



GEORGIA YOUTH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK

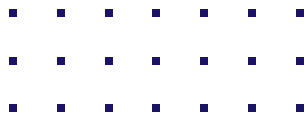
WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE

2026/2027

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Introduction & Mission



Intro



Welcome to the Georgia Youth Basketball Association League! This handbook is designed to provide players, parents, and coaches with all the information needed for a successful and enjoyable season. Our goal is to foster a fun, safe, and competitive environment where young athletes can grow both on and off the court.

Mission



To foster a positive, inclusive, and competitive environment where young athletes can develop their basketball skills, build character, and learn the value of teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. We strive to empower students through athletic participation, encouraging personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a lifelong love for the game.

Values



Respect

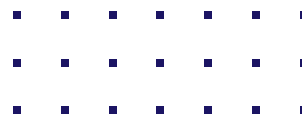
Integrity

Teamwork

Effort

Fun

What's New?



Schedule (Continued):

- Teams who forfeit TWO (2) Games throughout the season will be removed from league play

Game Play:

- 4th and 5th Grade Press Rule: No Pressing is allowed when a team is winning by 20 or more points

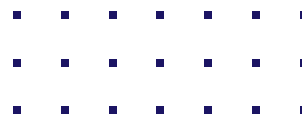
Website:

- The official GYBA Website will now be listed on HoopSeen.com under GYBA. Here is the link: [LINK TO EVENT PAGE](#)

Rosters/Certification:

- We have adjusted this process to take the bulk of the work off of Coaches/Parents and allow for multiple ways to submit rosters and certification. Please see page 19 for updates

What's New?



Based on conversations with Coaches & our Board of Directors, we have decided to implement some new rules & policies for the 2026-2027 GYBA Season.

You can find these on specific Rule and Policy pages throughout the handbook as well but we wanted to highlight some important ones.

Grade Requirement: The GYBA will now be based SOLELY on Grade starting for the 2026-2027 Season. Players can only play in the GRADE they are in for the 2026-2027 School year (or above). There will be no age exceptions or age requirements.

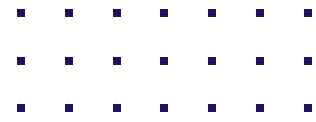
Player Exceptions:

- A MAXIMUM of Two (2) Player Exceptions will be allowed per team and only for the following reasons....
 - Coaches Child Playing on Team
 - A player from another school who DOES NOT have a team in the GYBA already

Schedule:

- There are 3 MANDATORY play weekends throughout the season you will need to play at least ONE (1) Game.
 - They are: December 5-6, December 12-13 and January 23-24
- Requests:
 - ALL Requests must be submitted by November 8th
 - Each team is allowed one schedule change after this point DURING the season but will be accompanied by a \$50 fee.
 - This request must be submitted by the Tuesday before the weekend

League Rules



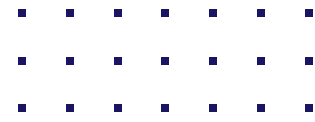
1 Roster Rules

- Teams will be comprised only of players from schools that feed into the same high school.
- If a player attends a private school and that private school does not participate in the league, the player may ONLY play for the local school district that player lives in.
- If a player is home schooled, that player may play for the local school district team that player lives in ONLY.
- All players will be certified by GYBA before the beginning of the season.
- Players will be required to submit to date grade report either in person at a certification meeting or online via PlayerFirst/Jotform.
- Player Exception Request Form can be found on the helpful links page at the end of this handbook, along with examples of exceptions

Uniforms

- Players' jerseys must have numbers on both the front and back.
- Numbers can be 0, 00-99.
- Home wears Light jerseys and Away wears Dark jerseys.
- The League request that you please have both jerseys on hand for every game

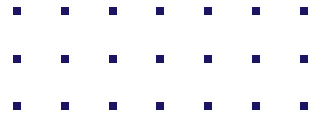
League Rules



2 Game Rules

- The National High School Federation Rules and Regulations (NHSF) will apply to all games with the following exceptions:
- **Game Rules:**
 - No game may begin before the scheduled start time unless tournament director approves it
 - All teams will receive at least 3 minutes to warm-up prior to the game (Subject to Change based on Gametime)
- **Regulation Time**
 - 4th & 5th Grade Boys: Four 6-minute quarters and use 28.5 intermediate size ball
 - 6th Grade Boys: Four 7-minute quarters and use a 29.5 intermediate size ball
 - 7th - 8th Grade Boys: Four 7-minute quarters and use 29.5 ball
 - 5th/6th & 7/8th Grade Girls: Four 7-minute quarters and use 28.5 intermediate size ball
- **Halftime:** 2 minutes
- **Timeouts:** 2 full and 2 30-second per game
- **Overtime:** 2 minutes (Timeouts DO NOT roll over to Overtime)
 - Each Team will be given 1 full timeout per Overtime.
 - Double Overtime:
 - Sudden Death, 1st team to score in the regular season.
 - Playoffs, 2 minutes
 - Triple Overtime (Playoffs ONLY)
 - Sudden Death, 1st team to score

League Rules

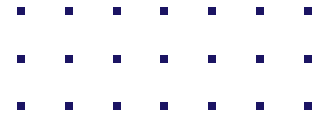


2 Game Rules

- Clock will stop on all whistles
- **Fouls:**
 - 1 and 1 at 7 fouls, double bonus at 10 fouls each quarter. Fouls will reset for each quarter.
 - 5 fouls to foul out
- Each team is responsible for their warm-up balls, the home team will provide the Game Ball.
- Teams will be given a 10-minute grace period (subject to change by tournament director) to arrive after the official game start time. Teams that show up after the grace period will forfeit.
- **Mercy Rule** - Once a team is ahead by 20 points in the second half, the clock will run continuously except during timeouts and injuries. If the point differential is reduced below 15, the clock will return to normal
 - **4/5th Grade: No Pressing when up 20 or more points**
- Scoresheets will be provided to each game based on your certified roster and will not be adjusted prior to the game



League Rules

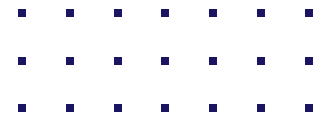


3 Division Rules

Divisions by Grade Level

- 4th Grade - An athlete must be in the 4th grade or below for the 2026-2027 school year
- 5th Grade - An athlete must be in the 5th grade or below for the 2026-2027 school year
- 6th Grade - An athlete must be in the 6th grade or below for the 2026-2027 school year
- 7th Grade - An athlete must be in the 7th grade or below for the 2026-2027 school year
- 8th Grade - An athlete must be in the 8th grade or below for the 2026-2027 school year
- Players can play up a grade level and not down a grade level.
- No player will be allowed to play on two teams in the same division at any time during the season
- ALL Rosters will be finalized on November 18th, with all players being locked to a roster for the season.

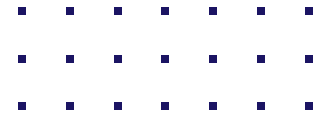
League Rules



4 Protest Policy

- The team's Head Coach or the Feeder Director are the only people who can file a protest
- All roster protests must be filed in writing accompanied by a \$100.00 protest fee (refundable if the protest is upheld) and evidence of ineligibility with the Tournament Director PRIOR to protested game. If the protest is valid, the protested team forfeits all previous games. (See roster rules for acceptable proof of age and grade). We check all rosters, grade reports, and birth certificates at the beginning of season. Protester must provide evidence of ineligibility.
- All non-roster protest must be filed in writing within one (1) hour of the conclusion of the contest and must be accompanied by a \$100.00 protest fee (refundable if protest is upheld). Official's calls/rulings are not grounds for a protest. Table Scoresheets are official scoring.
- League Directors ruling on protest are final.

Season Schedule & Structure



1

Schedule

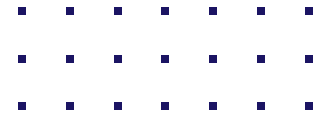
Regular Season

- 8-week regular season (Nov. 21st - Jan. 24th)
 - Week 1: Nov. 21-22
 - Week 2: Dec. 5-6
 - Week 3: Dec 12-13
 - Week 4: Dec. 19-20
 - Week 5: Jan. 9-10
 - Week 6: Jan. 16-17
 - Week 7: Jan. 23-24

Post Season

- Playoff tournament: Week 8: Feb. 6th- 7th
 - All teams will participate in the playoffs
 - One Championship Bracket per division; will be seeded based on how your team finishes in your division
 - Single Elimination
- ***EVERY team should be prepared to play at any time and every weekend throughout the season.***
- Top team/First team listed on our HoopSeen App and Schedule is the away team and will wear the Dark color jerseys.
- The Schedule will be released to your registered email address and posted on HoopSeen.com and the GYBA website.

Season Schedule & Structure



2

Structure

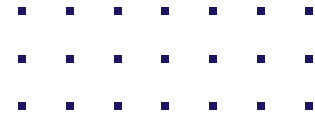
Division Breakdown

- Divisions will be randomized (with priority of same schools in separate divisions)
- Tie Breaker Rule
 - Two Teams Tied: Head-to-head result.
 - Three or more teams: Common Opponent Point Differential System will be used. Teams will receive a point differential per game up to a maximum of 15 points for a win and a maximum of -15 points for a loss. The team with the highest point differential will win the tiebreaker and the second highest number will be seeded second, etc. If two teams are tied with points, then revert back to head-to-head. If the teams are still tied, the team with the fewest points allowed in ALL games played in pool play wins. A forfeit is scored as a 15-0 game

Game Format

- 4th/5th Grade: Four 6-Minute Quarters
- 6th/7th/8th Grade: Four 7-Minute Quarters
- 2-minute halftime

Season Schedule & Structure



3

Coaches/Certification Meeting

We will have weekly office hours leading up to the GYBA to help with certification and questions on the league as outlined below.

Attendance at our Coaches Certification meeting on November 8th will ONLY be for teams who have not completed the certification process OR have questions/concerns regarding the league.

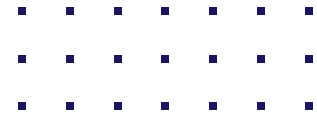
WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS (Suwanee Sports Academy):
Monday & Wednesday: 3pm-8pm

Coaches Certification Meeting: Sunday, November 8th

Items Required to complete Certification:

- Completed Roster with
 - Full Names
 - DOB
 - Attended School & Grade
 - Guardian Name
 - Guardian Email
 - Guardian Phone
 - Jersey #
 - Player Headshot
 - Current Grade Report (with current Date/Year visible)
- TWO (2) Coaches Per Team with Name, Email, Phone Number

Season Schedule & Structure



4

Check-In

Coaches Check In:

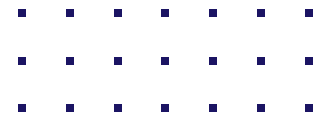
- Each Team will submit their coaches list by Sunday, November 8th. Each team can have TWO Coaches. Each Feeder Program will also have an additional spot for their director. All names must be submitted at the beginning of the season and will be locked in for the entire season.
- There will be a Coaches Check-In table in the lobby, where all coaches and directors will need to present their ID and will then be given a band to wear for the weekend.

Player Check In:

- Every player must present their jersey to the gate/admission table to gain entry. Any player without a jersey will not be allowed to enter. Coaches, please make sure every player has access to their jerseys for entry.



Policies & Protocols



1 Safety & Health

Injury Prevention:

- Mandatory warm-ups before games
- No jewelry or unsafe gear allowed

Medical Emergencies:

- Athletic Trainer will be On-site

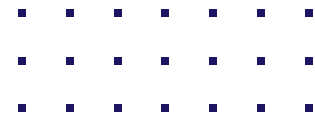
Weather Policy:

- Games canceled for severe weather will attempt to be rescheduled

2 Sportsmanship

- Players, coaches, team representatives, spectators, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a team, as well as contest officials, shall adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship and the ethics of competition before, during and after all contests in which they participate and/or attend. Each participating team and its head coach shall be held strictly accountable for unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of its players, coaches and spectators

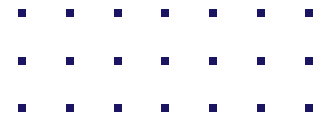
Policies & Protocols



3 Sportsmanship

- A player, coach, team representative or spectator who commits an act of malicious and hateful nature toward a contest official, opponent or any other person attending a tournament shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct. This includes the use of profane language. Results of ejections from the facility.
- If contestants participate in a bench and/or a bleacher-clearing fight, both teams will be suspended for the remainder of the weekend. This includes players (on the bench) coming off the bench and onto the court during any altercation. We will not tolerate these kinds of behaviors in our league and will be evaluated by the HoopSeen administration staff for further consequences.
- Two (2) direct technical fouls or an ejection during a game on a player, coach, or team representative will result in their disqualification for the next game. Fighting and gross unsportsmanlike behavior can be more than one game and is at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- The player, coach, team representative, or spectator that is disqualified during the course of the game must immediately leave the competition area where he/she is not visible to the athletes, officials, or other spectators and must not have any further contact with or give instruction to athletes or other members of their staff for the remainder of the contest

Policies & Protocols



3 Sportsmanship

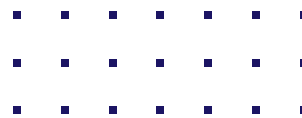
- A player, coach, team representative or spectator that is suspended may not be present in the competition area during the game.
- A spectator that is removed/ejected from the game by any official or staff member will be forced to leave the facility and may not return to any games for the remainder of that weekend. Failure to adhere could result in technical fouls/forfeiture for the affiliated team.

4 Code of Conduct

Players, Coaches, and Parents must:

- Show respect to referees, opponents, teammates, and all league staff
- Refrain from any unsportsmanlike behavior (See Sportsmanship and Unsportsmanlike Conduct Policy)
- Follow league rules and guidelines
- Promote a positive and inclusive environment
- **Violations may result in:**
 - Warnings, Game Forfeiture, Game suspensions, Removal from the facility, Removal from the league, etc.

Miscellaneous/FAQ



1 At the Facility

Admission Prices:

- \$12 Adult Daily
- \$7 Student Daily (K-12th Grade)
- 4 and Under Free
- GHSA Pass Holders will be admitted for FREE. No Guest Passes

Parking:

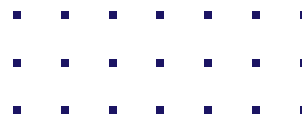
- Suwanee Sports Academy has two available parking lots: the main lot right in front of the facility and our second lot is across McGinnis Ferry Road. Our second lot has a trail that will lead you back up to the facility, please do not try to cross McGinnis Ferry Road. The gravel lot is no longer available for parking and the new owners will tow your vehicle.
- (See Parking Map in Helpful Links)

Streaming:

- Be The Beast streaming will be available to purchase every weekend. We will provide a link in our pre-event email. There will also be a way to purchase on-site.



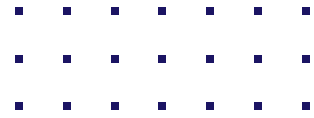
Helpful Links



1 Links

- [GYBA Rules Sheet](#)
- **School Clusters:**
 - [Gwinnett County](#)
 - [Forsyth County](#)
 - [Fulton County](#)
 - [Hall County](#)
 - [Barrow County](#)
 - [Cobb County](#)
 - [Walton County](#)
 - [Dekalb County](#)
 - [Rockdale County](#)
- Player First Links
 - [Add Athlete to Roster](#)
 - [Upload Team Roster](#)
- [Player Exception Request Form](#)

Helpful Links



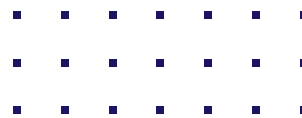
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Links

Parking Map



Helpful Links



2

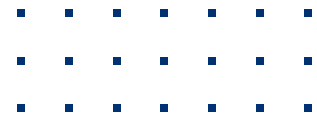
Certification Checklist

- Below is what EVERY Coach/Program Director will need in order to finish the Jotform Certification Process
- DO NOT START THIS UNTIL YOU HAVE EVERYTHING BELOW
- Coaches Information (Max of 2 Per Team)
 - Coach Name
 - Email
 - Phone Number
- Roster
 - Team Name/Division
 - Player Information
 - First Name Last Name
 - Jersey Number
 - Date of Birth
 - Current Grade
 - Current School
 - Guardian Name
 - Guardian Email
 - Guardian Phone
 - Player Headshot with Name (can also email to admin.gyba@gmail.com)
 - Player Current Grade Report (can also email to admin.gyba@gmail.com)
 - Please do not have parents email grade/headshot individually. These will not be accepted

Jotform Link



Contact Information



 (470) 266-8862

 admin.gyba@gmail.com

 3640 Burnette Road Suwanee, GA 30024

 www.gyba.com

