

Youth Winter League

Frequently Asked Questions



- **What is the Youth Winter League Program?**

The Suffolk Parks & Recreation Department Youth Basketball, Cheer and Soccer League is a recreational youth league serving the City of Suffolk and its surrounding communities. The Youth League is for boys and girls from ages of 4 through 15 years of age. We emphasize good sportsmanship, the development of individual skills and the importance of teamwork.

- **When do signups begin and end?**

Registration begins September 1, 2023 online and in person registration. Registration ends October 27, 2023.

- **How do I register my child to play?**

You may register online @ <http://www.suffolkva.us/parks> and click the online registration link. You may also register at the Parks and Recreation Admin Office located at 134 South 6th street between the hours of 8:30am-5:00pm Monday –Friday. Saturday registrations are held at two sites only from 10:00am-1:00pm at Booker T. Washing Recreation Center(204 Walnut St, Suffolk, VA 23434), and Creekside Recreation Center (1000 Bennett’s Creek Park Rd., Suffolk, VA 23435) on September 9, 16, 23, and 30.

- **How much does it cost to register my child and what is included?**

Registration Fees are 40 for Suffolk Residents and \$50 for Non-Suffolk Residents for ages 4-5, and registration fees are \$60 for Suffolk Residents and \$70 for Non-Suffolk Residents for ages 6-15. The fee includes participation within the league, a uniform (Jersey and Shorts) which the child keeps at the end of the season, practices, games, & an individual participation trophy.

- **When does the season begin and end?**

The children begin practices the first full week in December and continue practicing throughout the season. The games begin Friday, January 5 (novice basketball) and Saturday January 6. Games continue each week through the month of February and usually commence by the middle of March weather permitting. For the lil ballers and Tiny Kickz (ages 4-5) the children begin practices the first week in January and continue for 8 weeks. The participants will practice for the first 25 minutes, and play against another team during the next 30 minutes. This program will continue each week through the month of February and usually commence by the beginning of March weather permitting.

- **Will my child practice at the site where I sign them up?**

Novice, Primers, Juniors, and Majors, registration at a particular site does not guarantee that your child will practice at that site, only that they will practice within that region. We have the league broken up into two different regions. Depending on which region that your child is signed up in you are assured that they will practice within that region, but not that particular site.

- **What are the Different Regions?**

On the Northern side of Suffolk we have Region 1. Region 1 consists of Creekside Recreation Center and Northern Shores Recreation Center.

On the Southern Side of Suffolk we have Region 2. Region 2 consists of Mack Benn Jr. Recreation Center, Booker T. Washington Recreation Center, and Kings Fork Recreation Center,

- **How are the teams formed?**

For basketball ages 8+, there will be a skills assessment. The skills assessment allows volunteer coaches to witness participants practice in a structured setting before picking his/her team. For ages 7 and younger (basketball) and all ages for Futsal, we compile information from the registration forms (Age, Playing experience, etc.), and participants are placed on teams through a blind draft.

- **My child is a good athlete for his/her age, or is taller than most other children. Are they able to move up divisions?**

Parents may sign their child up for the next division up if and only if the child is 1 year younger than the minimum age for the division they wish to place them in. (example: a child who is 10 may move up from Primer to Junior) Children may not play in younger divisions if they are older.

- **When are practices and how often do they practice?**

Teams practice one day a week, Monday – Thursday for a maximum of 1 and a half hours after school. Practice times begin at 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM. The earliest practice times are usually reserved for the novice divisions and then according to division ages from youngest to oldest. (Example: Novice, then Primers, Juniors and Majors practice latest) There are some exceptions where we may have to schedule practices on a Sunday or at another school gym but we make every effort to keep practices during normal times.

- **Where are Practices held?**

Practices are held within our Recreation Centers such as Creekside, Northern Shores, Mack Benn Jr., Booker T. Washington, and Kings Fork.

- **Where are the Games Played?**

Basketball games are played at as Creekside, Northern Shores, Mack Benn Jr., Booker T. Washington, Kings Fork, and soccer games are played at Oakland Recreation Center. All sites are attached to their respective elementary school, except Kings Fork, which is attached to Kings Fork Middle School.

- **Do you provide transportation?**

No we do not provide transportation. Parents and Guardians are responsible for the safe travel of their respective children to and from practices and games.

- **My Child would like to be on a team with his/her best friend or coach we know. Can you accommodate these types of requests?**

Because coaches, parents and the league want fair and balanced teams, we cannot accommodate requests to satisfy carpooling, neighbor, friendship, coaching or other similar requests.