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Our Philosophy


Y Soccer is an equal play, values based, program designed to teach a love of the game and promote healthy activity. The league is non-competitive for grades Pre-School to 1st and no score is kept. The league remains the same in grades 2nd-9th with the addition of a final tournament where game winners are determined. The tournament is designed to be an introduction to healthy competition within the context of the Y’s values which promote the highest level of sportsmanship. Coaches should work to develop all players throughout the season and, during the tournament, should coach to win, but do so in a way that encourages other teams to do well. In addition, they are responsible for ensuring that the children on their teams focus on positive sportsmanship rather than winning or losing.

Missoula Family YMCA Mission Statement

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

YMCA Core Values

- Caring
- Honesty
- Respect
- Responsibility

7 Pillars of YMCA Youth Sports

1. Everyone Plays
The Y does not conduct tryouts to select the best players, nor do we cut kids from YMCA Youth Sports. Everyone who registers is assigned to a team. During the season everyone receives equal practice time and plays at least half of every game.

2. Safety First
Although children may get hurt playing sports, we do everything we can to prevent injuries. We’ve modified each sport to make it safer and more enjoyable to play. We make sure the equipment and facilities are safe and teach the sport so the skills are appropriate for children’s developmental level. We gradually develop your player’s fitness levels so they are conditioned for the sport. We constantly supervise our young players and stop any unsafe activities.

3. Character Development
Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility are about playing by the rules and more. It’s about you and your players showing respect for all that are involved in YMCA Youth Sports. It’s about you being a role model of sporting behavior and guiding your players to do the same. Remember, we’re more interested in developing children’s character through sports than in developing a few highly skilled players.

4. Positive Competition
We believe competition is a positive process when the pursuit of victory remains in the right perspective. The right perspective is when adults make decisions that put the best interests of the children before winning the contest. Learning to compete is important for children, and learning to cooperate in a competitive world is an essential lesson of life. Through YMCA Youth Sports, we want to help children learn these values and for parents to do the same.

5. Family Involvement
We encourage parents or guardians to be appropriately involved in your child’s participation in YMCA Youth Sports. We invite you to help as a volunteer coach, official, or timekeeper and encourage you to be at practices and games to support your child’s participation. To help you get involved appropriately, YMCA Youth Sports offers orientation programs, a code of conduct to support fair and inclusive sports practices and games, and a set of guidelines to help encourage positive skills development and increase your child’s self-image and self-confidence.

6. Sports for all
YMCA Youth Sports is an inclusive sport program. That means that children who differ in various characteristics are included in rather than excluded from participation. We offer sports programs for children who differ in physical abilities by matching them with children of similar abilities and modifying the sport. We offer programs to all children regardless of their race, gender, religious creed, or ability. We ask our adult leaders to encourage and appreciate the diversity of children in our society and to encourage the children and their parents to do the same.

6. Sport for Fun
Children love the challenge of mastering skills, playing with their friends, and competing with their peers. Sometimes when adults become involved in children’s sports they over organize and dominate the activity to the point that it destroys children’s enjoyment of the sport. If we take the fun out of sports for our
children, we are in danger of the kids taking themselves out of sports. Remember the sports are for the kids; let them have fun.

Keys to being a Great Coach

• Create a fun and positive environment that instills a fundamental love of the game
• Encourage all children, including those on other teams
• Celebrate team work and strong play on all teams
• Recognize good sportsmanship in others
• Avoid any form of score-keeping outside of tournament play
• Ensure that all children on your team receive equal playing time
• Be receptive to criticism and respect differing points of view
• Keep composure and refrain from yelling (never swear or engage in abusive or bullying behavior or language)
• Never appear to be angry with players or spectators
• Insist on proper sideline behavior from parents
• Communicates with parents
• Has a weekly practice plan
• Sets realistic, age appropriate expectations for players
• Be committed to teaching fundamentals
• Model the Y Core Values to the players on your team
• Report all inappropriate behavior to the Director of Youth Sports
Coach’s Code of Conduct
( Coach’s Copy)

All coaches, parents, spectators and guests are expected to adhere to the following:

- Reinforce the idea that Basketball is a game for fun, teamwork, and learning!
- The rules of the game should be regarded as mutual agreements. The spirit of which should be respected and unbroken.
- Provide positive feedback/encouragement for all players.
- Referees/opponents should be treated respectfully and regarded as honest in intention.
- Official decisions should be accepted without anger, no matter how unfair they may seem. Winning is desirable, but winning at any cost defeats the purpose of the game.
- Teach and role model that losing can be a triumph when the team has given its best.
- Communicate effectively and appropriately with YMCA staff, parents and players.
- Negative comments and chit-chat toward/about other parents, players, Y staff, or coaches will not be tolerated.
- In sports, as in life, treat others as you would have them treat you.
- Leave the gym cleaner than when you arrived.

The Y reserves the right to remove coaches from the court should they violate the code of conduct.
Beginning of the Season Checklist

Turn in Y volunteer coach’s application
Turn in signed volunteer code of conduct forms
Attend the Y coach’s meeting on **January 11th**
Call all parents on your roster by **January 14th** and introduce yourself as the coach (Please let the Y know if you have trouble reaching any of your players, and we can try to find an alternate form of communication.)
Communicate with your team when they will have their first practice

First Practice

Hand out practice schedules, game schedules, and the picture schedule to the parents on your team. Make sure they know the team number and not just your team color/sponsor
Have the parents fill out the Health History forms – those will be turned back into you for you to have at games and practices
Hand out the picture forms to the parents – those will be turned into Mike Williams on picture day
Make sure every parent has read and signed the Parent Code of Ethics
Ask for parents to volunteer… assistant coach, snack sign up, etc.
Make sure the parents have your correct contact information, and that you have theirs
Additional Players

As long as there is space available on teams, players are welcome to sign up for Y Basketball at any point during the first half of the season. If there is space available on your team, players may be added to your roster after the coaches meeting. If a player is added to your team they will be given your contact information to find out when their practice is. They will be given a jersey upon registration. We will also email you an updated roster.

*Please do not promise spots on your team until after checking in with the YMCA, to ensure that your team roster has not already been filled.

Practices

Coaches are responsible for holding one practice per week. Practices will be scheduled by the YMCA, and will be scheduled for one hour. Please be respectful of staying within your scheduled time, as many other groups have time reserved at the gym. If you have any conflicts with your practice times, please contact the YMCA as soon as possible to try and schedule another time.

Game Day

Games will be scheduled by the YMCA on either Friday evenings or Saturday afternoons. Each team will get one game per week for one hour.

Each game should start on the top of the hour. To prevent injuries have your team show up early to stretch and warm up. It only take one game to get off schedule, so please take responsibility for making sure your game is starting on time.
The Y will have a representative at each game to make sure things stay on time and that the school rules are enforced. Each game will also have a YMCA official to referee the games. Please see either the monitor or referee if you need anything during your games. We also ask that you treat both the monitor and referee with respect, to set an example for the parents on your team.

For all divisions equal playing time is a requirement.

Make sure the players invite their entire family to watch them play! A child’s self-esteem is enhanced by broad family support. Each game is an opportunity for families to work together in developing a community that will support healthy youth development.

Gym Rules: From Missoula County Public Schools & Hellgate Elementary

- The gym time is rented by the YMCA. The doors will not be opened until the time the gym is rented.
- Only sports balls made for indoor use are allowed in the buildings. Outdoor balls are not allowed.
- All participants/audiences and children are to stay in the gym, as it is the only space that has been rented.
- Children are to be supervised at all times for their safety. Please do not allow them to crawl on closed bleachers or behind the bleachers. Please do not let them run in the halls or play in the bathrooms.
- Please do not bring food or drink into the gyms.
**Game Cancellations**

The decision to cancel games will be made only by the YMCA Youth Sports Staff, please do not cancel games on your own. Please have an assistant coach fill in for you if you are gone. If you are short on players, please have those who can show up. The other team can loan you players or you can play a short-sided game. If given enough notice we can work to reschedule games, but we must know at least a week in advance.

**Picture Day**

You have been given a picture schedule in your packet. It helps to break up the amount of teams with the schedule, but if there is a better time for your team our photographer will take your picture as soon as your team is ready.

Picture day is February 5th. As soon as pictures are printed we will hand them out to the coaches at the games, and you will distribute them to your team. It usually takes a couple weeks to get the picture back, but we will have them by the end of the season. If families received the wrong order or are missing pictures please have them contact Mike Williams at (406) 549-4474.

**Equipment**

**Basketballs:** Basketballs will be distributed to each team by the YMCA if needed. If additional balls are desired please encourage players to bring their own if they have one. Please return any borrowed balls to your gym monitor at the last game. 4th and 5th grade will use size 28.5.
Jerseys: Coaches will receive a jersey for each player on their team. These jerseys are for the players to keep after the season. If players register after the coaches meeting we will have extra jerseys at the YMCA.

Communication

One of your roles as a volunteer coach is to help the Y communicate to the families on your team. Please check your email for updates and information from the YMCA regarding the season, and pass that information along to your team.

Sponsors

Our title sponsors for Y Basketball is Quality Construction. We have several sponsors that sponsor the individual teams. We appreciate the generosity of all our local sponsors! I would ask that you put together a thank you note from your team and send it to the sponsor on your jerseys. They really do a lot for our league!

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Y. We are looking forward to a fun season!

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