

Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc.



Regional Reminders

- All-Star Rosters and Team Photos are due March 1st. Team photos are MANDATORY.
- **ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES** are required for all players. Teams must provide birth certificates to the Tournament Director prior to their first scheduled game. The Original Birth Certificate is the Certificate received from the State not the certificate from the hospital with footprint. Original Passports are also accepted. Copied or scanned documents will not be accepted. If you have an issue with a player's birth certificate, please contact me prior to the tournament.
- **All-Star players MUST live in or attend school within your school district boundary.** Players from a neighboring community are not eligible to play on your teams even if they do not have a Little Dribbler league in their community.
- The date to determine age eligibility is whatever age a player will be on 8/1/20. A simple guide when looking at birth certificates is:
To in the JUNIOR DIVISION, a player must be born on or after 8/2/2009.
To play in the MAJOR DIVISION, a player must be born on or after 8/2/2007.
To play in the SENIOR DIVISION, a player must be born on or after 8/2/2005.
(There is a new AGE CALCULATOR on the website to help you determine the correct division for your players)
- **GIRLS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PLAY ON BOYS TEAMS.** Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. offers separate but equal programs for boys and girls.
- **Continental Division** teams must have a minimum of eight (8) players and a maximum of twelve (12) players.
- **American Division** teams must have a minimum of ten (10) players and a maximum of twelve players.
- Questions regarding brackets and games schedules should be emailed to cara@littledribblers.org. The Tournament Director cannot make changes to the bracket or schedule.
- All coaches MUST have a Criminal Background Check. Go to: [PROTECT YOUTH SPORTS](#). If your league is not on the list, email me so that I can get you set up to do background checks.
- Tournament information will be posted on the website.

COACH ME
And I will learn.
CHALLENGE ME
And I will grow.
BELIEVE IN ME
And I will win.

REGULATIONS

REVISED SEPTEMBER 2019

ADMINISTRATION:

Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. is administered by a Board of Directors through its National Headquarters located at 911 Houston, Levelland, Texas 79336.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A CHARTERED LITTLE DRIBBLER LEAGUE:

To register with Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. leagues must complete the online registration at www.littledribblers.org. Once registration is completed and all fees have been paid, the league will become a Chartered Little Dribbler league. Becoming a Chartered league enables the league to claim their boundary area (as determined by their local school district boundary area) solely for their league. No other Little Dribbler league may cross their boundary lines for purposes of claiming player. Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. will not allow any other Little Dribbler league to register for that boundary area. If a Chartered league remains in good standing, registers each year and pays all fees, that boundary area is protected for the sole use of their league.

- 1)** Registration-all registration must be completed online. By submitting the Registration Application, leagues are agreeing to abide by all Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. Rules and Regulations. Annual Registration and Fees are for membership in Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. Fees are not Tournament entrance fees.
- 2)** Fees- Annual Registration Fees are determined by division. A separate registration fee is required for boys and girls. Fees are to be paid online using a credit card. Registration fees are non-refundable.

The fee to Register for all Divisions is \$400.

INSURANCE:

All Teams must be covered by group accident and liability insurance before the team will be permitted to compete in any Little Dribblers' competition. Approved accident and liability insurance coverage will be available through Little Dribblers' Basketball Headquarters by a licensed insurance carrier. Insurance information will be available on the web site. Leagues must have a current Certificate of Insurance on file with Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. prior to any tournament play.

PROGRAMS, DIVISIONS, LEAGUES, TEAMS AND PLAYERS

Programs: The organization provides separate, but identical programs for both boys and girls.

Divisions: The programs are classified into three divisions based the size of the school district based on the UIL of Texas District Classification.

Note: Leagues are teams may not cross into another Little Dribbler leagues boundary area to recruit players.

DIVISION	DIVISION BREAKDOWN	
	UIL CLASSIFICATION	HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
Continental	1A, 2A, 3A div 2	UP TO 334
American	3A div 1 & 4A	335-504
National	5A & 6A	504 AND UP

*UIL Classification is based high school enrollment.

Leagues: Local Little Dribbler leagues are governed by their local Board of Directors. The local league has complete jurisdiction of the administration of the local league, selection of players, selection of coaches and disputes regarding local league play. The National Headquarters will only correspond with the local league president of each league. All questions, rules interpretations and changes to teams in the Regional or National Tournaments, must come from the local league president. If the local president wishes to authorize someone else to be the correspondent for their league, the president must notify the National Headquarters in writing. All questions regarding Rules or Regulations must be made in writing by emailing the National Office.

Teams: Each team, in local league play, shall consist of a minimum of six (6) players, and a maximum of (10) players.

Players:

- 1)** The league age of a player is determined as of August 1st of the tournament year involved. A player's grade in school is not used to determine the correct playing age of a player. Only players who meet the age eligibility based on their date of birth can participate on the Tournament All-Star team in each age division.
- 2)** To be eligible to compete on an All-Star Team, players must play at least 50% of local league games in the age division for that All-Star Team.
- 3)** Players must live in or attend school within the league's local school district boundary area.
- 4)** A player shall only play on one Little Dribblers' All-Star team in a specific tournament.
- 5)** Girls must participate in the Girls league if their local league offers a girl's program.
- 6)** Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. highly recommends that Little Dribblers leagues support and follow their local school districts policy of *No Pass No Play*.

NOTE: We understand that some players were held back or did not start school at the same time as their peers. However, eligibility is based solely on date of birth, not grade level. There are no exceptions to the age eligibility requirements.

Coaches/Board Members/Volunteers:

Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. strives to ensure that all adults that have direct access to children, do not have a history of behavior that can prove to be detrimental to children. Each individual league is responsible for selecting coaches and board members that will provide a safe, positive and nurturing environment for children. Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. requires all leagues to review and fully understand the Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy and Procedures provided in the League Manual as well as on the LDB WEBSITE. Leagues must sign up with Protect Youth Sports to complete an in-depth Criminal Background

Screening on all coaches and volunteers that will be working with children.

JURISDICTION:

All competition, local, district, state, regional, national or international, shall be played under the jurisdiction of Little Dribblers' Basketball Inc. Headquarters.

PROOF OF AGE DOCUMENTATION

Every player enrolled on a Little Dribblers' Basketball roster must provide proof of age to his/her local league administrators prior to their first scheduled game. The following documents are accepted as proof of age:

- 1) Original Birth Certificate
- 2) Certified Birth Certificate-this can be purchased from your County Clerk or other designated official in charge of vital records.
- 3) Original Passport
- 4) For children born outside of the United States that do not have an original birth certificate, contact the National Office for acceptable forms of proof of age eligibility.

PLAYER INFORMATION:

Leagues that purchase insurance through Little Dribblers' Basketball, must provide a list of all local league players and coaches that will be covered under the policy. The player information must be submitted via email. We will accept the player information in any digital format. (Excel, Word, etc.)

LEAGUE MASTER SCHEDULE:

All leagues are required to have a schedule of all league games. The schedules should be kept on file with the league president. The National office may request a copy of the schedule if a conflict or protest arises.

SCOREBOOKS:

Each league must maintain official scorebooks for all local league games. The National Office may request documentation of participation in the case of a dispute regarding player eligibility. The official scorebooks shall be kept by the league

president until the National Tournament is completed for that season.

PROTESTS AND RULE INTERPRETATIONS:

Protests: Protests must be in writing and signed by the league president. Emails from the league president will be accepted as a formal protest. The team that is protesting must pay the protest fee to the tournament director.

Local league play: The league president shall resolve any disputes or protests using the guidelines established by that local league.

Regional Tournament: The Regional Tournament Director shall resolve any dispute or protests that arise during the Regional Tournament. If a protest involves a team from the host league, the tournament director shall consult with the Executive Director of Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. before ruling on the protest.

National Tournament: Disputes and protests submitted during a National Tournament shall be decided by the National Tournament Director. If the protest or dispute involves a team from the host league, the tournament director shall consult with the Executive Director of Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. before ruling on the protest or dispute.

Protest Fee: There will be a \$100.00 fee for each protest submitted during a Regional or National Tournament. The fee shall be submitted to the Tournament Director before a ruling can be made on the protest.

If the protest is found to have merit and the ruling is in favor of the team filing the official protest, the fee will be returned to the league president after the tournament. If the protest is denied, the Tournament Director will send the Protest Fee to Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc.

Protest timing: Protests must be made in a timely manner so that the dispute can be resolved with little or no scheduling delays. Protests that could possibly result in the outcome of a game being changed, must be submitted to the tournament director before the next scheduled game of each of the teams involved.

Clarifications and Interpretations: Formal rule clarifications and interpretations must be requested in writing (mail, fax or email) by the league president. Once a written request for Clarification or Interpretation is received, the National Office will respond in writing.

Forfeits: During Regional and National tournaments, all forfeits must be approved by the Executive Directors of Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc.

TOURNAMENT RULES

- A. **Facilities:** Each host league must provide adequate basketball facilities, at the dates and times scheduled for the tournament. To host a Junior League tournament, you must provide the 8½ ft. goals. All gyms must be equipped with working game clock and scoreboard.
- B. **Officials:** The host league for tournament games will provide two qualified officials currently in good standing with the official state organization for the area (TASO). Each official must be familiar with all Special Little Dribblers playing rules including the official comment on Zone Defense. Tournament directors should meet with all officials to go over the Special Little Dribbler rules prior to starting the tournament. Officials who reside in the host city shall not call games involving the host teams.
- C. **Double Elimination:** All tournaments shall be double elimination until the championship game, unless stated otherwise.
- D. **Special Playing Rules:** All Special Little Dribblers Playing Rules are applicable to tournament competition.
- E. **Housing and Meals:** Team coaches both in state and out of state must make their own housing arrangements. Meals and housing for the players are the responsibility of the team.
- F. **Trophies:** Individual trophies will be presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams at each level of tournament play. The Tournament Host is required to provide trophies to 1st and 2nd place teams. The tournament host can opt to provide medals or other forms of awards to the 3rd place teams. A maximum of 12 trophies will be provided to the winning teams.
- G. **Awards:** Individual awards such as “most valuable player” and “all-tournament player” are not selected.
- H. **Protests:** The Official Tournament Director of each tournament shall decide any protests regarding tournament competition. A Little Dribblers’ Basketball, Inc. National Office Representative will be available to consult on protests. Protest which involve the host team will be decided by the National Office Representative. *Judgment calls of the official cannot be protested*
Appeals: Appeals of the Tournament Directors decision may be made with a \$100 fee payable to the Tournament Director.

- I. Age documentation: Proof of age documents must accompany all players to each tournament. Only Original Birth Certificates or Certified Birth Certificates will be accepted. Photocopied or scanned documents of any kind will not be accepted. The tournament director shall check all birth certificates prior to the teams' first game. Teams will not be allowed to take the court until birth certificates have been checked.
- J. Hosting: Priority in hosting tournaments is given to the leagues who have been in Little Dribblers the longest and who have not recently hosted a tournament. Experience in hosting tournaments (good or bad) is strongly considered in awarding the tournaments.
- K. Playing Rules: Playing Rules for tournament competition are the same as for local league play. These rules are set out in Special Little Dribblers Playing Rules 1-11, inclusive.
- L. Host League: The host league must agree in writing to abide by these tournament rules.
- M. Playing Periods: Quarters will be six (6) minutes in length.
- N. Overtime: Each overtime period shall be two (2) minutes in length.
- O. Technical Fouls: Technical Fouls for Special Little Dribbler Playing Rules will not count as a player foul. It shall count as a team foul. All technical fouls shall be two shots.
- P. Time Outs: Each team shall be allowed three (3) full time outs only. One time out will be added for each overtime period. Any unused time outs from regulation play may be used during overtime play.
- Q. Admission: LDB National Headquarters must approve Admission prices for Little Dribblers Regional and National tournaments. The tournament host shall notify headquarters in writing of their proposed admission fees. Tournament prices will be posted on the Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. web site.
- R. Players: Little Dribblers' Basketball, Inc. provides separate but equal programs for both boys and girls. Girls are not permitted to play on boys All-Star teams except in extreme circumstances and then must be approved in writing from the National Little Dribblers' Board of Directors. Teams that violate this policy may be forfeited from the tournament.
- S. EJECTION: Players and coaches are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. If a player is ejected from a game, he/she is required to sit out of the next scheduled game. Based on the player's behavior, he/she could be banned from playing for the remainder of the tournament. If a coach is

UPDATED 2/2020

ejected, it is up to the Tournament Director after conferencing with the officials to decide if the coach will be allowed back on the floor for the remainder of the tournament.

SPECIAL RULES

The Official Basketball Rules as adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations have been adopted as the official Little Dribbler Playing Rules except as changed by the following special rules:

1. QUALIFICATION:

Each player on the team roster who is present (10) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game shall be required to play one complete, uninterrupted, quarter of play. In the event one team has one player less than its opponent, the team having the greater number of players shall draw at random from the opponent's players. The player drawn shall be required to play two uninterrupted quarters of play.

Note: It is the duty of the official scorer to enforce this rule on his own or upon notification by one of the team coaches. The official scorer must notify the team prior to the fourth quarter if one or more players have not qualified by playing one, complete, uninterrupted quarter for the penalty to be accessed.

Penalty: Forfeit

Clarification: One complete quarter is defined as playing one full, uninterrupted quarter. If a player is injured during the quarter and is unable to return for the remainder of the game, the player is considered qualified due to injury. However, if the player returns to play, the player must play one full, uninterrupted quarter to be qualified.

Additionally: If a player fouls out of the game prior to completing one full, uninterrupted quarter, the player is considered qualified.

2. ZONE DEFENSE:

(The following rule is not applicable in the Major or Senior Divisions)

Junior Division: A zone defense shall not be permitted at any time during the game.

Penalty: Technical Foul. Repeated violations may result in forfeiture of the game.

Comment: A zone defense penalty should be called when:

A defensive player plays the ball as opposed to guarding an offensive player ("chasing the ball"), or

A defensive player guards an area of the court as opposed to guarding an offensive player.

Additionally: "Zoning" will be a *judgment call of the official*. Officials are cautioned that the zone defense rule does not prohibit a defensive team from "double teaming," "trapping," "switching," or "sagging." The rule does not require the defensive player to remain within a certain distance of his offensive player, unless required by the National Federation Rules. (This rule does not require a team to guard the person throwing in the ball on an inbounds play.)

The intent of the rule is to prevent the "chaser" defense, where one or more players chases the offensive player having the ball; and the traditional zone defense, where one or more defensive players' primary responsibility is protecting an area of the court. Each of these situations is easily detected by anyone knowledgeable of basketball and should be strictly enforced. This rule is applicable in the frontcourt and backcourt.

Coaches and players should not expect complete uniformity in the enforcement of this rule. No two officials will judge a situation the same. A good team will be one that is coached to adapt its offense and defense based on how the officials are calling the game. This is true regarding how the officials call fouls, lane violations and traveling violations. It should be the same with the zone defense rule.

3. DEFENSE IN THE BACKCOURT

(This rule is not applicable in the Major or Senior Divisions)

Junior Division: Defense in the backcourt is prohibited except during the fourth quarter of the game and any overtimes.

This rule shall not be interpreted to allow a "free" outlet pass starting a fast break, or to allow rolling the ball during the inbounds of the ball.

4. ISOLATION OFFENSE

(This rule is not applicable in the Major or Senior Divisions)

No isolation type offense involving one or two players will be permitted. Clearing the floor to one side for a one-on-one or two-on-two offense is prohibited. Teams must involve all players in the offensive pattern. This will be a judgment call of the official.

Junior Division: This rule is applicable during the entire game including overtime play.

Penalty: Technical Foul

5. ALL-STAR ROSTERS

American and National Leagues:

Tournament rosters must consist of a minimum of ten (10) players and a maximum of twelve (12) players. Teams must play their first tournament game with a minimum of ten (10) players. After the first game, the team may consist of less than ten players in the case of player (s) injury, illness or school related conflict. Tournament teams may never consist of less than eight (8) players.

Continental Leagues:

Tournament All-Star Rosters must consist of a minimum of eight (8) players and a maximum of twelve (12) players. Teams must play their first tournament game with a minimum of eight (8) players. After the first game, the team may consist of less than eight players in the case of players' injury, illness or school related conflict. Tournament All-Star teams may never consist of less than seven (7) players.

All leagues:

It is recommended that tournament teams select more than the minimum number of players. You must have the minimum number of players for your division to start a tournament. By selecting alternates, you avoid having to forfeit due to player injury or illness.

Prior to each game, teams must designate which players will be alternates in the official score book. Alternates may play at any time, but do not have to qualify.

6. LANE VIOLATION:

In the Junior Division, the 3-second lane violation rule will be changed to a 5-second lane violation rule. *In the Major and Senior Divisions, the rule will remain as 3-seconds.*

7. FREE THROW LINE:

In the Junior Division, the free throw line shall be 13'6" from the plane of the face of the backboard.

8. BASKET:

(Applicable to the Junior Division only) The basket shall be 8'6" from the floor. The basket for the major and senior divisions will be 10' from the floor.

9. BALL:

The official Women's ball (size 6 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ -29 in) shall be used in the following divisions: Girls Junior, Girls Major, Girls Senior and Junior Boys. The official Men's ball (size 7, 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ -30 in.) will be used in the Boys Major and Senior divisions.

10. UNIFORMS:

It is suggested that you have a light and dark uniform for your tournament teams. Shirts must have numbers on the FRONT and BACK. Player' name, team name or sponsors name are allowed on the uniform. Numerals 0-5 are the only numerals to be used on uniforms. Numerals 6-9 are not allowed.

11. 3-POINT RULE:

There will be no 3-point rule in the Junior Division. *The 3-point shot is allowed and will be counted in the Major and Senior divisions.*

12. CLOCK:

Quarters: Each quarter will be six (6) minutes. The clock is to be stopped on every official whistle and every dead ball. There is never a "Running" clock during a Regional or National Tournament.

Time Outs: One (1) minute

Half Time: Three (3) minutes

13. MERCY RULE:

Defense in the backcourt is prohibited when the winning team is at least 20 points ahead of the other team. This rule applies to all local league games in all divisions. This rule will also be enforced in all age divisions division during all Regional and National Tournament games.

Penalty: Technical Foul

Parent Code of Conduct

Please acknowledge your understanding and willingness to abide by the Code of Conduct by reading then signing this form.

I hereby pledge to provide positive care and encouragement for any child during Little Dribblers' Basketball by following this Code of Conduct:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.
3. I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
4. I will provide support for all coaches and official working with my child to provide a positive enjoyable experience for all.
5. I will demand a drug, alcohol and tobacco-free sports environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all youth sports events, while transporting youth for Little Dribblers, and while serving as a room parent during out of town games.
6. I will remember that the game is for the players and not for the adults.
7. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
8. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
9. I will promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience within my personal constraints by assisting with coaching, being a respectful fan, providing transportation or whatever I am capable of doing.
10. I will support my child's coach by having my child on time to practices and games.

I have read and fully understand all components of this Code of Conduct and agree to abide by all the provisions set forth above. I understand that failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may prevent my child from participating in Little Dribblers' Basketball. I understand that I may be asked to leave such activities if my behavior is having a negative impact on the players or other fans.

Parent's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date

Date

Player Code of Conduct

Please acknowledge your understanding and willingness to abide by the Code of Conduct by reading then signing this form.

I hereby pledge to have a positive attitude and to be responsible for my participation in Little Dribblers' Basketball by following this Code of Conduct:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice.
2. I will attend every practice and game that is reasonably possible and notify my coach if I cannot.
3. I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches. I will treat my coaches with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or abilities and will expect to be treated accordingly.
4. I will never use obscene language or gestures.
5. I will never be physically or verbally intimidating, abuse or assault the other players.
6. I deserve to play in an alcohol, tobacco, and drug free environment and I will conduct myself in a way that all of my teammates will have this opportunity as well.
7. I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some way because it is important to me.
8. I will do my best in school. I understand that my grades may be checked to determine eligibility.
9. I will remember that sports are an opportunity to learn and have fun.
10. I agree that as a member of a Little Dribbler team, I will respect other people's property, authority, and laws governing my actions.

I understand and am willing to comply with the Code of Conduct set forth above. I understand that failure to do so will result in reprimands by my coach, or the Board of Directors. Reprimands may include, but are not restricted to: verbal reprimand, suspension from play, and expulsion from current and future Little Dribbler activities.

I have read and fully understand the Code of Conduct and agree to abide by all the provisions set forth above.

Player Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Coaches Code of Conduct

In order to ensure that the principals of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among players, coaches, officials and spectators are the primary consideration governing competition in the Little Dribblers' association, the following Code of Conduct has been established:

Please acknowledge your understanding and willingness to abide by the Code of Conduct by reading and signing this form.

1. I acknowledge that my primary responsibility is to foster the stated purpose Little Dribblers' Basketball, which is to promote a healthy, pleasant and safe environment for youth to participate in basketball. In order to fulfill my obligation I will:
 - A. Fully abide by the policies, rules and guidelines set forth by the league;
 - B. Respect the game officials and refrain from communicating with them in an abusive manner;
 - C. Encourage the team and fans to conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while attending Little Dribbler games and practices.
 - D. Assist the game officials in maintaining control of spectators during games.
 - E. Be a positive role model for players by never:
 - 1)** Using or tolerating obscene language and gestures;
 - 2)** Physically or verbally intimidating a player;
 - 3)** Making discriminating remarks based on race, religion, gender or national origin;
 - 4)** Consuming or allowing the consumption of alcohol or be inebriated state during practices, games or whenever in the presence of players;
 - 5)** Encouraging, tolerating or indulging in substance abuse;
 - 6)** Smoking or using tobacco products during team activities (practice, games, travel time, etc.);
2. I will not knowingly allow a player to play in a game if that player does not meet the guidelines for eligibility.
3. I fully understand that basketball should be a fun rewarding and positive experience for all participants.
4. I will insure that all assistant coaches under my authority will abide by the Code of Conduct;
5. I will inform parents of all practice and game times and will inform both players and parents of my expectations.

I understand and acknowledge the terms and conditions of the Code of Conduct and understand that any violations will result in disciplinary action from the Board of Directors. I agree to abide by all the provisions set forth.

Coaches Signature

Date