

2026-27 MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH

BASKETBALL

Morgan County Youth
Basketball Rules 2025-2026
Last Revised 9/25/2026

2026/27 Morgan County Youth Basketball

SECTIONS

- A. Statement of Purpose
- B. League Rules
- C. Player Eligibility
- D. Game Rules
- E. Dates for Season

A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Morgan County Youth Basketball League shall be to offer the youth of rural Morgan County, AL an organized activity with the opportunity to improve one's basketball skills and playing ability and learn good sportsmanship.

B. LEAGUE RULES

1. **All coaches must pass the Morgan County Background Check and take a mandatory concussion training course, yearly before they are allowed to coach.**
2. The league shall consist of four age divisions, “5&6”, “8 & Under”, “10 & Under”, and “12 & Under” (hereinafter referred to as 6U, 8U, 10U and 12U respectively).
3. Each team must submit an official roster. The official roster shall contain:
 - a) Player’s name, address, grade, age, and birth date
 - b) Coach’s name, address, and phone number: asst. coaches when applicable
 - c) Must have at least seven players when submitted.
4. The rosters shall be:

2026-27 MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH

BASKETBALL

Morgan County Youth
Basketball Rules 2025-2026
Last Revised 9/25/2026

- a) Checked and verified by the President and Community League Representatives (hereinafter referred to as the League Board) and /or the Morgan County Parks and Recreation Department (hereinafter referred to as MCPR). The official roster shall be submitted to the MCPR on or before the said date set at the annual organization meeting. (The annual league organization meeting will be set up by the MCPR)
- b) Formed by the community league by-laws (i.e., drafting, and team selections)

Note: MCPR can require age verification of a child at any time. If a birth certificate is not on file at the MCPR office, the child in question must present a birth certificate for proof of age. MCPR can also require proof that the child in question attends a specific school.

5. No players can be added after rosters are submitted with the following exceptions:

- a) If a player moves into the respective community and enrolls in school.
- b) If during the season, the rosters drop below 8 players, a coach can add new players to fill the player roster. (Rep must notify MCPR loss of player) (8.10.25)

6. All games will be played by official high school rules except for those league rules passed by a majority vote of the communities in the league. Each community, not each team, shall have one vote.

7. Game cancellations:

- a) No game will be rescheduled without the approval of the REP and MCPR. As a rule, only games canceled due to school and church functions will be rescheduled. (All requests for rescheduling should come through the Rep to MCPR)
- b) All games will be canceled if a tornado warning is issued for Morgan County by the National Weather Service during the time of the scheduled games. If Morgan County Schools are closed due to inclement weather all MCPR games that day will be canceled.
- c) For games that are rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances not stated above, coaches shall be given at least 24-hour notice in the event of a rescheduled game. The rescheduled game shall take place on the next business day available (excluding Wednesday). (2.21.24)

8. Behavior:

- a) An official, player, fan, or coach will be disqualified for the remainder of the season for striking another official, player, fan, or coach. An official, player, fan or coach will be placed on probation or disqualified for the remainder of the season for exhibiting bad conduct. If a coach is ejected from a game, that coach is suspended for the next game. If a coach is ejected twice in one season, that coach is suspended for the remainder of the season. In the event ejection occurs in the team's final game, suspension would carry over to first game of following season.

2026-27 MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH

BASKETBALL

Morgan County Youth
Basketball Rules 2025-2026
Last Revised 9/25/2026

- b) If a coach walks out before the end of regulation play, he will be suspended for one (1) game. (9.16.20)
- 9. The home team will provide someone at all games to take care of problems and support the referees in disputes that may arise. Whenever the MCPR performs disciplinary action on individual(s) involved in violation of rules or policy, that action will be endorsed by the Morgan County Schools. This includes but not limited to removing, suspending, or expelling violators of rules from the school property at which the offense occurred.
- 10. The league will utilize the same official's association for all sites. (8.10.25)
- 11. Admission charges:
 - a) Regular Season: Free for ages 12 and under / \$5.00 for ages 13 and up. (9.01.21)
 - b) Tournament: Free for ages 12 and under / \$5.00 for ages 13 and up. (9.01.21)
- Note 1: Morgan County School Board issued Senior Citizen Cards are accepted for free admission to all county youth basketball games.
- Note 2: No admission fee will be charged for 2 coaches per team, 1 bookkeeper, team players, 2, cheerleader sponsors / coaches, and cheerleaders.
- 12. **Each community will be responsible for providing their own insurance coverage (accident and liability and list the Morgan County Commission 302 Lee Street NE Decatur, AL 35601 as an addition certificate holder).**
Insurance verification must be turned in with rosters.
- 13. All players are required to wear other forms of footwear (No Game Shoes) into the gym. Once in the gym, players will have to change into their game shoes.
- 14. The all-star team will consist of players from communities representing their high school as follows:
 - a. Cotaco, Lacey's Spring, and Union Hill
 - b. Danville
 - c. Falkville
 - d. West Morgan
 - e. Priceville

2026-27 MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH

BASKETBALL

Morgan County Youth
Basketball Rules 2025-2026
Last Revised 9/25/2026

One month, before the season ends, the leading head coach for each high school will be given first choice to coach their high school's all-star team. If they decline, then the second-place team will be given second choice (and so on...).

The head coach will select their team as they see fit.

Tournaments will be held locally with a 3-game guarantee (2 pool, single elimination).

Host sites and details TBD.

All-star teams can choose to opt out of local play and play in ARPA's tournament, if desired. (8.10.25).

15. All players must play a minimum of 8 minutes for 10U, 8U, and 6U and 6 minutes for 12U in total regulation play. If reported and verified that a player failed to reach minimum playing requirements, the coach will be suspended for one game by the league. If reported and verified an additional time, the coach is suspended for the rest of the season. (Must be reported to community representative by end of night) (8.28.24). **The first offense during tournaments time is an automatic forfeit.**
16. All teams will be divided into East or West Divisions.
17. The MCPR Director, Athletic Director and Basketball President have the authority to rule on league matters, as necessary.
18. 6U teams will be scheduled to play 10 games during the regular season, whereas 8U, 10U and 12U will be scheduled to play a total of 10 games (3.25.26) during the regular season.
19. To help mitigate COVID spread, all practices will be "closed" with only the coach(es) and players in attendance. A team parent(s) with the ability to attend may be designated at the community's option. (9.01.21)

C. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. If a child (1) attends a Morgan County School or (2) lives within a Morgan County School district, he or she is eligible to participate in the Morgan County Youth Basketball League on a team from the school community they attend or the school community in which they live. If only one of the previous criteria, (1) or (2) above are met, then this needs to be noted on the roster when turned in and an explanation given.

2026-27 MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH

BASKETBALL

Morgan County Youth
Basketball Rules 2025-2026
Last Revised 9/25/2026

2. If a community does not offer a team in a specific age group, players may move up to the next age group or go to another Morgan County School district community for the current season only. A player must have registered, by set registration deadline, to play with team from the school community they attend or the school community in which they live to be eligible to play for another community's team. The community will supply an official release list to MCPR of those eligible to play outside home community.
3. If a player is found to be participating in an official game on another community's Morgan County Youth Basketball League team during the season will immediately become ineligible to participate in the Morgan County Youth Basketball League for the rest of the season.
4. A player's division is determined by the age of the player as of September 1 of the current season (except for the 6U age group, 5-year-olds must be 5 by Nov 1 of the current year).
5. Effective as of the 2021-2022 End of season tournament a player must have played in 50% of their team's games to be eligible to play in the end of season tournament(s) (11.17.21)
6. Effective as of the 2022-2023 season, if a player plays in 1 game for a school team, they are ineligible to participate in our season and/or tournament. (11.17.21)

D. GAME RULES

1. All games will be played by official Alabama High School Athletic Association (referred to herein after as AHSAA) school rules and/or by the rules as noted herein.
2. Each age division will play 4–10-minute quarters (running clock). A 1-minute break will be given between quarters (9/16/20) and 3- 5-minute (9.4.19) rest period will be given between halves. The rest period could be altered, at the discretion of the hosting team's Basketball Representative, if necessary to keep subsequent games on schedule.
3. Clock Management: For all age groups, each 10-minute quarter (9/16/20) will be played with a running clock (clock only stopping with timeouts). Except for the cases below:

2026-27 MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH

BASKETBALL

Morgan County Youth
Basketball Rules 2025-2026
Last Revised 9/25/2026

- a) All age groups: During the last two minutes of each half, the clock will stop for timeouts and dead balls as in standard AHSAA rules.
 - 10U (First Half), 8U and 6U (Both Halves): The clock shall not start until the ball crosses mid-court. (8.28.24).
 - b) 6U and 8U: If the offensive team calls a time out in the final 2 minutes of the game the ball can be thrown in the front or back court (9/6/17) at the five second line, (clock will start when ball crosses half court) failure to do so is a violation (the other team gets the ball).
4. Mercy Rules:
- a) All age groups: During the last 2 minutes of the game, if a team is up by 20 points there will be a running clock for the remainder of the game (only stopping with timeouts).
 - b) 10U and 12U: No full-court press by a team that is up 20 or more points. Officials should stop play and move the pressing team to their defensive half of the court. No personal or technical foul will be charged to the violating team. Losing team may continue full-court press as desired. Winning team can resume regular play whenever points spread drops below 10 points. (3.27.19)
 - c) If a team is winning by 30 or more points at the half, both coaches can agree to 3rd and 4th quarter game time to 5 minutes each. (7.29.20)
5. Overtime: Overtimes will be 3 minutes.
- a) The game clock will be operated by standard AHSAA rules where the clock will stop for timeouts and dead balls.
 - b) Each team will be given one extra full timeout per overtime.
 - c) Timeouts not used during regular play will carry over to overtime.
6. Player / Start Time: No games will begin with less than 4 players per team. Games will be forfeited after 15 minutes from scheduled starting time. If a game runs longer than the allotted time of 1 hour, the following game will begin immediately after a 5-minute warm-up. (9.16.20)
7. Goal Height:
- a) Goal height is 8 feet for 6U. (9.4.19)
 - b) Goal height is 8 feet for 8U. (11.15.19)
 - c) Goal height is 10 feet for 10U and 12U.

2026-27 MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH

BASKETBALL

Morgan County Youth
Basketball Rules 2025-2026
Last Revised 9/25/2026

8. Free Throw Attempts: During free-throw attempts in all divisions except 12U the bottom space of the lane will be occupied.
9. There will be no full court pressing at any time for the 6U and 8U divisions.
10. Coaches: Number of coaches shall be limited to 2 on the bench with only 1 coach being allowed to stand. Note: A Team's Scorekeepers and Timekeepers are NOT subject to this limit. (10.3.24)
11. Cheerleaders: Cheerleaders shall follow AHSAA rules. The rule states: "Cheerleaders will not be allowed to stand along the sidelines or end lines during a "live" ball of a basketball game. The cheerleaders should be seated in front of their student section and will only be allowed on the floor or sidelines during time-outs and half-time of the game. Cheerleaders may use the sideline and end line areas before games so long as they do not interfere with warm• up."

12. Division Game Specifics

Division	Boys/Girls	Ball Size	Time per Quarter	Free Throw Distance	Press Available
6U	Coed	Junior (27.5)	10:00	9 Feet	No Press
8U	Boys	Junior (27.5) (3/25/26)	10:00	12 Feet	No Press
8U	Girls	Junior (27.5) (3/25/26)	10:00	12 Feet	No Press
10U	Boys	Girls High School (28.5)	10:00	12 Feet	Press only in 2 nd half
10U	Girls	Girls High School (28.5)	10:00	12 Feet	Press only in 2 nd half
12U	Boys	Girls High School (28.5) (2/9/23)	10:00	Regulation	Press Full game
12U	Girls	Girls High School (28.5)	10:00	Regulation	Press full game

2026-27 MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH BASKETBALL

Morgan County Youth
Basketball Rules 2025-2026
Last Revised 9/25/2026

E. DATES FOR SEASON

2026/2027

Rosters Due:	Due September 30th Practice can start on the 1st if insurance, schedules, and gym availability are turned into the County. **NO PRACTICES BEFORE OCTOBER 1st**
Proof Of Insurance and Gym availability, School Basketball Schedules	
Practice May begin:	
Season Begins:	November 9th
Season Ends:	NLT than January 18th

Playing ages

Division	Player Age	
6U	5	Nov 1, 2021, ~ Aug 31, 2020
6U	6	Sept 1, 2020, ~ Aug 31, 2019
8U	7	Sept 1, 2019, ~ Aug 31, 2018
8U	8	Sept 1, 2018, ~ Aug 31, 2017
10U	9	Sept 1, 2017, ~ Aug 31, 2016
10U	10	Sept 1, 2016, ~ Aug 31, 2015
12U	11	Sept 1, 2015, ~ Aug 31, 2014
12U	12	Sept 1, 2014, ~ Aug 31, 2013

2026-27 MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH

BASKETBALL

Morgan County Youth
Basketball Rules 2025-2026
Last Revised 9/25/2026

--	--	--

F. TOURNAMENT SEEDING

Teams are seeded using final season standings.

1. Byes are given to higher seeds when necessary.

2026-27 MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH

BASKETBALL

Morgan County Youth
Basketball Rules 2026-2027
Last Revised 9/25/26

2. Tiebreakers (in following order) (7.29.20)

- Overall Record
- Head-to-Head Record
- Points Allowed
- Note 1: Concluding the Division Championship and County Championship games, a trophy or medal will be presented to the 1st and 2nd place teams.

Tournament Site 2026/2027

Division	Location	Division	Location
6U-East	TBD	6U-West	TBD
8U-East Boys	TBD	8U-West Boys	TBD
8U-East Girls	TBD	8U-West Girls	TBD
10U-East Boys	TBD	10U-West Boys	TBD
10U-East Girls	TBD	10U-West Girls	TBD
10U-East Boys	TBD	12U-West Boys	TBD
12U-East Girls	TBD	12U-West Girls	TBD

Note 2: For the County Championships, the host site will have law enforcement on site.

Note 3: During all tournament games, the hosting community shall provide an independent (separate from the team's record) score book, clock keeper and player timekeeper for all age groups. The official score book and timekeeper shall be a minimum of 16 years old."