



**YMCA**

# Jr Cavaliers Basketball Parent Handbook

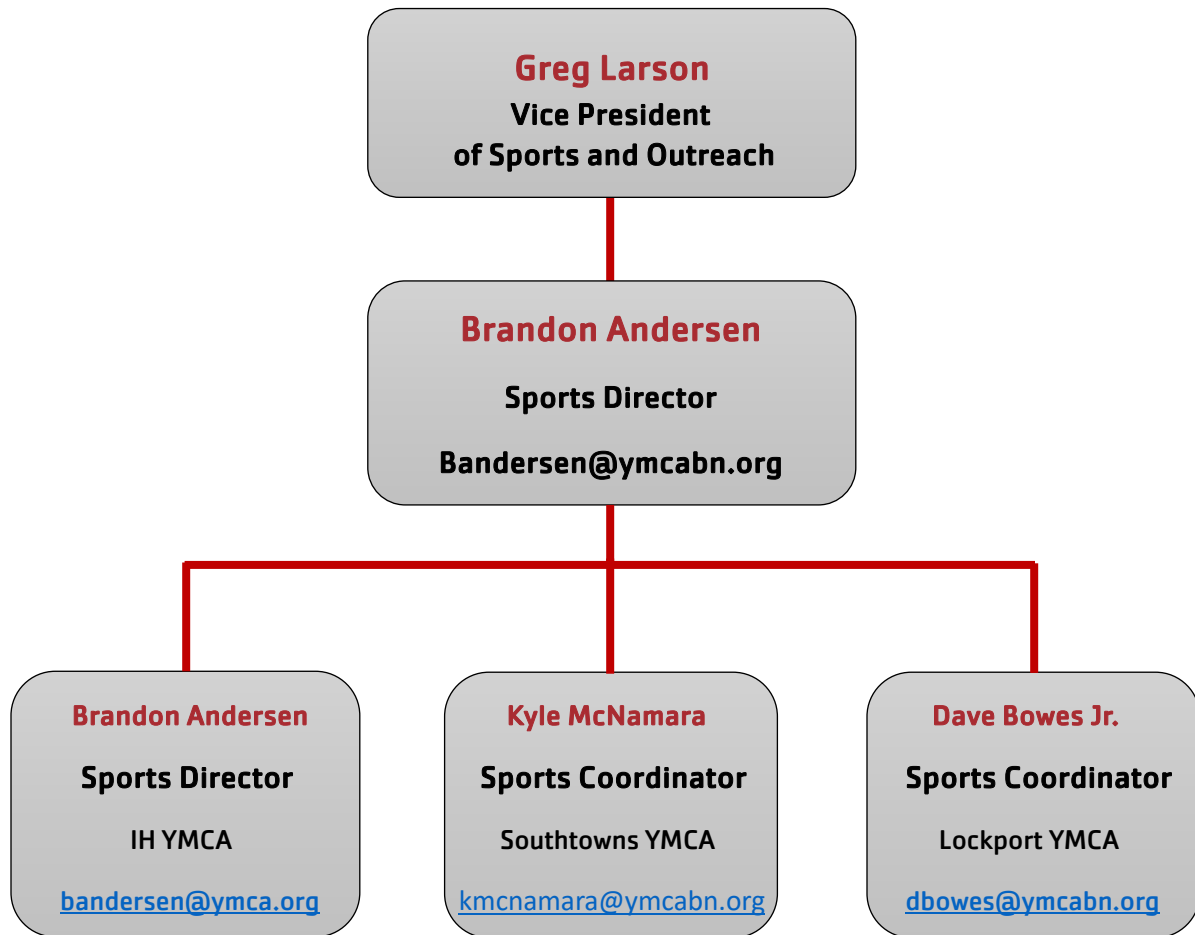


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## Thank You Parents!

YMCA Buffalo Niagara wants to first thank you for enrolling your child into one of our youth sports programs. We hope your experience is as meaningful and rewarding as it is for all the YMCA staff. This packet will provide you with pertinent information that you may need for the Jr. Cavs Basketball League. Listed near the end of the document is our Code of Conduct that every parent must acknowledge. If you have any further questions, please contact:



## Volunteer Coach Opportunity

If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering as a coach to help with the Jr. Cavs program, please reach out to [bandersen@ymcabn.org](mailto:bandersen@ymcabn.org) for more information or simply apply for the volunteer role on our website [here](#). Throughout the years, committed and talented volunteers have impacted the lives of many children within our community through our youth programming. We welcome you to join in our efforts to promote safe and fun play for all our program athletes.

## Essential Information

### Skills Assessment

All participants in the program are invited to join us for our skills assessment. This assessment will help our staff create evenly skilled teams so that all players can enjoy the same experience equally. If this is your first time with the program, we strongly recommend your child attend this assessment. **Information regarding when the skills assessment is being held will be delivered to you in the weeks prior to the start of the program.**

### Practice/Game Scheduling

All practices and games will be scheduled by each branch coordinator. If you have any changes to your availability, please notify your coordinator before the skills assessment is complete. Our coordinators use this information to accommodate your availability as well as our volunteer coaches' availability. Each team will receive one practice time during the evening of weekdays. Games will be held on Saturday mornings unless told otherwise by our coordinators. Practice times for the program vary for every team. **Practice and Game schedules will be sent out shortly after the skills assessment.**

### Rosters

**Rosters will be formed directly after the skills assessments.** If you have any personal requests for a specific coach or if you want two players to be on the same team, please contact your branches' coordinator. We will try to accommodate every request we are given but we cannot guarantee the requests will be honored at this time.

### Jerseys

Every participant of the program will receive a YMCA and Cleveland Cavaliers co-branded basketball jersey as part of the registration. Sizes for your child will be entered during the online registration process. **Jerseys are anticipated to arrive the week leading up to the first game but are ultimately determined by the Cavalier's jersey supplier.** Coordinators will hand out jerseys at practices or before the first games on Saturday.

### Cavs Tickets

Every registrant will also receive two tickets to a Cleveland Cavaliers home game for their current season. Note: If you participated in our Fall Season, you would **not** receive a second pair of tickets if you also registered for our Winter Season.

### Inclement Weather Communications/PlayerSpace

There may be game delays or cancellations for inclement weather. For updated information, please note the following.

- 1) If games are cancelled or times have changed, a notice (via text or email) will be sent to all parents who have a child enrolled in the program through our PlayerSpace platform. This should arrive on the morning of game day at the very latest.
- 2) Parents must update their YMCA and PlayerSpace account information with a valid phone number to receive text updates.
- 3) Please use the PlayerSpace [website](#) or app for league information including rosters and schedule.

*“YMCA Buffalo Niagara is a charitable, community-based organization committed to providing programs designed to build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.”*

The YMCA has a long history of providing quality sports programs to area youth. Children, regardless of ability, learn the fundamental rules and skills needed to succeed in their new sport of choice. Good Sportsmanship is practiced, and participants have fun while learning new skills and making new friends.

The YMCA Jr. Cavs program represents a united community of dedicated teams, coaches, parents, and players who share a common goal – supporting the positive benefits attained through the game of basketball.

The focus for our youth basketball leagues is to help develop young athletes to be more active, play together against their peers in a competitive and positive environment, and to provide opportunities for them to achieve higher levels of skill development through the game of basketball.

In all the YMCA's programs, we strive to teach **four core character values**:

- **Caring:** To be sensitive to the needs and well-being of others.
- **Respect:** To value the worth of every person and treat others as they would like to be treated.
- **Responsibility:** To do the right thing and be accountable for one's behavior and obligations.
- **Honesty:** To tell the truth, have integrity and making sure actions match values in all we do.



## The 7 Pillars of YMCA Sports

- ❖ **Everyone Plays** – In YMCA Sports, there are no tryouts, and no one gets cut from teams. Everyone who registers is assigned to a team and all players have the opportunity for equal playing time in games. Teaching participants valuable social and teamwork skills and contributing to a healthier community is a vital part of this pillar.
- ❖ **Safety First** – Safety in YMCA Sports is a primary concern, and we do all we can to prevent injuries from occurring. Sports are modified and taught at age-appropriate levels, and constant supervision ensures that training levels are gradual and that no unsafe activities occur.
- ❖ **Character Development** – participants work together in a team atmosphere, they learn how to make decisions, communicate, work on teambuilding, trust and build character. Youth Sports teaches kids to play by the rules, respect the game, and maintain an attitude of good sportsmanship.
- ❖ **Positive Competition** – In sports, the pursuit of victory is kept in perspective at the YMCA. Coaches and officials make decisions that are always in the best interest of the participants, and the participants are more important than winning the game.
- ❖ **Family involvement** – Parents benefit from participation in Sports as volunteer coaches, officials, and time/scorekeepers. Family participation in the programs creates an environment conducive to open communication, volunteer work opportunities, positive role modeling, and relationship building.
- ❖ **Sports for All** – Sports are welcoming to all, regardless of race, gender, age, or ability. They teach participants to respect and appreciate all their teammates. YMCA Sports encourages all those who participate – coaches, players, and families – to appreciate diversity.
- ❖ **Sports for Fun** – Sports strive to be fun and engaging, helping participants discover the enjoyment of learning and mastering skills, participating with friends, and competing.

*As participants, spectators, and stakeholders, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of behavior. This Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for all individuals to foster a respectful, inclusive, and safe environment.*

## Parent Code of Conduct

- ❖ **Respect Sports Officials**
  - Decisions made by sports officials must be accepted without argument or challenge.
- ❖ **Acknowledge Excellence**
  - Applaud outstanding performances, regardless of whether they are achieved by your team or the opposing team.
- ❖ **Embrace Diversity and Inclusion**
  - Treat all participants with dignity and respect, regardless of gender, abilities, cultural background, or religious beliefs.
- ❖ **Communicate Respectfully**
  - Use courteous and professional language. Avoid vulgar or derogatory remarks and ensure that attire is appropriate for the setting.
- ❖ **Address Conflicts Constructively**
  - Resolve disputes with honesty, respect, and care. Refrain from physical altercations or threatening behavior.
- ❖ **Maintain Public Decorum**
  - Avoid public displays of intimate behavior or actions of a sexual nature in shared spaces.
- ❖ **Respect Property**
  - Uphold the property rights of others. Acts of theft, vandalism, or misuse of property are strictly prohibited.
- ❖ **Promote Safety**
  - Foster a safe and caring environment by refraining from bringing firearms or any items that could be used as weapons.

## Player Expectations

- ❖ **Adhere to YMCA Rules**
  - Follow and play by all YMCA rules and guidelines.
- ❖ **Prioritize Participation and Attendance**
  - Consistent attendance at practices and games is essential for team success and individual development. Players must inform their coach in advance if they are unable to attend.
- ❖ **Address Disagreements Respectfully**
  - If there is a disagreement about a call, only the coordinator may respectfully approach the official to discuss the matter.
- ❖ **Commit to Teamwork and Effort**
  - Work hard for yourself and your team, demonstrating dedication to improving your skills and contributing to the group's success.
- ❖ **Demonstrate Sportsmanship**
  - Be a good sport by showing respect to teammates, opponents, officials, and coaches at all times.
- ❖ **Treat Others with Respect**
  - Interact with all participants in a manner consistent with how you wish to be treated, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.
- ❖ **Promote Cooperation and Growth**
  - Actively cooperate with your coach, teammates, and opponents to enhance both your development and that of others.

By committing to these principles, all participants contribute to a positive and enriching environment that reflects the YMCA's core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and caring. Adherence to this Code of Conduct is essential for maintaining the integrity and safety of our community. Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in appropriate consequences, including disciplinary action and removal from the sight of play.

## YMCA SPORTS PLEDGE

“I pledge to play the game, the best I can, to be a team player, to respect my opponents, the rules and officials, and improve myself in spirit, mind and body.”