Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia
2026-2027 Basketball Program Guide

1. Introduction

Calvary Chapel's basketball program is a ministry designed to help children become disciples of Jesus Christ through the means of sports, with a secondary emphasis on teaching them the game of basketball. One of the unique distinctions of our league is a weekly team devotional where coaches and players meet to discuss what being a disciple of Jesus Christ looks like both on and off the court.

As a part of that purpose, our league allows players of all skill levels to participate and enjoy themselves. While we do keep score and standings, our priorities are honoring the Lord, having fun, and then enjoying healthy competition, in that order.

2. Team and league makeup

Six co-ed leagues are offered. These leagues are as follows:

- League A: Ages 4-5 (High School Auditorium)
  Playing time: Four 5-minute periods, running clock
  Basket height: 6'
  Basketball size: Mini ball

- League B: Ages 6-7 (Elementary Gym)
  Playing time: Six 4-minute periods, running clock
  Basket height: 7 1/2'
  Basketball size: 27.5 (Youth ball)

- League C: Ages 8- 9 (Elementary Gym)
  Playing time: Six 5-minute periods, running clock
  Basketball height: 9'
  Basketball size: 28.5 (Women's ball)

- League D: Ages 10-11 (High School/Elementary Gym)
  Playing time: 5-minute quarters, clock stops every whistle
  Basketball height: 10'
  Basketball size: 28.5 (Women's ball)

- League E: Ages 12-14 (High School Gym)
  Playing time: 5-minute quarters, clock stops every whistle
  Basketball height: 10'
  Basketball size: Regulation size

- League F: Ages 15-18 (High School Gym)
  Playing time: 6-minute quarters, clock stops every whistle
  Basketball height: 10'
  Basketball size: Regulation size

3. Game details

Games in leagues A, B, and C are played using modified rules designed to teach the players how to play basketball. These rules are meant to help players of all skill levels learn and enjoy the game. While our rules are not perfect, we ask that coaches instruct their team to play according to the spirit of these rules rather than exploit them for their own team's benefit. Go to kids.ccphilly.org/sports-resources for a complete list of rules broken down by age group.

Games in the High School Gym (leagues D-F) are played by PIAA rules except where specified below. "Closely guarded" (also known as "5 seconds") will only be called in the F League. In the D League, full-court pressing is only permitted in the 4th quarter. For this rule, full-court pressing is defined as multiple players applying defense in the backcourt, whether they are pressuring the dribbler or covering a passing option. A single defender trying to win the ball back in the backcourt after a turnover is not considered full-court press. Teams that are up by 10 points or more cannot apply any kind of backcourt pressure.

Players must come in full Calvary uniform in order to play. The away team wears their jerseys on the blue side and the home team wears their jerseys on the white side. If worn, undershirts should match the jersey color. Players cannot wear jewelry during practices/games. **Note on earrings**: It is our strong recommendation and preference that no child wears earrings while playing due to risk for injury. However, if your child must wear earrings, all earrings **must** be covered with tape or a band-aid. Only small stud earrings are allowed (no hoops, large earrings, or anything that dangles). Calvary is not liable for any injury for players who choose to wear earrings.

All games will start on time if each team has five players in uniform. There is a 5-minute grace period for teams not having 5 players to start the game. After the grace period, the game will be forfeited. (Players can scrimmage for the remainder of the time allotted for the scheduled game.) Each team is required to provide a scorekeeper (B League and up) and a player timekeeper (D League and up) at the start of the game. Game scoresheets and player timesheets will be provided. Games will start on time as listed on the schedules.

High School Gym games are played with normal timing rules. In the High School Gym, each team gets two full 60-second timeouts, two 30-second timeouts, and two substitution timeouts per game, all of which can be carried over into overtime. In the Blue Gym, teams have three 30-second timeouts. The head coach or any player on the court of the team in control of the ball may call a timeout.

If the game ends in a tie, teams will play one 3-minute overtime period (High School Gym only). Each time receives one full 60-second timeout in addition to any they had at the end of regulation. If the score is still tied after one overtime period, the game is over and listed in the results as a tie. Only in the playoffs will additional 3-minute periods be played until there is a winner.

4. Facilities

Our program works best when everyone is respectful of our facilities and of others who are using them. We ask that no child be left unattended while at Calvary. We do not allow recreational play in the hallways and ask that everyone leaves all personal basketballs at home. Courts are for players to use during games and practices only, so no one is allowed to play on the basketball courts unless they are on one of the teams scheduled to play at that time. While in the stands, please be courteous to others. Please do not walk in front of other spectators during play and please clean up any trash around you. Your cooperation is appreciated.

5. Eligibility

Each player is required to register. These leagues are open not only to those presently attending Calvary Chapel, but also to anyone else that may want to participate. However, all players are required to participate in the team devotions that will take place each week. Devotions take place before or after each team's game time slot at the coach's discretion and are considered part of the game. Players may NOT skip team devotions and attend the game portion only, as they are a critical aspect of the discipleship element of our basketball league. Any player who is unwilling to participate in team devotions, skips these times regularly, becomes a hindrance to the spiritual growth of his/her teammates, or does not act in a way appropriate for a Christian league will be asked not to sign up or to withdraw from the league.

6. Parents and Guardians

All practices and games are held at Calvary Chapel's gyms. Parents/guardians are to remain on the premises with their children during practices and games. Parents are not allowed to leave their children at Calvary unattended.

As parents/guardians are to be present with their children at the game, they retain responsibility for their children during the game. Therefore, they are also responsible for attending to their child once the child is removed from the court should an injury occur. However, coaches and refs reserve the right to remove a child from a game if they feel the child has sustained an injury requiring medical attention or are otherwise unfit to play. Caution should be used at all times, especially if the child has an apparent head injury or signs and symptoms consistent with a concussion. A child will under no circumstances be allowed to play with a concussion or apparent concussion. Parents/guardians should not go on the court for any reason unless invited on by a ref/coach to attend to an injured child. Failure to comply may result in ejection.

For everyone's safety, no one should come to basketball if they have a fever, cough, runny nose, are vomiting, or have any other sickness. This applies to all players, parents/guardians, and spectators. Please stay home if sickness is actively spreading through your house, even if you yourself feel fine. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Josiah Simpson.

7. Coaches

In order to coach a team, the coach must be in regular attendance at Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia. In addition, all volunteers must have on file a completed ministry application form. In compliance with Pennsylvania state law, volunteers must have a completed Child Abuse History Clearance and State Criminal History background check (those living out of state must complete the FBI background check).

Coaches may not drive a child who is not his/her own to or from practices and games unless they have obtained permission ahead of time from the child's parents/guardians.

For the C League and up, no coach is allowed on the playing floor unless directed by an official. The first offense may result in a warning, but any additional violations will result in a technical foul.

Coaches are to report any serious injuries by filling out an injury report. Serious injuries would include (but are not limited to) a head injury, broken or potentially broken bone, severe cut, or anything that requires a hospital visit. Injury reports will be available at each gym's score table and can be submitted alongside the score sheets. Injury reports should be filled out and signed by both the child's parent/guardian and the coach present when the injury occurs.

8. Game Cancelations

Chris Clark and Josiah Simpson will determine if games need to be canceled. If a game is canceled due snow or another emergency, we will attempt to email you (provided you have supplied us with a good email address). We also will post any cancelation info (or lack of cancelation, if the weather is questionable) on our website at kids.ccphilly.org/sports. If basketball is not canceled but conditions in your area prevent you from making it to Calvary safely, you are encouraged to stay home.

9. Equal Playing Time

The Calvary Chapel League is a teaching league. Therefore, each and every player should play, as much as possible, an equal amount of time. Each team is required to assign a player time keeper to monitor players playing time (D League and up). The player's time begins when the official beckons him/her onto the court.

10. Referees

One of the most thankless jobs and yet one of the most important positions in the game is that of a referee. All referees are volunteers who are also our brothers and sisters in Christ. Any display of offense toward a referee is unacceptable and will result in either a warning or a technical foul. Continued abuse will result in removal from the church premises with the possibility of being banned from future basketball events. Coaches should be proactive in making sure that their players and spectators are compliant with respecting the officials.

11. Conduct

This league is for the children. It is intended that all participants and spectators display Christian attitudes in all things. Good conduct by players, spectators, and coaches is mandatory at all times both inside and outside the gyms. If anyone becomes unruly, that person will be asked to leave the premises. Failure to comply will terminate the game and lead to the possibility of security being called upon to remove the unruly person from the church's premises.

Any player ejected from the game will receive a minimum one game suspension. If ejected for fighting, the instigator may receive an additional game suspension and possibly be suspended for the rest of the season. If ejected, the player cannot play the following week and is required to attend at least one game as a non-player to show support for his/her team before he or she can resume playing.