CMA Basketball Rules

Rules of conduct:

1. **Referees and coaches WILL be respected**
   The church greatly appreciates the time and devotion of its volunteer basketball staff and will honor them in this manner. Remember they are volunteers not experts. ***During the game, do not address the referee at all.*** If you have an issue, please direct it to the **Program Director** calmly and patiently. All referee decisions are final. At no time shall a coach, parent, or player raise their voice to an official or another coach. Coaches not abiding by this rule will be asked to leave and a replacement coach will be found.
2. **No Profanity**
   The courtesy of one warning will be given. The second offense will be grounds for expulsion from the game and/ or premises. This applies to coaches, players, and parents alike.
3. **Model Good Sportsmanship**
   Use both actions and words to continually communicate with players and spectators the importance of league expectations regarding conduct and sportsmanship. Remember, an opponent is not an enemy, but a friend on another team.
4. **Modest Apparel**
   Please make sure that modest athletic apparel is worn.

General Rules for all Divisions:

1. **Players must sit with the coach during their entire game**
   If players are to gain adequate playing time, coaches need to know where they are always. (Exceptions can be made for bathroom breaks.) The area directly around the basketball hoop will be reserved for players and coaches only.
2. **No playing on vacant courts**
   To reduce confusion and injury, no one is permitted to occupy an empty court or shoot on empty goal if games are in progress on adjacent courts.
3. **Use only church-issued balls for warm-up and game play**
   Referees will determine the appropriate ball size, according to division, and distribute them to coaches. Coaches are then responsible for maintaining control and possession of their ball. Only 1 ball per team is permitted for warm-up sessions. No personal basketballs are permitted in the gym during the season. This is also to reduce confusion and injury to spectators throughout the program.
4. **Officials will review rules with coaches prior to beginning of game play**
5. **Forfeits**
   All teams **must have a minimum of 4 players,** (unless agreed up by the coaches and director) or they will forfeit the game. Players from the opposing team will be shared if the team is large enough but the sharing team coach has the privilege of designating which player/s they wish to share.
6. **Players will have equal opportunity playing time**
   Coaches will attempt to play and make substitutions in a manner that will allow all teammates to participate evenly. Coaches may strategize and balance ability on the court as they see fit while keeping within this parameter.
7. **Referees will determine the appropriate goal height for each division and make necessary adjustments prior to the start of each game**
8. **Starting possession will alternate with the quarter**
9. **Playoff games will be played on the same size court as regular season play**
10. **No full court press**
    Players can only pick up on defensive play after the offensive team crosses the half court line.
11. **Team Size**
    Teams will play evenly matched games, including play-offs and the championship game.
11. **Out of bounds**
    The red line will be out of bounds (even under the basket). A certain leeway will be considered in Division 1 and 2 (especially at the beginning of the season).
12. **Possession Arrow**
    To keep ball struggles to a minimum each referee will find a way to track possession.

Division Specific Rules:

Division 1 & 2 (Kindergarten through 3rd grade)

1. **Zone Defense:** Division 1 - Both feet must be in the designated box (the sixth player may play anywhere in the larger square.)
   Division 2 - Retreat to house then play zone - 1 foot must remain in (house shape) box
2. **No stealing off the dribble**: No interference with the dribble until the ball is in the larger square zone. When called the ball will be returned to appropriate team.
3. **Double dribble/traveling:** Players receive warnings with an explanation when possible. The player double dribbling/traveling will take the ball out and there is no change of possession.
4. **Fouls:** If a player is fouled, the fouled player will take the ball out of bounds for their team. Points are awarded if a foul is committed in the act of shooting the ball.
5. **Six-minute periods**
6. **No Cherry Picking –** fast break permissible on the dribble only. All players must cross the half court line when on defense and may not return to their shooting area until their team regains possession of the ball.
7. **Six-player teams will be fielded, unless otherwise decided by the director.**

Division 3 & 4 (4th – 8th grade)

1. **Man to Man or Zone Defense:** After half court. This is to keep double teams to a minimum. If a double team is called there will be a possession change.
2. **Stealing:** Allowable after the dribbler has crossed the half court line
3. **Double dribble/traveling:** Obvious violations will result in possession change
4. **Defensive Fouls:** Take ball out of bounds at the point of the infraction. Points are awarded if a foul is committed in the act of shooting the ball.
5. **Offensive Fouls:** Other team takes ball out of bounds.
6. **Eight-minute periods**
7. **Cherry Picking permissible**