

# CHAMP SPORTS DEVOTIONAL



## WINTER SEASON 2018-2019

CHAMP Office – 704.341.5387  
Weather Hotline – 704.341.5473  
[www.champsportsinfo.com](http://www.champsportsinfo.com)

# Welcome to CHAMP Sports!

## Winter 2018/19 - Season Schedule

Practices Begin: Week of November 26

Game Schedules: Week of November 26

Uniform Distribution: Week of November 26

First Game Day: Saturday, December 8

Picture Day: Saturday, January 19

Holiday Break: December 17 – January 1

(No games or practices during the break)

Practices Resume: Wednesday, January 2

Games Resume: Saturday, January 5

End-of-Season Celebration: Saturday, February 9

Season Ends: Saturday, February 9

For any questions or concerns,  
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Weather Hotline: 704.341.5473  
Updated Mon-Fri. at 3:00 PM; Sat. at 6:30 AM

Join us weekly for Sunday morning  
worship service at 9:45AM in  
**Calvary's sanctuary**

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# Welcome to CHAMP Sports!

Week of November 26-30, 2018

Welcome to CHAMP Sports! Are you excited to be here?! We are going to have a lot fun and learn a lot about playing basketball this season! We are also going to spend some time each week learning from Jesus Christ, God's Son, about how we should live our lives. Jesus has many things to teach us about how to live our lives well. Do you want to learn from Jesus? I sure do!

Can any of you tell me what the word "wisdom" means? Wisdom means knowing how to live well. There are two kinds of wisdom: God's wisdom and all other kinds of wisdom (like Satan's wisdom or human wisdom). God thinks that human wisdom is foolishness. God thinks that Satan's wisdom is evil. We don't want human wisdom or Satan's wisdom; we want God's wisdom. There is no better teacher of God's wisdom than our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Today we are going to think about something Jesus told us in the book of Mark in the Bible: "But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:43-45).

Have you ever put your shoes on backwards? Have you ever hung upside down? Have you ever put your shirt on inside out? Many of the things that Jesus teaches us may at first seem backwards and inside out. This is because in many ways this world is backwards and inside out. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden their lives became very confusing. It was like the world turned inside out. Instead of trusting God, Adam and Eve began to trust themselves. Instead of following God, Adam and Eve began to do what was right in their own eyes.

When we do what is right in our own eyes, we will do things that are wrong in God's eyes. What we need is for God to take control of our lives by His Holy Spirit. When God is in control of our lives, then what Jesus says won't seem inside out and backwards. When God is in control, what Jesus says is absolutely normal.

Do you think that the greatest person is the one who serves everyone else? Is the greatest person the one who makes the most passes or the most baskets? Passing the ball is a way of serving others. Passing the ball is also a way to give your teammate an open shot. When your team has a lot of open shots, you will score more baskets. Do you want to be great? Then you must help other people. Jesus is the greatest of all because He died for everyone. According to God, if we want to be great, then we must lay our lives down for our friends.

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## **John 15:13**

**Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**

*Questions: Who laid down His life for all of us? How can you help your parents? How can you help your friends? Do you usually want to put yourself first, or do you usually want to put other people first?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# Spiritual Life

Week of December 3-7, 2018

What happens to us if we don't eat enough food? We will probably get tired. We probably won't have energy to play basketball. We probably will just want to sleep. If we don't eat enough food, we won't get much done in life because we will be weak.

Jesus tells us in the Bible that He is the nutrition of our spiritual lives. Just like we must eat food for our bodies to have energy, so we must have Jesus living inside of us if we want to have energy in our spiritual lives.

What is "spiritual life"? First, what is a spirit? God is Spirit. God does not have a body. We have spirits *and* bodies. Our spirits live inside of our bodies. Our spirits are the deepest part of who we are. Our spirits can't eat the kind of food that grows on trees or in the ground. Our spirits need spiritual food. Jesus is the food our spirits need!

Jesus tells us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Have you ever seen a grape vine? A grape vine has four parts: the fruit, the branches, the vine, and the roots. Jesus tells us that He is the vine and we are the branches. Just like the branches can't live without the vine, so we can't live spiritually without Jesus.

When you look at a vine and its branches, can you tell exactly where the vine stops and the branches start? I can't. The branches are part of the vine and the vine is part of the branches. This is what Jesus means when He says that we must abide in Him and He will abide in us. Jesus wants our lives to become a part of His life, and He wants His life to become a part of our lives. Jesus wants our lives to be one with His life just as His life is one with His Father's life. This is Christianity! Christianity is "Christ in us"! When we are branches, Jesus is the vine, the Holy Spirit is the sap of the vine, and everything is rooted in God the Father, we will be full of spiritual life and we will bear much fruit.

Do you want your life to be like big juicy grapes or little tiny grapes that no one wants to eat? The only way for your life to be full of good fruit is for you to be full of Jesus' life. Only Jesus' life pleases God. Do you want to be full of Jesus' life? If you do, all you have to do is ask. If you will let God have your life to do whatever He wants with you, your life will be full of God's fruit!

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## **John 10:10**

**I [Jesus] came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

*Questions: How well do you know Jesus? Is Jesus a part of your everyday life or do you just think about Jesus once in a while? Is your heart full of Jesus' life? Do you have God's supernatural joy in your heart?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# Bright Lights

Week of December 10-14, 2018

What would happen if we turned out the lights right now? We wouldn't be able to see much, right? In the Bible, Jesus tells us, "Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:15-16).

Jesus tells us that nobody lights a lamp and puts it under a basket so that the light of the lamp can't be seen. That would just be silly. A lamp is meant to be put in a high place so that it can give light to everyone who is near it.

In the Bible we learn that "God is light and in Him there is no darkness" (1 John 1:5). We also learn in the Bible that the world in which we live is "darkness" (John 1:5). God is light because He is right, true, and good. The world is darkness because the world is wrong, bad, and dirty. It is God's desire that everyone in the world would see Him because He is light. However, God has a special way that He wants the world to see Him—He wants the world to see Him through His children.

If we are God's children we have a very special job to do! Our job is to let God (who is Light) live inside of us so that He can shine out of us. The more that God washes our hearts clean and transforms our minds the brighter we will shine with His light. The more our thoughts are God's thoughts and our ways are God's ways the easier it will be for God to display Himself in our lives.

When Philip asked Jesus to show him God the Father, do you know what Jesus said? Jesus said, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (John 14:9-10)?

Jesus perfectly displayed God, His Father, because Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus. Jesus and God the Father have a perfect relationship. God wants to have a perfect relationship with each one of us so that everyone around us will see that He is in us.

Are you one of God's children? If you are, then your goal should be to let the God who is Light shine in you and through you. Just like a lamp lights up a dark room, so God lights up a dark world. Do you want to be a lantern full of the Light of the world?

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## **John 8:12**

Again **Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

*Questions: Is there any darkness in God? How can we see the world correctly? By the light of the world!*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# The Greatest Commandment

Week of January 2-4, 2019

Are you excited about the year 2019? It has been almost two thousand years since Jesus lived here on earth and taught us about God and God's kingdom. The good news is that everything that Jesus taught us is true and never changes. God's truth is always true—forever and always!

One day, a man who knew God's law really well asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was. Do you know what Jesus said? Jesus told us that the greatest commandment was, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

What does it mean to love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds? Let's think about this. Jesus taught us that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Our hearts love our treasures. Take a moment. Think about what you treasure. What do you think about a lot? What do you think about when you are going to sleep at night? What do you wish you had more of or more time to do? Whatever you are thinking about is something that you treasure. Maybe it is playing outside or playing a sport. Maybe it is something you like to watch on TV or a video game you like to play. Maybe it is something you like to eat or something else that you like to do. Whatever it is, your heart is right there with that thing!

God has told us that He wants us to treasure Him—to love Him with all of our hearts, souls, and minds. He wants us to wake up in the morning with a hunger to know Him. He wants us to go to bed at night thinking about Him and His ways. He wants to teach us about how to live our lives all day long. Why does He want to be the primary subject in our lives? Because He is good, He is God, and He loves us. God knows that if we love Him more than anything else, our lives will be full of joy, of good works, and many blessings. God also knows that if we love anything else more than Him, our lives will begin to fall apart. We will make bad decisions. We will make a lot of mistakes.

God is like good food or good water. If we don't eat good food and drink good water, we quickly die. If we don't love God first, our spiritual lives will quickly die.

How do we learn to love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds? We ask Him to help us. We talk with Him in prayer and we study His Bible. The more time that we spend with God the more our hearts, souls, and minds will grow to love Him!

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## **1 John 4:19-20**

**We love because he [Jesus] first loved us.** If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

*Questions: Who is Love? Do you have Love living inside of you? What is it like to have Love living in you?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# Never Thirsty Again!

Weeks of January 7-11, 2019

Imagine that you've been practicing your basketball skills very hard for a couple of hours with no breaks. After a few hours of hard practice, you'd probably be very thirsty! Two thousand years ago in the land of Israel where Jesus lived, water wasn't as easy to get as it is today. Back then there weren't any water fountains. Instead of water fountains there were wells. Getting water out of the wells wasn't easy. To get water out of a well, a person would have to lower a bucket down into the well and then scoop the water out of the well in the bucket. It was hard, hot work for Jesus and His friends to get water!

One day Jesus saw a Samaritan woman drawing water out of a well. Jesus didn't have a bucket with which to get water out of the well, so He went up and asked the Samaritan woman if He could have a drink of her water. This surprised the woman because the Jewish people and the Samaritan people didn't usually talk to each other because they didn't like each other very much. By speaking to this woman Jesus showed that He cared for all people, not just one kind of person. By caring about this woman, Jesus showed that He didn't come just to save Jewish people, but to save all people!

After asking the woman if He could have a drink of her water, Jesus told the Samaritan woman that He could give her something He called "living waters." When Jesus said this, the Samaritan woman became confused. Jesus didn't have a bucket. He couldn't get water from the well! What she didn't understand was that the water that Jesus was talking about wasn't water for our bodies but water for our inner, spiritual persons. The words that Jesus spoke to this woman were: "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:13-14).

What Jesus meant by these words is that just like there is a water that we need to keep our bodies healthy, there is also a kind of water that we need to give life to our spirits. Jesus has these "living waters," and He is willing to give them to us if we will ask for them. According to God, He is a "fountain of living waters" (Jeremiah 2:13). Imagine that! Think of water pouring out of the ground and giving life to trees and plants and animals and everything in the earth! Now think of God. God is a fountain of living waters to our spirits. If we have God living inside of us, our spirits, our hearts, our minds, and every part of us will be filled with abundant, overflowing life forever!

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## **John 7:38**

**Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'**

*Questions: Who is the "fountain of living waters?" Do you have the fountain of living waters living in you? How do we get the fountain of living waters to live in us? [Answer: We ask God to be our King]*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# Doctor Jesus

Week of January 14-18, 2019

Do you know the real Jesus? Do you really know Him? Two thousand years ago there were a lot of people who saw Jesus living His human life in the land of Israel. Jesus had a mother. He had brothers, sisters, friends, disciples, and apostles. All of these people knew something about Jesus, but only some of these people really knew Jesus.

One day some of the people who didn't really know Jesus came to ask Him about why he had been eating and drinking with the tax collectors and sinners. The tax collectors and sinners were the people that nobody really liked. The tax collectors and sinners were the kind of people that most people ignore. The tax collectors and sinners weren't the popular people. They were the opposite of popular.

When the "popular" people came to ask Jesus why He was hanging out with the people who were "failing at life" do you know what Jesus said? Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:31-32).

By saying this, Jesus was saying that He was a very special kind of doctor—a doctor who heals our hearts, our souls, and our minds. Yes, Jesus healed people's bodies. He took away diseases. He raised the dead back to life. He healed the eyes of the blind. But none of these things were the greatest of Jesus' miracles. The greatest miracle of all is that Jesus has the power to heal our spirits.

If Jesus hasn't healed our spirits, our spirits are sick with sin. Sin is a disease that causes us to think things, say things, and do things that aren't what God wants us to think, say, and do. Sin makes our minds full of bad thoughts. Sin causes us to want to do things that we know aren't good. Sin makes us unable to see things as God sees them. Sin is a HUGE problem! Sin is like a disease that if left untreated makes us sicker and sicker until we die. The longer we don't treat the disease, the sicker we get. We need help!

Jesus has told us that He is the wise Doctor. Jesus knows how to destroy sin in our hearts like doctors know how to destroy diseases in our bodies. But we have to trust Him! If your body is sick and you don't go to the doctor, can the doctor help you? Nope! *Repentance* is a big word that basically means "Stop trying to fix yourself and let Jesus, the wise Doctor, fix you." Will you let Jesus destroy sin in your life? If you want Jesus to help you, all you have to do is ask! Jesus is more than happy to help!

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## Jeremiah 17:14

**Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed;** save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.

*Questions: Does God have the power to heal our bodies? [Yes] Does God have the power to heal our spirits? [Yes] Why does God hate sin? [God hates sin because it destroys our relationship with Him.]*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**



# “It is Finished” (Invitation Week)

Week of January 21-25, 2019

Last week we talked about sin. Sin is a disease that eats away at our hearts and our minds. Sin is like a pair of glasses that distorts everything that we see. Sin has its own desires—bad desires. Sin wants every day to be “opposite day”—“opposite of what God wants day.”

Sin is very hard to kill because sin really isn't a thing. Sin is basically me doing what I think is right instead of asking God what He wants me to do. If sin is me doing whatever I think is right, then to kill sin, God would have to kill me. The problem is that if God kills me, then I am dead, and I can't be God's child! This isn't what God wants! He wants us to be His children!

There is only one way that a human can die and then be raised from the dead. The human has to have never sinned. The human has to have only done what God thinks is right in every moment of their life. Before Jesus came into the world, there weren't any humans who were sinless. Every human had “gone their own way” (Isaiah 53:6). Humans were in bad shape. Humans needed a Savior who had never sinned. It was the job of living a sinless human life that God sent Jesus into the world to do. Jesus did this job perfectly. Jesus said of Himself, “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me” (John 5:30).

Jesus's life was perfect. When Jesus came into the world, He joined His perfect human life to our imperfect human lives. When Jesus died on the cross, God put Jesus and all of us to death. The miracle of the gospel is that because Jesus died the death that we deserved, we can now live inside of the life that He has. If you will believe the gospel, God will give you Jesus' perfect life so that you can live forever in obedience to God just like Jesus did while He lived in this world.

The last thing that Jesus did on earth before He died on the cross was say, “It is finished” (John 19:30). *What* was finished? Everything God sent Jesus to do was finished! Jesus had created a way for us to be saved through His perfect life and holy blood! Do you want to be joined to Jesus' eternal life?

If you want to receive Jesus as your King and the Father as your God, you can pray this prayer with me today. Everyone please close your eyes and bow your heads. **“Father, I know that I have sinned and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my sin. Please forgive me and give me the nature of Christ Jesus. Please cause me to pass from death into life. I believe that your Son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite you, Jesus, to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey you, and to do your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.”**

If you said this prayer and have surrendered your life to God, you are now a child of God! You have been born again in Jesus Christ and you shall live forever with Him! This is fantastic news! Thank you, Jesus!

*Coaches, be sure to complete a Decision Card for each one of your players. Please turn them in at the box in the gym equipment closet. Thank you for your help!*

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## **John 5:19**

So Jesus said to them, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing.** For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.”

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# God's Gracious Power

Week of January 28 – February 1, 2019

Did you know that Jesus didn't just speak while He was here on earth? Do you know who the Apostle Paul is? The Apostle Paul wrote almost half of all of the books in the New Testament. In the New Testament, Paul wrote the books of Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and possibly Hebrews. Thus, Paul wrote 28% of all of the words in the New Testament. That's a lot for one man to do!

Paul preached the good news of Jesus Christ all over the world of his day. For the sake of preaching the good news of Jesus, Paul was beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked, and imprisoned. Paul's life wasn't easy! What made Paul's life even harder was that he had something that he called "a thorn in the flesh." We don't know for sure what this "thorn in the flesh" was, but like a splinter in our finger, it was something that caused a great amount of discomfort to Paul.

Have you ever had a splinter in your finger? If the splinter went deep into your finger, you know how painful and annoying a splinter can be. Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was like that splinter. It was painful and trying. Three times Paul asked for the Lord to take the thorn away, but God didn't do it. Instead, Jesus said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Why didn't Jesus just take Paul's troubles away? Do you believe that Jesus is wiser than you and me? I do. Sometimes Jesus doesn't do what we want. Sometimes He asks us to learn to rest in His grace. What is God's grace? It is God's strength, God's life, God's peace, and everything else that God has for us that He gives to us so that it is Him who makes us strong and not us who make us strong.

Do you know what Paul said after Jesus told him that He wasn't planning to take the thorn out of Paul's flesh? Paul said, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Paul was willing to be weak so that the power of Jesus would be in his life. This was hard for Paul to learn. God wants us all to learn this lesson. God wants all of us to learn to walk in the power of His life. We call living in God's life and doing what God wants *walking in grace*. Will you walk in God's grace?

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## **2 Corinthians 12:10**

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

*Questions: What hard things happened to Jesus during His life? Are you learning to ask Jesus for help when hard things happen to you in your life? What is God's grace?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# Supernatural Peace

*Week of February 4-8, 2019*

What a great season this has been! I hope you've had fun and made new friends. I especially hope that you've gotten to know Jesus better. Jesus may have gone up to Heaven to sit down at the right hand of His Father as king over all things, but Jesus hasn't left us alone!

If we have believed God and have turned our lives over to Him, we now live inside of Jesus and He lives inside of us. Before Jesus left this world, do you know what He told His closest friends? Jesus said many things that we can read about in John 14-17, but one of the last things He said was, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Jesus promised that in this world we will have tribulation. "Tribulation" is a big word that means "bad, sad, and painful things." There are a lot of bad things that happen in this world, but Jesus promised that even though bad things happen to us and around us in this world, that if we are living in Him, we will have peace.

What is peace? Peace happens when everything works together the right way. When our bodies are healthy and happy, we could say that our bodies have peace. When our minds are healthy and happy, we can say that our minds have peace. When our hearts are joyful and happy, we can say that our hearts are at peace.

Peace comes to us when God is in control of our minds, our hearts, and our bodies. Peace comes to the world around us when God is in control of everyone and everything in the world. Jesus told us that even when the world isn't at peace that we can have peace. Do you know how? Our peace comes directly from Jesus. Do you think that Jesus has peace? Yes! Yes, He does! Why does Jesus have peace? Jesus has peace because He has overcome the world.

What does it mean that Jesus has overcome the world? It means that Jesus is more powerful than Satan, sin, death, evil, and every other thing. Nothing is stronger than Jesus. Nothing can beat Jesus. Nothing can knock Jesus down. He is eternal life. He is eternal truth. He is power and wisdom of God. Nothing can stop Him. Nothing can change Him. Nothing compares to Him. That is peace. Jesus is our peace. Because Jesus wins, we, His children, win. Do you want to be on the winning side? Then be on Jesus' side!

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**Matthew 5:9**

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**

*Questions: Who is in control of your life? You or God? How can we help make peace in this world?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

<b>Rule</b>	<b>5/6 coed</b>	<b>7/8 g, 7/8 b</b>	<b>9-11 g</b>	<b>9-11 b</b>
Game time	36 min/6 periods	36 min/6 periods	36 min/6 periods	36 min/6 periods
Time between periods	1 min.	1 min.	1 min.	1 min.
Ball Size	25 in.	28 1/2 in.	28 1/2 in.	29 1/2 in.
Goal Height	8 feet	8 feet	9 feet	10 feet
Coaches on court	Yes	No	No	No
3 second violation	No	No	No	No
Full court press	No	No	No	No
Halftime	8 min.	8 min.	8 min.	8 min.
Time outs	No	No	No	No
Score is kept	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stealing of pass	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stealing of dribble	No	No	No	No
Double dribble called	No/Teach	Yes/teach	Yes	Yes
Block shots	No	No	Yes	Yes
Traveling called	No/Teach	Yes/teach	Yes	Yes
Fast breaks	No/Teach	Yes	Yes	Yes
Back court violations	No/Teach	No/Teach	No/Teach	No/Teach
Man to man Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Double teaming	No	No	No	No
Switch goals halftime	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ties allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fouls	No/teach	Yes/teach	Yes/turnover	Yes/turnover/6 fouls results in a foul out
Technical fouls	No	No	No	No
Play clock	No	No	No	No
Wristbands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Color System: <b>A</b> -player (Blue), <b>B</b> -player (Yellow), <b>C</b> -Player (Red) <b>D</b> -Player (Light Blue) <b>E</b> -player (Green)				
20 pt. diff score restart (halftime only)		Yes	Yes	Yes

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**