

# **NYBL 3rd & 4th Grade Basketball**

## **A New Team-Based Experience for Our Younger Players!**

Three years ago, NYBL introduced our 3rd & 4th Grade program to give younger players an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of basketball in a fun, development-focused environment. After three seasons of learning from our players, families, high school coaches, and parent coaches, we believe the program is ready for its next step.

**Beginning with the 2026–2027 season, the 3rd & 4th Grade Division will transition from a weekly development program to a team-based league**, following the same model NYBL has successfully used for our 5th/6th and 7th/8th Grade divisions for more than 30 years.

We are excited about this evolution and believe it will give our 3rd and 4th graders the opportunity to continue developing their basketball skills while experiencing the teamwork, competition, and fun that come with playing on a team.

## **A Program for Every Skill Level**

Players will be placed on teams led by volunteer parent coaches and will play together throughout the season. Our goal is to create teams that are as balanced and equitable as possible, taking into consideration the information available to us about each player's experience and skill level.

**Most importantly, players do not need prior basketball experience to participate.**

Some of our 3rd and 4th graders will have been playing basketball for several years, while others may be completely new to the sport. That's exactly what this program is designed for.

We will intentionally create teams with a mix of experience levels so that newer players feel welcomed and supported, while more experienced players continue to develop their skills. Players will learn the fundamentals, understand how to play the game, and gradually develop the skills and confidence needed to play as part of a team.

Whether your child has played for years or is picking up a basketball for the very first time, **they belong in NYBL.**

## **What Will Each Sunday Look Like?**

**Sundays | Pollard Middle School | 1:00–6:00 PM**

Each team will participate in a combination of focused skill development and game play.

**20 Minutes of Skill Development**

Each week will focus on a specific fundamental basketball skill.

- NYBL will provide the lesson plan and 1–2 drills used by all teams
- High school basketball players will help lead the instruction
- Parent coaches will assist the instructors and work with their teams

### **32 Minutes of Game Play**

Players will have the opportunity to put their skills into action during a structured game.

- Four 8-minute quarters
- Substitution break at the halfway point of each quarter
- Parent coaches will coach the teams
- High school students and 8th grade NYBL players will serve as referees

The goal is to create a balance between **learning and playing** — giving players focused instruction while also teaching them how to apply those skills in a real game environment.

### **Continuing the Developmental Focus**

While the format of the program is changing, **our commitment to player development is not.**

We are going to add **every-other-Saturday development clinics** at St. Joseph's Upper Gym. These clinics will provide additional opportunities for players to work on individual skills in a smaller, more focused setting.

Clinic details, including the schedule, format, and instructors, are still being finalized and will be shared once confirmed.

### **End-of-Season Tournament**

The season will culminate with NYBL's **double-elimination tournament**, beginning immediately after February vacation.

Players will have the opportunity to experience tournament basketball while continuing to focus on teamwork, sportsmanship, development, and having fun.

### **Parent Coaches Needed!**

This team-based format requires volunteer parent coaches, and **we need our NYBL families to help make this program a success!**

You do not need to be a professional basketball coach — or even have extensive coaching experience — to volunteer. NYBL will provide the developmental curriculum, lesson plans, and drills, and our high school instructors will help with the skill-development portion of each session.

We're looking for parents who are willing to step onto the court, support their players, and help create a positive basketball experience.

### **We're Excited for What's Ahead!**

This is an exciting next step for NYBL's 3rd & 4th Grade program. Our goal is to give younger players the opportunity to **learn the game, develop their skills, build confidence, experience being part of a team, and most importantly, have fun.**

Whether your child is a beginner or an experienced player, we can't wait to see them on the court!

**Go NYBL!**