

We hope this message finds you and your families well. As we prepare for basketball season in Denville we are both excited and careful about our year ahead. During the Pandemic PAL basketball stands with our community, schools and first responders to ensure the safety of our players is the priority above everything else.

With this being said we have been working diligently to plan for our basketball season. Just like many other plans in our lives these are not yet cemented and can change as we go. For many this will season will come with disappointment as we cannot accommodate our full program. This year we are opening registration only to boys and girls in grades 5 through 8. Like all the towns around us we have very limited gym availability, so we are grateful for what we get and look forward to better years ahead.

Here are the current plans:

We are waiting on confirmation for gym availability in the Denville schools but our goal is to have recreation games on Friday nights and Saturdays. There will be no practices during the week. Our hope is to start the weekend of December 11th and with two weeks off at the end of December, finish our seven-week season on the weekend of February 5th/6th.

Kids in these levels can register now so we can get an idea of the numbers ready for basketball. The groups will be boys 5 & 6, boys 7 & 8, and girls 5 thru 8 will be grouped according to the numbers. We will require a minimum of 32 players in each group or we cannot field a division.

According to the current state regulations there will be no spectators. There will be two coaches per team, one scorer and two adult referees. There will also be a security guard on site to ensure all protocols are adhered to.

One goal this year is for the kids to just have a place to run, play ball and have fun. We will pick teams at the beginning of the season but we will not keep standings or final game scores. We will keep score and reset it at the half. We also may switch up some players and change things around from week to week to ensure a fun time for all players. To help facilitate this each player will be provided a reversible jersey to keep for the year and this will help to even the teams for each meeting.

We will keep a 30-minute buffer between games to allow the current players to exit, sanitizing of chairs/equipment, etc and new players to come in. Each player/parent must sign in to TeamSnap prior to entering the gym and pass a wellness test. Of course, each player will be required to enter the gym with a mask. Parents must stay in the parking lot until your child is allowed in and must return to the parking lot and be available 15 minutes prior to the end of game. We are working on a live stream and if anyone can help in this area please contact me. All players and individuals inside the gym will be required to wear a mask at all times with the exception to play on the court.

We do have increased costs this year and no sponsors. The cost per player will be \$100 and you will have an opportunity at registration to donate more if you are able. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. In the event the season does not get off the ground you will be refunded the full \$100. If we only play two weeks we will refund \$75. If we only play 3 or 4 weeks we will refund \$50. There will be no refund if we play 5 + weeks. Once the season begins you cannot opt out for a refund.

As changes arise, we will keep everyone posted. This weekend let's be thankful for our community, the so many volunteers that keep our spirits high and our kids health and wellness.

Play Ball!!!

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