December 5, 2018

Dear P.C.R.P.D./Optimist Youth Basketball player & coach,

Welcome to the 2019 edition of youth basketball, sponsored by the City of Plant City Recreation & Parks Department and the Optimist Club of Plant City. This is the 50th season for the program and we wish the best for all the teams. The following items are of interest to all persons in the program, so please read them carefully.

As with all our P.C.R.P.D./Optimist youth programs, we expect our participants (players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators) to conduct themselves in a very low key and positive manner. With this idea in mind, we are very strict when it comes to unsportsmanlike behavior from our participants. Our purpose is to provide a positive recreation experience for the youths so that they can learn and develop into responsible young adults. We cannot do this if the adults do not set the positive example. In basketball, the spectators and coaches are close to the court, we are confined in a small area and, being this confined, the game tends to have more pressure than other sports. One bad apple can easily spoil the fun for everyone. Again, we are here for the youths, not the coaches, not the officials, and not the parents. Remember that spectator attendance in the gym is a privilege, not a right! If a spectator or coach cannot show good sportsmanship, we will escort that person out of the gym. Please, do not let that person be you! Allow the youths to enjoy and develop the competitive drive needed among themselves.

Now, with that out of the way, let’s move on to other announcements. Attendance at games and practice is crucial. Please be at every practice and game. Don’t let your team suffer because you are not there. Practices are set by the coaches, not the Recreation Division - contact the coach for the schedule. Every player should have their own basketball. The Cadets and Junior Boys use a youth/women’s size 28.5 inch ball, and Senior Boys use a regulation size 29.5 inch ball. Take your ball with you to practice and use it - but don’t take it to the games at the gym!

Every player should have **solid black shorts** before the first game. This is so all the teams will be uniform, the black will go with all jerseys, and they can be worn in our other programs. The game jerseys are provided with assistance from the Optimist Club of Plant City for the players to keep. They will be handed out at the first game. **Also, soft-soled sneakers must be worn on the court - coaches included!**
GYM RULES: This season, we will use Tomlin and Marshall Middle School gyms as well as the Plant City Family YMCA. We are guests at the gyms, and we must abide by the owner's rules, which are:

- **NO FOOD/DRINK (EVEN BOTTLED WATER) IN THE GYM/HALLWAY/LOBBY AREAS! PERIOD!**
- **NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN THE GYM/HALLWAY/LOBBY AREAS! PERIOD!**
- **NO PERSONAL BASKETBALLS IN THE GYM/HALLWAY/LOBBY AREAS! PERIOD!**
- **NO HARD SHOES ON THE COURT – ONLY GYM STYLE SHOES!**

These rules are laid down by the School District of Hillsborough County, Tomlin Middle School, Marshall Middle School and the YMCA. Please help us be nice guests and respect their property.

At Tomlin, all entry to the gym is through the double doors on the south end of the gym, facing the Strawberry Festival grandstands. At the YMCA, enter through the right set of doors at the front entrance, but to avoid a bottleneck at the entrance between games, please exit through the back door of the gym. **BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE TO CONFIRM WHICH GYM YOU ARE PLAYING AT FOR EACH GAME!**

Team photos are scheduled for January 14-15, 2019. Your photo order form and photo schedule will be handed out at a game early in the season. Please follow the directions on it.

Enclosed is a roster and game schedule for your age group. Please make sure your name is on a team and if your coach has not contacted you - please give him/her a call. Do not call your coach at work until you know he/she can accept calls there. Remember, game time is the game time listed. Be at the gym 20-25 minutes before game time to warm up and be ready to start on time. Please be sure to review the league rules.

Thanks to all of you who volunteered to coach. Finding replacements for a few who could not return from last year can be hectic for us. With your help, another smooth season will happen.

We appreciate your participation and we know you will enjoy your season. Any questions, please feel free to contact the Recreation & Parks Department at 813-659-4255 or email recinfo@plantcitygov.com

Here’s wishing you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season!

Yours in Recreation,

CITY OF PLANT CITY RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Tim Hanlon,  
Assistant Program Manager, Recreation Division  
Danny Smith,  
Youth Athletic Coordinator, Recreation Division  
Dave Robbins,  
League Director, PCRPD/Optimist Basketball

Follow your team’s results and standings on the Internet, along with all of our other program details. Log on at  
www.plantcitygov.com  
Updates on social media at www.facebook.com/pcrecandparks and  
www.twitter.com/pcrecandparks