

**City of Cleveland Heights Parks & Recreation Department
2025-26 Men's Basketball League Rules**



I. ELIGIBILITY AND ROSTER LIMIT

- a. Any man 18 years or older may participate in the league. There is no height limit. Players on the roster of any professional team within the past year are not eligible.
- b. Maximum roster size is thirteen (13). Rosters, with names, addresses, phone numbers, and uniform numbers, must be turned in before the first game. Team rosters with at least 60% Cleveland Heights residents will get priority.
- c. Players must participate in at least six (6) of their team's regular season games to be eligible for playoffs.
- d. No player may be added to the roster after the completion of games on January 4, 2026.

II. GAME RULES AND TIMING REGULATIONS

- a. Each game will consist of two twenty-minute running halves. The clock will be stopped for breaks in play during the last two minutes of the second half and for foul shots only during the last two minutes of the first half. The clock will run during the last two minutes of the game if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) points or more.
- b. Each team is allowed two (2) timeouts per half. Each team is allowed (1) timeout during each overtime period. Timeouts cannot be accumulated and carried over, except into overtime--maximum of one (1). If a team requests an excessive timeout, it will be charged with a technical foul.
- c. A center court jump ball will start the game. The alternating possession arrow will be in effect for the remainder of the game, except that a center court jump ball will start each overtime period.
- d. **If the game ends in a tie, a (3)minute running clock will be played, the last minute the clock will stop for dead ball or foul shots. There is a limit to how many overtimes can be played if the (3) overtime ends in a tie we will have a sudden death to end the game. No game will end with a tie score. Each overtime period will begin with a jump ball.**
- e. The captain of each team is responsible to provide the official scorer with a list of player's names five **(5) minutes before game time.**

- f. Teams must have a minimum of four (4) players to start a game. Any team not presenting four (4) players within five (5) minutes after the scheduled game time will forfeit that game.
- g. The minimum number of players on the floor at any time is three (3). If a team cannot place at least three (3) players on the court at any time during the game for any reason the game will be declared a forfeit.
- h. Failure of both teams to appear with the required number of players will result in a double forfeit.
- i. The captain is his team's representative on the floor. Anyone playing may request a timeout, but only the captain may address an official on matters of interpretation or for information.
- j. A substitute becomes a player only when he has reported his name to the scorer and is beckoned onto the court by an official. If a substitute runs onto the court without following this procedure, it will result in a technical foul.
- k. Only team players and coaches will be allowed on the benches. All awaiting players and spectators must sit in the stands. Children are not permitted on the benches during the game. Children on the bench during the game will result in a technical foul.
- l. The team listed first on the schedule is the home team and MUST sit on the bench to the left of the scorer.
- m. A player shooting a foul shot will have ten (10) seconds to shoot or he will forfeit his shot.
- n. A bonus free throw (one and one) will begin with the seventh personal foul of each half. For purposes of this rule, all overtime periods are considered part of the second half. Beginning with the tenth personal foul, in any half, the shooting team will receive two free throws.
- o. The officials will handle all facets of the game. Their decision will be final. No protests of an official's judgment will be permitted.
- p. A player fouls out of the game when he commits his fifth personal foul. Technical fouls also result in a personal foul charged to the player.
- q. Players and/or coaches will be ejected if they are assessed two (2) technical fouls (refer to section III).
- r. Coaches/Team Managers will be responsible for the conduct of their players.
- s. There may be a protest of player eligibility any time during a game. The league representative and official scorer will check the team roster and decide. Use of any ineligible or illegal player will result in forfeiture of the game.

- t. A player who is dropped or released by a team may sign with another team but must sit out the next game played by the new team. Only games played for the new team will count towards the minimum required to be eligible for the playoffs. No player may be added after the completion of games on January 4, 2026. A player may be dropped and reinstated only once; the second time he is dropped he is off the roster for the rest of the season. A player may switch teams only once.
- u. Teams will be required to have matching t-shirt or jersey colors with numbers on the back. Colors will be assigned so as to avoid duplication. Teams will be assessed one (1) technical foul for each player not wearing a proper t-shirt or jersey. If a team orders an improper t-shirt or jersey color, it will wear the practice jerseys in all games against teams with a similar color. No duplicate numbers will be permitted. Numbers must be printed or sewn on - *taped or hand drawn numbers are not allowed and will result in technical fouls.* **Teams have a four-week grace period with which to have their team in matching or same color T-shirts/jerseys. Teams MUST have matching T-shirts/jerseys before the games scheduled on Sunday, December 7, 2025.**
- v. Pressing will not be permitted when a team is ahead by twenty-five points or more. In such a situation all players for the leading team must pull back beyond the top of the key in their defensive zone until the offensive team crosses the center line with the ball. First (2) violations in a game will result in technical fouls - additional violations will result in ejection of the offending player (s).
- w. Dunking will be permitted - hanging on the rim will not be permitted and will result in a technical foul. Repeated instances of hanging on the rim will result in removal from the League.
- x. Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) rules will apply in all instances not covered by specific league rules.

III. EJECTION FOR UNSPORTING CONDUCT OR FLAGRANT VIOLATION

- a. Any player or coach ejected for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul will be ineligible for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player or coach shall be ineligible for the next two games appearing on the schedule. Any player or coach ejected from the game **MUST** leave the gym area immediately or the team will forfeit the game.
- b. Any player or coach who has been declared ineligible **MAY NOT** appear in the Community Center while under suspension.
- c. Any player or coach ejected for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul a second time in the same season will be ineligible for the remainder of the season, including the playoffs.
- d. Assault on an official, on or off the court, by a player or coach will result in expulsion from the league and possible criminal prosecution.

- e. Players or teams expelled from the league will be reported to the proper governing agencies and will be prevented from playing in the Greater Cleveland area for the term of their expulsion. Players expelled from the league may also be subject to suspension or expulsion from other Cleveland Heights Parks & Recreation programs, Leagues, and Facilities.

IV. PLAYOFFS AND TIE BREAKERS

- a. The league will consist of eighteen teams. Teams will play a round-robin regular season with the top eight teams qualifying for the playoffs and will be seeded one through eight. The first seed will play the eighth seed, second seed will play the seventh seed, the third seed will play the sixth seed and the fourth seed will play the fifth seed. The winners will advance to the semi-finals with those winners advancing to the League Championship Game.
- b. If teams are tied for any playoff spot with identical records, the tie breakers are as follows:
 - 1. Record in head to head competition.
 - 2. Point differential in head to head competition.
 - 3. Point differential in regular season.
- c. Players need to participate in six (6) regular season games in order to be eligible for the playoffs.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. The entry fee is **\$300.00 per resident team (minimum 60% Cleveland Heights residents)** and **\$350.00 for non-resident teams**, which does **NOT** include referees' and scorer/timer fees. Teams will be responsible to pay \$46.00 before each game to cover the referee **(\$28.00)** and scorer/timer **(\$18.00)** fees. In addition to the entry fee teams will need to submit an **\$92.00 forfeit fee. Fifty percent (50%) of the team entry fee and forfeit fee must be paid by Sunday, October 26, 2025. The remaining balance will be due NO LATER than Sunday, November 08, 2025.** The entry fee is non-refundable. The forfeit fee will be refunded to all teams in good standing upon completion of the season.
- b. THE CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS AND ITS PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURIES OCCURRING BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER ANY GAMES FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER. NO INSURANCE OR MEDICAL COVERAGE IS PROVIDED -- PLAYERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN COVERAGE.
- c. In the event of inclement weather, players should call the Parks & Recreation Hotline at (216) 691-7385 to find out if the games are still to be played that evening.
- d. If a game is cancelled due to weather, your next game to be played will be the next game listed on your schedule by date. The game cancelled will be played after the regular season has been completed.
- e. A men's locker room with lockers and shower facilities will be available. Lockers do not include locks - you will need to bring your own. The Cleveland Heights Recreation Department and the City of Cleveland Heights are not responsible for any lost or stolen items of personal property.

- f. All games will be played at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. The main parking lot is located off of the Monticello Boulevard side of the Community Center - an additional parking lot is located at the rear of the building, off of Superior Road. Entry to the facility is through the entrance on Monticello Blvd. side - the Fieldhouse is located to the left, along Mayfield Road. Please check in at the front desk and at the Fieldhouse control desk.
- g. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OF ANY KIND ARE TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE COMMUNITY CENTER OR CONSUMED ON COMMUNITY CENTER GROUNDS (INCLUDING THE PARKING LOT). VIOLATORS, INCLUDING FANS, WILL RECEIVE SEVERE PENALTIES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE EXPULSION FROM THE LEAGUE. NO SMOKING IS PERMITTED IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER. NO FOOD OR BEVERAGES (EXCEPT WATER) ARE PERMITTED IN THE GYM.
- h. Team awards will be awarded to the playoff champion and playoff runners-up. Individual awards will be awarded to the playoff champions. Individual awards will be awarded to the regular season point leader and rebound leader.

VI. SEASON SKIP DATES

- a. Sunday, November 30, 2025 (Thanksgiving)
- b. Sunday, December 28, 2025 (Christmas & Other Holidays Applicable)
- c. Sunday, January X, 2026 (New Year's Eve)
- d. Sunday, February 8, 2026 (Super Bowl)