates and times.

QUESTIONS?

Have questions about the program? Call the BVRC Sports Department at 913-685-6030.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Information about the high school program will be posted at www.bluevalleyrec.org in November.

BVRC WEB SITE

For information regarding inclement weather, league schedules, league standings, picture times and other general information about the basketball program you may visit our website at: www.bluevalleyrec.org

INSURANCE

Blue Valley Recreation does not provide medical insurance for participants.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR PLAYERS

- **July 5** – Registration Begins
- **August 3** - Coaches begin forming their teams in grades 4-7, packets available at either BVRC office
- **July 5 – September 6**- Early registration (save \$10)
- **September 12** – Completed coaches packets due to BVRC
- **September 27** - Last day to register for guaranteed placement onto a team
- **Last week of October** - All players contacted by their coaches
- **October 31** - Practices begin
- **December 3** – Games begin