

WINTER YOUTH

BASKETBALL

PARENT MANUAL

YOUTH
ATHLETICS

LOMBARDPARKS.COM



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the Lombard Park District Youth Basketball Program. We are looking forward to providing a quality program that your child will enjoy. Our goal is to provide your child with a **fun** activity that will help instill **sportsmanship** and **teamwork**, while helping **develop their basketball skills and knowledge**. We believe that it's important to stress that winning is not everything – it is not even close. Competition can be healthy, but a “win at all costs” attitude can prove detrimental. Each child has his or her own reasons for participating in this sport and it is our responsibility to ensure they have the opportunity to fulfill this desire. Please keep in mind the values of sportsmanship, learning, and fun that all Lombard Park District athletics programs try to instill.

Inside this manual, you will find important information about the basketball season. Please take the time to read through this manual, as it will provide the answers to many of the questions you may have about the program.

Lombard Park District youth athletics programs rely on a combination of volunteer coaches and you, the parents to deliver a quality program. The Lombard Park District appreciates the work you are doing for our children today...their experiences will help shape them into the leaders of the future. We also are very appreciative of the many coaches who volunteer their time to help deliver a positive experience to the children in the program. Please remember that all coaches in the program are volunteers.

On behalf of the Lombard Park District, thanks for having your child participate in the basketball program, and for helping us deliver the best possible experience for your child. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

Martha Houston, Program Manager
Lombard Park District
630.519.5852
mhouston@lombardparks.com

What to Expect

Practices: Each team grades 3 & older will be assigned a regular practice night, time, and location. Practices will be 1 hour long, once a week and held at a Lombard school gymnasium. Your coach will provide this information when he/she initiates contact with you after the coaches' meeting. Junior Dribblers and Grades 1-2 will have practice time immediately prior to their game time on Saturdays.

Games: Games will last approximately one hour and be played on weekends (see FAQ section for further info on times and locations of games.) **Junior Dribblers** (3 weeks of practice followed by 5 weeks of practice/games), and **Grades 1-2** have 8 games, **Grades 3-12** have 9 games.

What to bring: All players through K-8th grade **must** purchase a Lombard Park District youth basketball jersey to wear at games. For the High School League, jerseys are provided prior to the first game. Players should bring a water bottle to games and practices. Some balls will be provided at practices and games, but players may bring their own balls if they choose. **Please have players carry their basketball shoes into the gymnasium, rather than wearing them outside in the winter weather.** This helps keep the floors clean and safe for all participants.

Youth Basketball Parents' Manual

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Important Contact Information

Lombard Park District Sports Hotline (630) 995-9491

Lombard Park District Main Office (630) 620-7322
Program Manager: Martha Houston (630) 519-5852
mhouston@lombardparks.com

Game Schedules

The best source for finding this information quickly is the Lombard Park District website.

Quickscores: <https://www.quickscores.com/lombardparks>

Main Website: www.lombardparks.com/

Sports Information: www.lombardparks.com/youth-athletics/

In the event of game cancellations, the posted game schedules are subject to change and parents should defer to the coaches for game re-scheduling information

Important Dates

Practices Begin: First week of December (Grades 1+)

January 13 (Junior Dribblers)

*No basketball December 25 – January 7th.

Games Begin: Saturday, January 13, 2024 (Grades 1 and 2)

Saturday, January 13, 2024 (Grades 3-8)

Sunday, January 14, 2024 (High School)

Saturday, February 3, 2024 (Junior Dribblers)

Last week of season: early March (Junior Dribblers) early-mid March (based on team numbers) (Grades 1-2)
mid-March (Grades 3+)

Coach Contact: Grades 1+, November 30

Junior Dribblers, November 30

Please contact the Lombard Park District if you have not heard from a coach by the appropriate date.

Lombard Park District Equipment Safety Guidelines

1. Reversible Black/Red Lombard Park District shirt is mandatory for grades K-8. They are available at Sunset Knoll Recreation Center for \$20 and can be reused for future years.
2. No jewelry is to be worn during games or practices, including watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets and earrings (must be heavily taped). No hard hair clasps.
3. No casts of any kind can be allowed. Splints must be of a padded nature and wrapped.
4. All players with glasses **MUST** wear a safety strap or sports goggles.
5. All players must wear gym shoes to take part in the game. Shoes to be worn during play should be carried in to help preserve the gym floor finish.
6. Make sure all personal items are marked clearly with the player's name.

Parents' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports activities by following this Parent's Code of Ethics:

- I will encourage sportsmanship and character development by showing support for all players, coaches, and officials involved at every game and practice session.
- In conjunction with the Lombard Park District, I will place the emotional and physical well being of the children ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will insist and help to ensure that my child and his or her team play under safe conditions at all times.
- I will expect that my child's coach and team adhere to all rules of participation and competition at all times.
- In accordance with the Lombard Park District and Lombard Character Counts! Coalition, we will uphold the principals of the six pillars of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, citizenship, and caring.
- I will not condone the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at any Lombard Park District event and will refrain from their use at all games and practice sessions.
- In an effort to aid their development, I will make every attempt to make sure that my child attends all practices/games on a timely basis.
- As a family and team, we will respect all of our teammates, opponents, referees, coaches, and league officials.
- I will do my best to actively take on any role necessary to improve the quality of my child's sports experiences.
- I will remember that youth sports programs are intended for the youth of our community and I will do my best to make these experiences fun and rewarding.

Thank you for your commitment to the Lombard Park District Youth Sports Programs and for pledging to follow this code of ethics!

Expectations of Parents/Coaches/Spectators

- 1) Exhibit good sportsmanship toward all participants, coaches, referees, and other parents, both on one's own team and the opposing teams.
- 2) Communicate in a constructive way with Lombard Park District staff, including coaches, referees, and program manager.
- 3) Fill out Youth Sports Information Form upon registration.
- 4) Help coaches keep the program fun.
- 5) Adhere to the Parents' Code of Ethics

Behavior contrary to the Park District Policy will not be tolerated. The Park District does reserve the right to limit coach/parent participation in the youth athletic programs. Violation of the above rules will result in the following:

- 1st Offense: Minimum 1 game suspension
- 2nd Offense: Minimum 3 game suspension

The Athletic Staff, depending on the severity of the violation, may take further action.

Behavior Management

All participants and spectators are expected to adhere to the Lombard Park District rules and philosophies as well as local, state and federal statutes at all times. Any individual who violates these rules will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including removal from the program. Any coach, player, or parent removed from a game for

disciplinary reasons will have to meet with the Program Manager prior to re-instatement. Any removed from a match must leave the facility immediately. The referees, site supervisors or Program Manager on duty at that time, will handle all problems.

Any individual who has been administered a disciplinary action has the right to an appeal. This appeal must be in writing and received within 24 hours of the disciplinary action. The Park District will review this appeal in a timely fashion and all disciplinary action will stay in effect while the appeal is reviewed.

Appeals should be directed to:

**Lombard Park District
Attn: Martha Houston, Program Manager
820 S. Finley Rd
Lombard, IL 60148**

Coach/Player/Parent Conduct:

1. Any coach, player, or parent removed from a game for disciplinary reasons will have to meet with the Program Manager prior to re-instatement. Any removed from a match must leave the court immediately. The referees, site supervisors or Program Manager on duty at that time, will handle all problems.
2. Eat Healthy! Through the years, it has become common for parents to bring after-game snacks for the team. In keeping with promoting health and fitness, we ask that you choose healthy items when doing so. No food may be consumed inside the gym.
3. No alcohol, drugs, or smoking is allowed at any time during games and practices by coaches or parents. No food or beverages may be brought into the gym (except water). Our rights to use school gymnasiums will be revoked if we don't respect the facilities we are using.
4. On rare occasions, referees and site supervisors have the right to shorten the length of quarters (with notification of both coaches) due to injuries, weather, or any unforeseen problems to keep the program on schedule as a whole. This will only occur in extreme cases.
5. Lost and found items left at schools will remain in the park district's on-site lost and found box, which may be accessed anytime a site supervisor is on duty during practices or games. Lost and found items are donated to charity on a yearly basis, so please act quickly if something turns up missing.
6. Parents are expected to pick up their children on a timely basis from all practices and games. Please show respect for your coaches by being prompt. Make every effort to let your coach know if your child will be absent from a game or practice for planning purposes.
7. This program, as are all Lombard Park District youth sports programs are designed for the enjoyment of the participants themselves. We strive to make the programs safe, enjoyable and a positive experience for your child so that they will want to continue participating as they grow older. Your help in achieving this as parents and coaches is greatly appreciated.
8. Please call with any questions or suggestions, (630) 620-7322.

For further guidelines, please see the Parents' Code of Ethics.

Team Formation Guidelines

The following youth sports guidelines have been developed to create a fair and equitable way to form Lombard Park District youth sports teams.

- All teams will be formed to distribute players based on age and skill level.
- All siblings falling within the same age group will be placed on the same team.
- Each team will automatically have the coach's and assistant coach's children placed on their team. Each head coach is only assigned one assistant coach. In the event a coach requests an assistant, this will also count as their friendship request.
- While the Program Manager will make every effort to honor friendship and/or coach requests, please note that there are no guarantees. In general, the later you register, the less likely we will be able to honor coach or friendship requests. For any friendship request to be honored the friend must also request the participant. Failure to fill out a Youth Sports Information Form in its entirety or to fill out the online prompts if registering online may preclude you from having any friendship/coach requests honored.
- Participants who register after the deadline will not be guaranteed a team.

Youth Basketball FAQ

Do the teams have practices?

For grades 3-High School: each team will have a regular one-hour practice each week at a local school. The coach will determine the practice day and time. **Practices begin the first week of December.** Practices may be held at the following schools: Pleasant Lane, Hammerschmidt, Madison, Connect 44 Center. High School teams will not have practices once games begin.

For the 1st-2nd graders: 15-minute practices will be held right before their games each week, though weeks 1-4 will consist of an hour-long practice with no game.

For the Junior Dribblers (Kindergarten): the **first 3 weeks will be practices only** and the last 5 weeks of the program will be a 30-minute practice followed by a 30-minute game.

Where will games be played?

Games will be played at either Pleasant Lane School (PLS), Madison Meadow Athletic Center (MMAC), or Hammerschmidt Elementary (HAM). It is possible that another gym will be utilized for 1 or 2 games.

How many games will my child play?

Junior Dribblers will have 3 practices pre-season practices and play 5 games (30min practice/30min game). Grade 3+ will play 9 games.

What day/time will games be played?

Game schedules will be finalized by December 15, but below is a tentative projected schedule of the range of times for the games. Please note these are subject to change, and there may be occasional games scheduled that fall outside of these guidelines.

Coed Junior Dribblers (K):	Sat	MMAC
Girls Grades 1-2:	Sat	MMAC
Boys Grades 1-2:	Sat	MMAC
Girls Grades 3-4:	Sat	HAM
Boys Grades 3-4:	Sat	HAM
Boys Grades 5-6:	Sat	PLS
Girls Grades 5-8:	Sat	PLS
Boys Grades 7-8:	Sat	PLS**
High School (9-12):	Sun	PLS**

*** Girls Grades 5-8 will play games outside of Lombard due to being in a cooperative league with other park districts.**

****Playoffs will be played at the MMAC**

Where are the gymnasiums?

Pleasant Lane Gym
401 N. Main Street, Lombard
Entrance 6 (Berkshire Ave)

Connect 44 Center
1514 S. Main Street, Lombard
Entrance 12 (north side of the school)

Madison Elementary Gym
150 W Madison Street, Lombard
Entrance 8 (Madison Ave)

Hammerschmidt Gym
617 Hammerschmidt, Lombard
Entrance 9 (south side of school)

Madison Meadow Athletic Center
500 E. Wilson Avenue, Lombard

Where do we get uniforms?

Uniforms are mandatory for grades K-8 and must be purchased at Sunset Knoll Recreation Center for \$20.00 or reused from a previous year. The High School league participants do not need to purchase these uniforms. They will be provided with uniforms prior to their first game.