DATE: Wednesday, January 10, 2024

TO: YMCA Competitive Basketball Coaches & Parents

FROM: YMCA Sports Department

REGARDING: ANCHORAGE SPORTS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

This season, we will contract and use certified basketball officials from the Anchorage Sports Officials Association (ASOA). The YMCA of Alaska competitive basketball league is fortunate to continue a positive officiating relationship with ASOA. We need all COMPETITIVE COACHES AND PARENTS to be patient, understanding, and flexible this upcoming competitive basketball season. Officiating at this time of the year is very challenging. There continues to be a massive shortage of officials willing to officiate basketball in this community. The YMCA of Alaska will be secondary regarding scheduling for Anchorage School District high school and middle school basketball. In addition, ASOA is covering adult leagues and various leagues around the state of Alaska. The officials’ pool is very limited this time of the year.

As you can see by the list, many leagues and games are going on this time of the year; January through March is basketball-heavy. The reality is without officials; WE CAN’T HOST A COMPETITIVE BASKETBALL LEAGUE. The YMCA of Alaska is very excited to continue to work with ASOA to have the best league possible, with the understanding that there will be plenty of challenges throughout the competitive basketball season to fill games with officials. We may run into a few situations where only one official will be available to officiate a competitive basketball game this season or the possibility of having to reschedule games for a later date. Let’s hope not, but that may be the reality any time of the season. Remind any of your players who plan to play high school basketball that most officials who officiate YMCA games are also high school officials. It is to their advantage to start building a positive rapport and relationships with these officials they may see down the road or in the near future.

It’s no secret that negative behaviors from parents/fans and coaches during games have driven some officials to quit and not officiate anymore. We can’t afford to lose any officials this season. The YMCA of Alaska Competitive Basketball League will not tolerate negative coaching and fan behavior. Parents, coaches, or players may be suspended from the league for unacceptable behavior anytime during the season. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

We are looking forward to a tremendous competitive basketball season for everyone involved.

**Players Play, Coaches Coach, Officials Officiate, and Parents Cheer.**

**If anyone is interested in officiating and making some extra money in a flexible part-time opportunity, please contact Quincy Byrd (asoaschedule@gmail.com)**