

## 2018 BURLINGTON COUNTY YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE NEWSLETTER EASTAMPTON EDITION

Welcome to the 2018 season and the 9th season since the merging of the Eastampton Recreation League with Pemberton and the Joint Base. It continues to be the goal of this league to increase player participation in the area of basketball, while maintaining the overall enjoyment aspect of the sport. We are proud that we continue to meet this goal and our league continues to grow. As in previous years, our league is made up of teams representing the surrounding towns with more than 500 players.

One major issue that continues to plague the league prior to the draft is that not enough people have signed up to coach. We were forced to elevate some coaches who only checked off that they wanted to be assistants to head-coach positions, which we really don't like doing but had no choice. In the future, please consider volunteering to coach if at all possible; the league depends on it. As we continue to grow, additional coaches will be needed. We are actively looking into an off-season coaching clinic to help those who would like some guidance in the coaching process.

This season was our 5th since instituting the draft process. We continue to make improvements to the league, but think that this was our most successful draft process to date. We even "tweaked" the assessment process and believe that will help the league and those participating enjoy a successful season with balanced teams. Immediately after the assessments were completed, coaches met and individually selected their own teams. Regarding the requests, the administrative branch of the league DID NOT honor "requests." If an **EXTREME** circumstance was presented to the league, the requests were reviewed and presented to the coaches per division and, among themselves, decided if they were going to honor those requests. In some cases, the requests were honored, and in others they were not. If requests were not honored by coaches in particular divisions, open discussions were held and ALL coaches collectively agreed to the final outcome of the teams. Please keep in mind that moving forward next year, if you'd like your child to play in this league next season and your child needs to be with a certain coach or player for whatever reason unless it involves siblings, we **WILL NOT** accommodate any requests! It makes it EXTREMELY difficult to honor some but not all requests and still keep the teams fair. Throughout the years, this league has been known for the overall competitive match-up of teams. This is something on which we pride ourselves.

Games will begin on January 13th. Most teams will play every Saturday with an occasional game on a Friday night or Sunday (for make-up games only). Each team is scheduled to have one practice during the week. If, for any reason, the school is scheduled to be closed or closes due to an emergency, practice/games will be canceled for that day. Please check the Westampton Recreation website at [www.westamptonnj.gov](http://www.westamptonnj.gov) (Recreation page) for details.

For Eastampton players and teams, pictures are scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup>. You will be notified of times and location at least 1 week prior to pictures. As with every season, there will be a pizza party after the last scheduled game, which will be March 10th this year. This is a year-ending party that is free to the coaches and the players; however, pizza and refreshments will be available for a minimal cost to family members and friends.

This season, we ask that all coaches, players, and parents demonstrate the **HIGHEST** level of sportsmanship during games. Whether you are a fan or a player, we ask that you conduct yourselves in a manner that is conducive to sportsmanship, friendliness, and support. We will be enforcing the rules as found in Article II, D (**Conduct: any unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated**) and E (technical fouls: 2 technical fouls on a coach will result in expulsion from the league; players, removal of the game PLUS 1 game; parents: removal from the game). Keep in mind that these rules are in place for the entire league and are enforced throughout among all towns that make up our league: Eastampton, Westampton, Pemberton, and the Joint Base. Our coaches are dedicated to teaching these athletes the rules and art of the game, and we ask that you respect what they are volunteering themselves to do. If, at any time, there appears to be a problem with any coach, player, or parent, PLEASE contact one of the directors. You can fill out a complaint card, found at the score table, and place it in the box. Keep in mind that displays of poor sportsmanship such as fighting, cursing, questioning referees, and questioning the score table personnel will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly.

On behalf of the Eastampton, Westampton, Pemberton, and Joint Base Recreation departments, we wish you an enjoyable season!