

‘BEFORE YOU CALL THE PARK OFFICE’

PARENT’S INFORMATION PACKET

BASKETBALL

2026

*****PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS INFORMATION*****

This packet contains dates, team info, phone numbers & rules.

PARK OFFICE 893-5219

INFO-LINE 895-6188

WWW.OBMS.US

olivebranch.recdesk.com

OLIVE BRANCH PARKS & RECREATION
BASKETBALL SEASON
olivebranch.recdesk.com

Welcome to the Olive Branch Parks & Recreation 2026 Basketball season. We would like to provide you with some general information concerning the program. We will give more specific information as soon as it becomes available.

- Registration will be from **Monday Sept. 15, 2025 through Sunday (Sunday is online registration only) Oct. 12, 2025.**
- Our office hours for registration are Monday through Friday from 8am until 5pm & **Saturday October 11, from 8am until 12PM.** This is the **only Saturday registration.**
- You can create your account at **olivebranch.recdesk.com** and register online.
- Online registration **WILL END** October 12th @ midnight.
- **Boys & Girls ages 7-12.** For a child to be eligible to play, he or she must be 7 years old by **January 1, 2026.**
- The fee is **\$75 per child, Desoto County Resident and \$100 per child, Non-Desoto County Resident.** This includes a reversible jersey, and referee fees.
- An **online waiting list** will be formed on Monday October 13, 2025. Players on the waiting list will be contacted **if needed** on a “first come, first serve” basis.
- **Coaches are not permitted to choose players from the waiting list.**
- We will contact coaches to attend a coaches meeting, and to pick up team rosters. **The coaches will contact the parents after their meeting.** We would appreciate your patience and cooperation concerning this matter. Drafting and filling out team rosters is time consuming, and it only slows the process when each parent calls to see if we are finished yet, or if we can just tell them what team their child is on. **Please do not call on this matter.**
- Teams will begin **practice in December and games will begin in January.**
- **SCHEDULED GAMES CAN BE ON ANY DAY OF THE WEEK EXCEPT WEDNESDAY OR SUNDAY.**
- **IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A MAKE-UP GAME WILL HAVE TO BE SCHEDULED ON A WEDNESDAY.**
- We will contact coaches to pick up game schedules 10-14 days prior to the start of the season. We do not expect to hand out uniforms until about one week before the games begin. Coaches will contact parents with this information. **Contact your coach for any team information.**
- **The season will consist of 12 season games.**
- **WE DO NOT TAKE SPECIAL REQUESTS TO PLAY ON A CERTAIN TEAM, WITH A CERTAIN COACH, OR WITH A CERTAIN TEAMMATE.**

We appreciate your patience and cooperation. Coaches will contact parents with all team information as soon as possible. For further information on registration, please contact the Park Office at 893-5267 or 895-4108 or 893-5219.

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- Coaches cannot place a child on any team. A child must be officially registered and placed through the Olive Branch Parks & Recreation Department.
- **Due to the large number of registrants in each sport, we cannot honor special requests, such as a child being placed with a particular coach, team, or friend. The Sibling Rule and Coaches' Children Rule are the ONLY situations in which children are placed on a particular team.**
- **The Sibling Rule-** *Siblings* that live in the same household and meet the requirements of the same age group will be placed on the same team.
- **Coaches' Children Rule-** A coach's child(ren) will be placed on his/her team as long as he/she is coaching that child's age group. Each coach is allowed to secure ONE assistant coach, and the assistant coach's child(ren) fall under this same rule.
- **A birth certificate is required to register.** We may have your child's birth certificate on file if they have previously played in one of our programs. We will be happy to check, but if we do not have it on file, it is your responsibility to provide a copy. **We CANNOT register a child without a copy of a certified copy of the birth certificate.**
- Children that are not registered during regular registration will be placed on a waiting list for that age group. No money will be taken at that time. The waiting list DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOUR CHILD WILL BE PLACED ON A TEAM. If and when there is an opening in your child's age group, we will call the first name on the waiting list. If you do not choose to register, we will move on to the next name.
- Children that are pulled from the waiting list may be delayed in receiving their uniform. We **cannot guarantee** receipt of uniforms by the start of the season or by the picture day scheduled for children pulled from the waiting list.
- Refunds will not be granted to anyone after games begin.
- Parents must understand that you are registering your child for a TEAM SPORT. Attendance to practices and games are key to a successful team. THE PARTICIPATION POLICIES apply to all children registered in an Olive Branch Parks and Recreation team sport program. Please read over the PARTICIPATION POLICIES thoroughly before registering your child.

PARENT'S GENERAL INFORMATION

Jewelry

Jewelry of any kind is **NOT ALLOWED** to be worn by any player during any sport, exception being a medical alert bracelet/necklace.

Soccer

Soccer cleats are required in soccer, a child **CANNOT** wear **baseball cleats or football cleats** during soccer games. However, the Under 6 age group can play in tennis shoes instead of soccer cleats if they wish to do so. **All age groups MUST wear shin guards.**

Phone Numbers

For game or practice rain out information, call **895-6188**

For sport program information, to get a coaches' phone number, to schedule a practice, or for any sport related information, call **893-5267** or **895-4108**.

City Website

WWW.OBMS.US

Park Website

Olivebranch.recdesk.com

Registration, league rules, game schedules/scores, league standings, makeup game schedules, picture day schedules, and more information can be found here.

Pictures

All pictures will have one scheduled date. A park official schedules the date and time of pictures. A park official will notify coaches with the specific information, and the coaches will in turn call the parents. We do not schedule pictures on major holidays.

NOTE: We cannot schedule pictures around anyone's vacation schedule or around a hunting season.

Game Schedules

Game schedules will be given to each coach 7 – 10 days prior to the start of a season. Coaches will give a copy to the parents of his/her team. Your coach will also contact his/her parents about make-up games.

NOTE: Game schedules will not be changed to accommodate vacation schedules of coaches, players, or the player's family.

Complaints & Concerns

Parents should follow the attached 'Grievance Procedures'. A complaint/concern form has been provided to you in this 'Parents Packet'. NOTE: Concerns must be in writing for the appropriate actions to be taken.

PLEASE CALL 893-5267 or 895-4108 FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

OLIVE BRANCH PARKS & RECREATION

BASKETBALL GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

It is the intent of the **Olive Branch Parks & Recreation Department** to provide a program to the youth of the City in that they may enjoy the sport of basketball while learning the rules and skills of the game. Our purpose is to let the kids play and have a good time, and to keep that in proper perspective. It is important that everyone involved including the parents, coaches, officials and administrators make the season an enjoyable and positive experience for the participants. We encourage all parents to be supportive of the teams, players, officials and coaches, as well as other volunteers who so graciously donate their time and efforts for the kids in the program.

Below is a list of gym rules. Please keep these in mind and adhere to these as the season continues.

GENERAL RULES

1. Please do not drop off your child at the gymnasium any earlier than 15 minutes prior to their practice or game time, and please be prompt in picking them up afterwards.
2. School gymnasiums and restrooms will be open for your convenience throughout the season during practices and games. However, **ALL OTHER AREAS OF THE SCHOOL ARE OFF LIMITS.** Also, no school phone will be available.
3. Gym equipment is not to be used by anyone except players of the game or practice in progress. This also includes any school property such as P.E. teachers' desks, etc., which are off limits to everyone.
4. Children in the gymnasium that are not participating in the game must remain in the bleachers or side lines if bleachers are not available.
5. Arguing and/or abusive behavior by any player, coach, or parent will not be tolerated. Such behavior may result in ejection from the gymnasium.
6. Playing or bouncing of balls in lobby or hallway areas of the buildings will not be allowed. Please help us take care of the facilities that are provided to us for our programs.
7. Please help keep the gym area and bleachers clean. **COACHES:** Make sure any and all trash is picked up after practices and games.
8. All teams, coaches, players, etc., must adhere to school rules as well and not go over schedule times for gym usage.
9. Inclement weather policy: Any time DeSoto County Schools are closed due to inclement weather, games will be canceled for that day at all gymnasiums. If schools are closed on Friday, no games will be played on the following day, Saturday.

***** IT IS STATE LAW!!! SMOKING AND USE OF ANY TOBACCO PRODUCTS IS PROHIBITED ON ALL SCHOOL PROPERTY, (even right outside the gym, or in the parking lot.) Please make sure we adhere to this law.**

**Thank you for assisting us in making Youth Sports FUN for kids!
Your support is greatly appreciated!**

ATTENTION !!!
PARENTS AND COACHES

DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILDREN OFF ANY EARLIER
THAN 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THEIR PRACTICE OR
GAME TIME.

BE PROMPT IN PICKING THEM UP FROM PRACTICES
AND GAMES.

COACHES CANNOT LEAVE ANY PLAYERS IN THE
CARE OF SCHOOL OFFICIALS, OTHER COACHES OR
PARENTS AFTER A GAME OR PRACTICE.

A COACH AND ANOTHER ADULT MUST REMAIN
WITH ANY OF HIS/HER PLAYERS THAT HAVE NOT
BEEN PICKED UP.

FOR BASKETBALL PLAYERS:
PARENTS- CHILDREN THAT ALREADY ATTEND THE
OLIVE BRANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL AND/OR OLIVE
BRANCH INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CANNOT STAY
AFTER SCHOOL TO WAIT FOR PRACTICE. SCHOOL
OFFICIALS OR THE PARK OFFICE WILL NOT
TOLERATE PARENTS LEAVING CHILDREN
UNATTENDED.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION!

PARENTS: ROLE MODEL FOR LIFE

What can parents do to make the game more enjoyable for their children...and other people's kids, too?

1. Be knowledgeable of the game.
2. Encourage fair play at home.
3. Be supportive: Be sure the player attends practices; pick him/her on time.
4. Attend games.
5. Be positive or be quiet at games.
6. Be respectful; expect your own children to be respectful.
7. Focus on good nutrition.
8. Volunteer to help the coach.
9. Officiate games.
10. Play the game.
11. Be calm and have good manners.
12. Support the coaches and officials decisions.
13. Encourage communication between coach and parent.
14. Ask your own children to describe his/her role, what new skills have been learned.
15. Watch practices; focus on new strategies.
16. Find videos on the game and watch the movies with them.
17. Concentrate on praising other people's children during games.

OLIVE BRANCH PARKS & RECREATION

TEAM SPORT PARTICIPATION POLICIES

We at the Olive Branch Parks & Recreation Department limit the number of participants per team in order to insure all children receive an equal amount of playing time in the games. Due to excessive absences of players in our team sports programs, and complaints by coaches and parents, the Olive Branch Parks & Recreation Department has implemented participation policies for all team sport programs. Baseball, soccer, and basketball are the major sports programs that are provided, all of which are team sports. Parents must understand that attendance is extremely important to the success of a TEAM. In all three sports, teams risk a forfeit if there are not enough players present at a game. Attendance is just as important for practice, in order for the team to learn to play together. The following policies apply to team sports programs:

1. Teams will practice approximately 2 times per week for four weeks. Players are expected to attend at least 80% of the practices. (i.e., 6 of the 8 practices)
2. If a player must miss a practice, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the coach.
3. Coaches have the right to disperse playing time in practice or a game based on poor attendance.
4. Coaches are responsible for keeping accurate attendance records. To receive an additional player due to excessive absences, a coach must have proof of attendance.
5. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to add a player to a team that has a player or players that did not meet the 80% attendance requirement during the four-week practice period.
6. Each addition to a team will be decided by the Olive Branch Parks & Recreation Department on a case-by-case basis.

OLIVE BRANCH PARKS & RECREATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

As with any large organization, on occasion problems will occur. When problems do occur, we want to insure that everyone in our programs receive fair and equitable treatment. Your participation and our volunteer coaches are vital to our organization's success. The following grievance procedures have been established:

1. Arrange a private meeting with your coach to try to resolve the problem.
2. If the problem is not resolved (no agreement reached), call the park office to arrange a meeting with the Athletic Coordinator. At this time you will be asked to submit, in writing, a detailed account of the problem to the Athletic Coordinator prior to your meeting. You may call 893-5219 to schedule this meeting.
3. Finally, if the problem is not resolved, the administrative assistant will arrange a meeting with you and the Park Director to attempt to resolve the problem.

*The Park Director is the final step, and will decide what steps, if any, need to occur.

Parent's Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parent's Code of Ethics Pledge.

I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.

I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.

I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.

I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

I will demand a sports environment for my child that is **DRUG, TOBACCO, and ALCOHOL FREE**, and will refrain from their use at all sports events.

I will remember that the game is for the youth, not the adults.

I will do my best to make youth sports fun for my child.

I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.

I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assisting with coaching, or providing transportation.

I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach, and that the coach upholds the **Coaches' Code of Ethics**.

I have read and fully understand and agree to adhere to the Code of Ethics listed above.

Parents signature _____ Date _____