

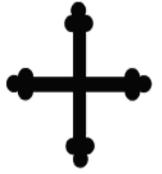


ORTHODOX YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

of Metropolitan Detroit

Founded 1960

Website: www.detroit-oyaa.org E-mail: contact@detroit-oyaa.org



2026 "PAN-ORTHODOX" BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Welcome to the **2026 "Pan-Orthodox" Basketball Tournament**, which will be held this year on the weekend of **March 13-15, 2026** in the metro-Detroit area. Except for a 2-year hiatus because of COVID, our Tournament has run every year since 1968. There will be six (6) divisions of play as follows:

		<u>Entry Fee</u>
BIDDY 'B':	Boys & Girls combined, 10 years & under (cannot be 11 prior to 3/16/26)	\$ 250.00
BIDDY 'A':	Boys & Girls combined, 12 years & under (cannot be 13 prior to 3/16/26)	\$ 300.00
JUNIOR BOYS:	Boys, 13-15 years old (cannot be 16 prior to 3/16/26)	\$ 325.00
INTERMEDIATES:	Boys, 16-18 years old (cannot be 19 prior to 3/16/26)	\$ 325.00
JUNIOR GIRLS*:	Girls, 13-18 years old (cannot be 19 prior to 3/16/26)	\$ 325.00
WOMEN'S*:	Open Division, Age 13 & Over (no pro or semi-pro)	\$ 325.00
SENIORS:	Men, no age limit (no pro or semi-pro)	\$ 350.00

**Junior Girls (age 13-18) only may play in both the Jr. Girls and Women's division if their church enters teams in both divisions.*

Fees for entry per division are noted above. Each team will be responsible for its own housing costs. Housing information and other particulars will be available upon request.

The Tournament will have a winners bracket and consolation bracket. Each team will be guaranteed a minimum of two (2) games. Individual and team awards will be distributed after each division's championship final game on Sunday. Each team will have prior notification as to the game starting times and location of first games no later than 48 hours prior to game time. All teams should be prepared to play on Friday afternoon or evening, March 13, 2026, although distance of travel will be given consideration. Games will be played at various different sites, all within 30-35 minutes of each other.

ELIGIBILITY RULES:

1. Every team entered must fully complete and return a roster on or before **March 1, 2026**. An entry fee **must** accompany each roster. Please also detach the enclosed registration form and send with all entry material. Checks should be made payable to **O.Y.A.A. Payments can also be made through Venmo or Zelle**. Mail all entry fees, rosters and team registration form to:

Dean Niforos
926 Lincoln
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
2. **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT:** It is required that *each team* entered in the Tournament complete one of the enclosed Registration, Release & Roster form. For participants under 18 years of age, their roster entry *must be* signed and date by a parent or legal guardian. Those over age 18 must sign for themselves. It will be assumed that the release has been read and understood prior to the signature being affixed. **THESE FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SENT WITH REGISTRATION MATERIAL PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT.**
3. **AGE VERIFICATION REQUIREMENT:** ALL players in **BIDDY, JUNIOR** and **INTERMEDIATE** divisions are required to have a photo-identification (school I.D., driver's license, passport) and a copy of their birth certificate. Any player who can't produce both documents on request by the Committee will be immediately ineligible.
4. ****** ELIGIBILITY RULES ****:** In order for a player to participate in the tournament, he/she must be a baptized Orthodox Christian and a member of an Orthodox Parish. Biddys, Juniors and Intermediates MUST PLAY FOR THEIR OWN PARISHES, or *** with their own ethnic group or church affiliation ***. Combined "all-star" youth teams involving multiple parish memberships and/or ethnic backgrounds **are not allowed**. Tournament Officials have the right to accept or deny any entry, and will handle all appeals – territorial & parish membership rights will be enforced.
5. Each team will be limited to twelve (12) players. Only individuals of amateur status are eligible.

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6. Each team will be limited to one coach and one manager. All others on the bench must be in uniform. Teams will designate one player as captain; only the coach or captain will be allowed to talk to officials during games.
 7. All teams **must have reversible matching jerseys with numbers**. No exceptions.
 8. For the tournament, Senior Division will play two 16 minute halves, with the clock stopping on shooting fouls, time outs and on every whistle the last 2 minutes of each half for all games, except winner's bracket semis and finals. The winner's bracket semis and finals will be stop clock on all whistles. All other divisions play four, 8 minute quarters, running clock except for time-outs, shooting fouls and every whistle the last 2 minutes of each half.
 9. **New Bonus Rules for Intermediates, Jr. Boys, Jr. Girls, Women's, Biddy A and Biddy B** – on the 5th team foul per quarter, the opposing team will shoot 2 free throws. Team fouls re-set each quarter. Seniors will still use bonus on 7th team foul and super bonus on 10th team foul rules.
 10. Individuals are eligible to play in ONE DIVISION ONLY and for ONE TEAM ONLY (except for Jr. Girls and Women's divisions).
 11. All teams need to bring their own basketballs for warm-ups. Balls **will not** be provided by the game sites.
 12. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to limit the number of entries. Entries will be accepted on the basis of earliest postmark. We expect to have an increase in teams this year, so don't wait to send in your entry.
 13. All participants are governed by the O.Y.A.A. "Players Code of Conduct" and "Managers Code of Conduct" which are provided in the tournament packet provided at your first game location.
 14. All players and coaches will be required to register with the Tournament Committee at their first game site in order to receive game schedules and Tournament Packets.
 15. Please see attached Basketball Rules including additional eligibility rules, as well as Playing Rules for Biddys and all other divisions.
 16. **ALL** GROUPS ATTENDING THE TOURNAMENT ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF TWO CHAPERONES AGE 25 OR OLDER **PER TEAM**. Any teams/individuals causing problems in the gyms, hotels or other facilities will be dealt with accordingly, including being expelled from this and future tournaments.
- ** Please note that during the Pan-Orthodox Tournament, **ALL WINNERS BRACKET SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL GAMES WILL BE STOP CLOCK ON ALL WHISTLES** (except for Biddy Bs – see Biddy rules).

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact any one of the following tournament officials:

Dean Niforos
(C) 313-418-6085

Adrian Paich
(C) 586-944-5032

You can visit our **WEBSITE** for more information (www.detroit-oyaa.org) or **E-MAIL** us with any questions (detroitoyaa@gmail.com).

** Please remember that the deadline for all rosters, registrations forms and fees is **March 1, 2026**. **

Sincerely,

PAN ORTHODOX TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Attachments: Registration, Housing & Contact Form, Release & Roster Form; Basketball Rules, Biddy Ball Rules

2025 "PAN-ORTHODOX" BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return promptly by **March 1, 2026** with a check for all registration fees and roster forms.

_____ Yes, we are interested this year.

_____ No, we are not interested this year.

If yes, enter number of teams you plan to enter in each division:

____ Senior ____ Intermediate ____ Jr Boy ____ Girls ____ Women's ____ Biddy A ____ Biddy B

Church Name & City: _____

Contact Person: _____

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone Number

Email Address (*required*)

Please attach this form to the team Registration, Roster & Release forms and mail to:
Dean Niforos, 926 Lincoln, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230 or email to detroitoyaa@gmail.com

Payment can also be made through our Venmo: @detroit-oyaa – or - Zelle using email detroitoyaa@gmail.com

PAN ORTHODOX TOURNAMENT Participant Housing & Contact Information Form

In order to make sure that we can contact you throughout the Tournament weekend, we need to have all of your possible contact information. On rare occasion, there may be a schedule or location change, and we need to be able to locate you.

Church/Team Name: _____

Name of Main Contact Person: _____ **Cell Phone #** _____

Name of Alternate Contact: _____ **Cell Phone #** _____

Hotel Name Where Team Will be Staying During the Tournament Weekend: _____

Hotel Location: _____ **Hotel Phone:** _____

Name of Person on the Hotel Reservation: _____

ORTHODOX YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

BASKETBALL RULES – PAN ORTHODOX TOURNAMENT

The league consists of six (6) divisions as follows:

BIDDY 'A':	Boys & Girls combined, ages 11-12 only (<i>cannot be 13 prior to 3/16/26</i>)
BIDDY 'B':	Boys & Girls combined, ages 9-10 only (<i>cannot be 11 prior to 3/16/26</i>).
JUNIOR BOYS:	13-15 years old (<i>cannot turn 16 before 3/16/2026</i>)
INTERMEDIATE BOYS:	16-18 years old (<i>cannot turn 19 before 3/16/2026</i>)
GIRL'S OPEN*:	Open Division – age 13 & above suggested.
JUNIOR GIRLS*:	13-18 years old (<i>cannot turn 19 before 3/16/2026</i>)
SENIOR MEN:	18 years and older - no upper age limit (no pro or semi-pro)

**Junior Girls (age 13-19) only may play in both the Jr. Girls and Women's division if their church enters teams in both divisions.*

Eligibility:

1. Players must be baptized Eastern Orthodox Christians and a member of an Orthodox parish. Players must play for his/her own parish if they have a team entered in the league/tournament.
2. Only individuals of amateur status are eligible.
3. Each team is limited to one coach and one manager. All others on the bench must be in uniform.
4. Teams will designate one player as captain; only the captain and/or the coach will be allowed to talk to the officials during the playing of the game.
5. All teams **must wear matching shirts with numbers.** It will be expected that all players will keep their uniform shirts tucked in during the games. This will be enforced by the league and officials.
6. All participants are governed by the O.Y.A.A. "Players Code of Conduct" and the "Managers Code of Conduct".
7. Rosters and Registration & Release Forms for each player must be completed, signed and received by the OYAA to participate.
8. All registration material must be received prior to the deadline in order for a team to be scheduled.
9. Players are required to remove all jewelry prior to game time. This includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets, watches and rings. This will be enforced by officials.
10. Players are eligible to participate for only one (1) team during the season or Tournament (except for Jr. Girls). Any player participating with any other team will cause the team to forfeit the game(s) in which he/she plays.

Playing Rules:

All games will be played under Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) rules except as noted otherwise.

1. Intermediates, Jr. Boys, Girls, Women's & Biddys divisions will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters. Seniors will play two 16 minute halves. Clock will stop only for shooting fouls and time-outs. The last two (2) minutes of each half, the clock will stop for all whistles. FOR ALL PAN ORTHODOX TOURNAMENT WINNERS BRACKET SEMI-FINAL AND FINALS GAMES, CLOCK WILL STOP ON ALL WHISTLES (except for Biddys – see Bidy rules).
2. Overtime is 4 minutes in length. Overtime is running clock except for the last minute, which is stop clock on all whistles.
3. Alternating possession rule applies.
4. Three-point shot applies in all gyms with appropriate markings.
5. **For Intermediates Boys, Jr. Boys, Jr. Girls, Bidy A, Bidy B and Bidy C-** Beginning with the 5th team foul per quarter, the opposing team will shoot two (2) free throws. Team fouls re-set each quarter. **For Seniors playing 16-minute halves -** Bonus free throw begins on the seventh (7) team foul of each half. Beginning with the tenth (10) team foul in each half, team automatically shoots two (2) free throws (superbonus).
6. All technical fouls also count as personal fouls and will be applied to your team fouls. Two (2) technical fouls is an ejection from the game. Two ejections in a season will result in being expelled for the remainder of the season and tournament.
7. A player, coach or manager removed from a game by an official, or through technical fouls, will be subject to discipline from the league including suspension from participating in future games.
8. Five minutes after game time is forfeit time. Teams must have five (5) players dressed in uniform on the floor and ready to play when the official blows the whistle -- unless OYAA deems otherwise.
9. Girls division will use the smaller (285) ball.
10. Four full (4) time-outs per game at the coach's option.
11. **NO DUNKING** allowed at any time. A technical foul will be assessed and any made basket will be waived off.
12. O.Y.A.A. RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RULE ON ALL CONTROVERSIES.

ORTHODOX YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

BIDDY BALL RULES

The Bidly Division stresses skill development, learning the game and sportsmanship.

Biddy ('A') Division is for boys & girls, ages 11-12 only. Players outside these age guidelines, whose skills and physical ability allow them to compete, can be included on the roster but only if the Exception to Guidelines Form has been approved the OYAA. Players cannot be 13 during the season or Tournament. Recommend a minimum of eight players per team. Players **cannot** play in more than one division or for more than one team. **Rules:**

1. Games will consist of four(4) eight (8) minute quarters. Clock will stop only for shooting fouls and time-outs. The last two (2) minutes of each half, the clock will stop for all whistles. Alternate possession rule applies. If the game ends in a tie, **one** overtime period, lasting 3 minutes, will be played. In the Tournament, all games are played in the same format as the season except for the Bidly A Tournament Final – this game is stop clock on all whistles.
2. Bidly A Division **does not** allow full court pressing or half-court trapping (at any time).
3. After inbounding the ball, the ball **must** be advanced across the half-court line within 10 seconds.
4. When the score exceeds 20 points differential, the higher score will not be kept on the scoreboard until the other team gets within 12 points - then higher score will continue. Official score will still be kept in the scorebook.
5. A **five-second rule** in the lane applies (officials are encouraged to tell players to leave this area rather than call this violation on the first offense).
6. Two time-outs per half - non-accumulative. One additional 30-second time out can be used in either half. **Any time-out taken starting with the 4th quarter must be inbounded at the half-court line, and only entered into the front-court.**
7. Personal fouls are recorded and five (5) personal fouls results in disqualification. **Beginning with the 5th team foul per quarter, the opposing team will shoot two (2) free throws. Team fouls re-set each quarter.** Any technical foul called against a Bidly A player may result in automatic disqualification.
8. Special bidly sized ball (285) is used. Bidly A plays games on 10" rim and generally on a full-court.
9. **Season Rule:** All players dressed **must** play in each half. **For Tournament Only** - Coaches are encouraged to play all players during the game but have the discretion to play and substitute players as necessary. Coaches are encouraged to match up players when substituting.
10. Sportsmanship lines must be held at the conclusion of each game - coaches, players and parents should encourage team fraternization and Orthodox fellowship. Coaches will be held fully responsible for ensuring this occurs.
11. Any coach or player (or parent causing a disturbance) who receives a technical foul will automatically be placed on probation pending review of the incident by the OYAA. If any action is to be taken, it will be done so prior to the next contest by written notification.
12. All rules governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) except where noted above.
13. The O.Y.A.A. reserves the right to rule on all controversies.

Biddy ('B') Division is for boys & girls, ages 9-10 only. Players outside these age guidelines, whose skills and physical ability allow them to compete, can be included on the roster but only if the Exception to Guidelines Form has been approved the OYAA. Recommend a minimum of eight players per team. Players **cannot** play in more than one division or for more than one team. **Rules:**

1. Games will consist of four(4) eight (8) minute quarters. Clock will stop only for shooting fouls and time-outs. The last two (2) minutes of each half, the clock will stop for all whistles. Alternate possession rule applies. If the game ends in a tie, **one** overtime period, lasting 3 minutes, will be played in the Tournament only.
2. Bidly B Division **does not** allow full court pressing or half-court trapping (at any time).
3. After inbounding the ball, the ball **must** be advanced across the half-court line within 10 seconds.
4. When the score exceeds 20 points differential, the higher score will not be kept on the scoreboard until the other team gets within 12 points - then higher score will continue. Official score will still be kept in the scorebook.
5. A **five-second rule** in the lane applies (officials are encouraged to tell players to leave this area rather than call this violation on the first offense).
6. Two time-outs per half - non-accumulative. One additional 30-second time out can be used in either half. **Any time-out taken starting with the 4th quarter must be inbounded at the half-court line, and only entered into the front-court.**
7. Personal fouls are recorded and five (5) personal fouls results in disqualification. **Beginning with the 5th team foul per quarter, the opposing team will shoot two (2) free throws. Team fouls re-set each quarter. Free throws are shot from a line one foot in front of the regular free throw line.**
8. Any technical foul called against a Bidly player may result in automatic disqualification.
9. Special bidly sized ball (285) is used. Bidly B plays games on 10" rim and usually on a shortened (side-to-side) court.
10. **Season Rule:** All players dressed **must** play in each half. **For Tournament Only** - Coaches are encouraged to play all players during the game but have the discretion to play and substitute players as necessary. Coaches are encouraged to match up players when substituting.
11. Sportsmanship lines must be held at the conclusion of each game - coaches, players and parents should encourage team fraternization and Orthodox fellowship. Coaches will be held fully responsible for ensuring this occurs.
12. Any coach or player (or parent causing a disturbance) who receives a technical foul will automatically be placed on probation pending review of the incident by the OYAA. If any action is to be taken, it will be done so prior to the next contest by written notification.
13. All rules governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) except where noted above.
14. The O.Y.A.A. reserves the right to rule on all controversies.