

Nikkei Games 2009

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Overview

This year's Nikkei Games Youth and Adult 3-on-3 basketball tournament is being held on Saturday and Sunday, August 22 & 23, 2009 on the campus of California State University, Long Beach. This is the largest single-location basketball tournament in Southern California (over 1,400 participants last year) and is held in the beautiful Pyramid. This is a chance for boys and girls to play in a university gym. There may be four divisions, Gold, Silver, Bronze and perhaps Copper depending on the number of teams within an age group. The divisions are based on skill level and experience.

As for which division to play, it really depends on the boys' and girls' skill set and overall basketball experience as opposed to the 3-on-3 tournament format experience. We have found that if they are good ball handlers, shooters, hustlers, etc. (typically the kids that touch the ball a lot in a 5-on-5 game) they do well in the 3-on-3 format. Bronze and Copper divisions are usually for kids that are not starters, get some playing time, but lack the experience and perhaps skill at this stage to be strong, impact players. On a scale of 1 to 10, Copper are for 1-3; Bronze are 3-6; Silver are 6-8 and Gold are 8-10 type players based on skill set and experience.

The format is 3 to 4 players per team, nine-minute run-time games, half-court, and winning team after the nine minutes. Loser's out after each made basket and every change of possession requires the ball to be cleared to the 3-point line. Minimum of four games, all on the same day – either Saturday or Sunday. First three teams in each division receive medals (gold, silver and bronze like the Olympics). All players receive a T-shirt and Nikkei Games program book.

It's a different style and game than 5-on-5 full-court. All players get in the game; no "hiding" on the court. Emphasis is on man defense, give and go, and pick and rolls. The boys and girls that played in the past have had a great time in the tournament and have fun playing this unique format. It is fast paced and the players have a wonderful time regardless of their team's tournament performance.

Also, the tournament follows SEYO rules, so for 7 year olds and younger, the ball size is "slammer" ball (26.5") and the hoop height is 7 feet; 8 year olds, the ball size is slammer ball and the basket height is 8 feet; 9 year olds, the ball size is youth (27.5") and the basket height is 9 feet; 10-11 year old boys, women's ball and 10 ft hoop; 12 year old boys and up, men's ball, 10 ft hoop. Three point shot is available for 11 year olds and up. All ages are as of July 1, 2009 and grades are as of Fall 2009.

All applications are due July 1, 2009. We are pushing to get the applications in earlier. This year, we expect to firm the number of teams by age and division around late June, if not sooner. Last year, almost all divisions were closed by mid-July. Finally, there is a mandatory coaches meeting Friday, August 21, 7:00pm at Rancho Alamitos High School (11351 Dale St., Garden Grove) to review game rules, get t-shirts, coach pass, etc.

Remember our motto: "The Nikkei Games: Games for the Generations". We hope you will join us in sharing this dream and making the Nikkei Games something our grandchildren will be able to enjoy.

We know we can count on you in helping make the 2009 Nikkei Games the best ever.

Thank you for your support!

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