

**St Patrick's Youth Organization
Intramural Basketball Program
2018 Season
Instructional League Coaches Information**

- While our program is smaller than in past years, it is still quite large with over 800 players registered. There are 78 teams and 12 separate venues to be managed. Everyone involved, parents, players, and coaches, are expected to be cooperative and helpful in making this a successful season.
- **The Instructional League (grades kindergarten through three) has 361 players in 4 divisions and 32 teams.**
- **All sessions will be played at St. Patrick's in the gym. All sessions (except as noted below) will have four teams in the gym using the four side baskets which will be set at 8'. Boys' 3rd Grade sessions will have the baskets set at 10'. Those sessions have been scheduled immediately following the younger divisions. As we will not be able to call upon the custodian to raise the baskets, we ask that the Boys' 3 coaches do so.**
- All 3rd grade players ***must*** be evaluated as described in the player evaluation guidelines (to be provided at approximately the 7th session).
- The kindergarten through 3rd grade program is run as an instructional clinic with emphasis on teaching basic skills and having fun. The season consists of 10 - 1-hour sessions. Basketballs are not provided to the clinic participants. Coaches are encouraged to allow the players to bring their own basketballs. **Make sure they have written their name or some other identifying mark on their basketball.**
- The season will begin on Saturday, January 6th.
- **Each division schedule will be available on the *Sports Illustrated Play* website accessible through the stpatsyouth.com website. Please instruct your parents to check the site from which the schedule may be printed if they desire.**
- We will not make any changes to the rosters as prepared except in cases of verifiable hardship (transportation, supervision, etc.) or significant personality clashes. If a change is necessary, it must be reported to, and consented to by, the Youth Office.
- **Shirts will be available beginning December 16st at the all coaches meeting. The meeting begins at 9:30 AM in Canning Hall. Please make every effort to attend. They will be described by John Cooley and Pete Taurasi, our senior referees.**
- There has been considerable discussion about the size of teams in the Instructional League. We try to limit teams to 10 or 11 players. However, we are not always able to do so. We are limited by the number of coaches who volunteer, the available gym time and the need to add or subtract teams in increments of two to avoid the need to schedule around bye weeks. Please be certain to let your coaches know this to avoid complaints about something we control as best we can.

- **The Youth Office will be mailing two documents directly to all coaches; the Volunteer Code of Conduct for Service (“Code”) in the Parish Community of St. Patrick and a Statement of Release (“Release”). Additionally, all individuals who work with children in a parish or diocesan supported program are required by the diocese to attend a “Virtus” program. This program was designed by the Diocese and is offered monthly in all parishes. All St. Patrick coaches are required to complete this course in addition to signing and returning the Code and Release prior to the start of the season. Coaches who have previously submitted these forms do not have to resubmit them. Coaches who have previously attended the “Virtus” program need not attend another.**
- **Please advise your player’s parents that any and all complaints, suggestions and kudos should be directed to the Youth Office. With respect to complaints and suggestions, they must be in writing and attributed to the writer. The Youth Office will not respond to anonymous complaints in whatever form made.**
- **We are guests in all venues, including St. Patrick’s. We expect all coaches and parents to respect the facilities and to monitor the behavior of their children at all times. This is particularly true with respect to teams waiting to play and those that have just finished. It is never acceptable to allow running or dribbling in the halls of any venue. Parents are expected to control their children in the gym as well. It is not okay to dribble, pass or bounce balls off the wall at any time.**
- **Parents and coaches are expected to behave like adults at all times – it is great to cheer and encourage, it is terrible to complain, criticize, or get mad.**
- **Please be certain to stress the Parish’s sports parking policy to your coaches, and they in turn to their player’s parents. All sports parking is to be on the east side of the church property. No one may park on the west side of the church or the rectory. All sports’ parking is to be at the rear of the school. There is an entrance to the gym from that parking area.**