



2023-2024
Player and Parent Handbook

(Revised 8/16/2023)



Welcome to the 2023-2024 Reno Ballers season. Our goal is to provide each player with the highest quality experience we can. Our hope is that every player improves to his or her ability during the course the season, and that all players learn important life-lessons that will stay with them and help guide your future.

The Reno Ballers Player and Parent Handbook is designed to inform you about what it means to be part of the Ballers program; our schedules, expectations, and rules; and define the roles of the Reno Ballers coaches, as well as the role of the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows and its Reno Ballers Administrator.

The program, which began in the late 1990s under BGCTM management, has always utilized the great facilities made available to Reno Ballers at the East Ninth Street location, *free of charge* (it's estimated the gym time would cost \$35,000 over the course of a season)! The support of the BGCTM over the past 20+ years has allowed Reno Ballers to remain the lowest cost club program in town at \$300 a year! At a time when club sports costs into the thousands of dollars, Reno Ballers is an affordable, extraordinary experience for players.

Our goal remains to teach all players the skills necessary to become a high school basketball player. In return, we ask each player to commit to their own future and to the Ballers “family” by pledging to attend all Reno Baller practices (including Saturday morning ball-handling) and all scheduled tournaments; to do their best by practicing and playing at their highest level; and by demonstrating their appreciation for this opportunity to their parents, coaches, and to the Reno Ballers organization.

Should you have any questions about on-the-court issues, either as a player or parent, please speak directly with your coach to reach a resolution. If necessary, the BGCTM's Reno Ballers Administrator will assist in reaching an amical agreement.

History of Reno Ballers

Reno Ballers is the premier youth basketball program in Reno and Sparks, offering high-quality basketball development and competition. Each year, hundreds of area youth are exposed to the great game of basketball, and taught important life-lessons about sportsmanship, responsibility, and hard work by knowledgeable and proven coaches who want to ensure all players receive the training experience they deserve. Thousands of players have passed through the Reno Ballers program, with many moving on to successful high school and college careers.

Reno Ballers utilizes the BGCTM's Donald W. Reynolds facility, located at 2680 E. Ninth Street, for all practices.

2023-2024 Season Overview

- The Reno Ballers program begins on Saturday, September 16th, with our Baller Kickoff and Team Registration Day.
- Our season runs from October through May, culminating in a three-day final tournament for the year in Reno on Memorial Day weekend.
- The season concludes the first Saturday in June (June 3, 2024) with the Ballers Extravaganza, which is held at the Donald W. Reynolds facility.

Reno Ballers Team Head Coach Duties:

- *All Reno Baller teams are coached by volunteers. That's right, each volunteers his/her time for nine months and countless hours to help develop your player.*
- Coaches must complete BGCTM Volunteer paperwork and background check prior to working with players.
- Run organized and active practices designed to develop players' individual skills and abilities, as well as team concepts and principles.
- Ensure all players have a chance to learn through game competition when the player meets the necessary skills development to do so.
- Perform grade checks at the end of each grading period (quarter/semester). Players who achieve a GPA of at least 4.0 receive a special Ballers Classroom Champion T-shirt.

BGCTM Ballers Administrator Duties:

- Recruit, interview, hire, assign, and manage volunteer coaches.
- Develop practice schedule with the assistance of Baller coaches.
- Communicate necessary information to Baller players and parents.
- Maintain Baller website information by communicating relevant updates to BGCTM Director of Marketing.
- Serve as point person for player and parent issues that cannot be resolved at the team level.
- Develop and have oversight of overall budget.
 - Serve as treasurer (collections) and controller (pay bills).
 - Work with BGCTM Membership Coordinator to ensure player registrations (BGCTM Registration form and Ballers Information sheet), and all applicable fees are collected and deposited.
- Order uniforms and equipment.

- Be the lead communicator with Hardwood Palace personnel. NOTE: Coaches will make contact for their individual team registrations in a particular tournament.

Requirements to Become a Reno Ballers Member:

- Complete and submit a BGCTM Registration Form and pay the \$20 BGCTM annual membership (June 1-May 31) fee.
- Complete and submit a Reno Ballers Registration Form and pay the \$300 annual Reno Baller fee. Additional family members who are accepted pay \$175 each.
NOTE: Forms must be submitted at the time of registration. Full payment may be completed at time of registration, or be paid in full by no later than October 22, 2021, unless otherwise authorized by the BGCTM Reno Ballers Administrator. NOTE: Players are not be allowed to complete in tournaments or receive a uniform until payment in full (or as dictated through a financial agreement) is completed.
- Maintain good grades in school.

NOTE: Financial assistance is available to those who qualify. Those seeking financial assistance must contact BGCTM Membership Coordinator at E. Ninth Street, who will set-up a meeting and provide the information necessary to meet the requirements. *Failure to schedule and attend that meeting and/or failure to provide timely agreed upon payments may cause suspension or dismissal.*

Website and Communications

The exclusive website of the Reno Ballers is <http://www.bgctm.org/programs/athletics/reno-ballers-basketball>. The website contains all fixed information, including:

- Reno Ballers FAQs
- 2023-24 Reno Ballers flier
- 2023-24 Reno Ballers Player Information Sheet
- 2023-24 BGCTM Registration Form
- 2023-24 Reno Ballers Handbook
- 2023-24 Practice Schedule
- 2023-24 Tourney Schedule

Information about practice or tournament changes, cancelations, or other team issues are issued by the coach of your player's team. If an issue concerns all players, the BGCTM Reno Ballers Administrator will send a group email to the address(s) you provided. NOTE: *BGCTM Membership Desk staff and or other BGCTM staff may not be aware of any such changes.*

\$300 Annual Fee: What it Helps Cover:

- Team competition reversible jersey, team playing shorts, and long-sleeve Shooting T-shirt.
- Travel tournament entry fees.

- In some instances, a team coach may decide to play in more tournaments that allowed by our budget. In those cases, the coach will approach players and parents about any additional fees.

NOTE: Added travel tournaments outside the normal scope may result in additional fees.

Commitment to Reno Ballers

Athletes who wish to be part of Reno Ballers must agree to make a strong commit in terms of participation, including attending scheduled practices and Saturday morning ball-handling sessions when team is not playing in a tournament, and working at a level to develop the skills necessary to compete at a high level of competition.

Baller players must be committed to play **ONLY** with the Reno Ballers, and not for any other club **Basketball** team during their time as a member of the Reno Ballers.

Players are not precluded from participation in other sport programs. Reno Ballers staff is happy to work with multi-sport athletes to develop a schedule that will allow the athlete to participate in Reno Ballers and other sports and activities.

Teams

Players will initially be placed on the appropriate age group team. All players are afforded the opportunity to prove they have the necessary skills to compete in tournaments. Each age group may have multiple teams, all of which may compete in tournaments.

Boys Travel Teams:

- 3rd/4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade
- 7th Grade
- 8th Grade

Girls Travel Teams

- 3rd/4th Grade
- 5th/6th Grade
- 7th/8th Grade

Practice Schedules

All teams have two weekday practices, and all players are required to attend ball-handling practices on Saturday mornings 8:00-10:00 am at E. Ninth Street when they are not out of town participating in a tournament. The Saturday morning ball-handling sessions have been a backbone of Ballers since its inception and one of the reasons for the program's long-standing success.

Practice schedule:

Monday-Thursday 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm / Saturday Morning Ball Handling 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Monday/Wednesday

3-4 Boys Small Gym @ 6:00 pm
3-4 Girls Big Gym @ 6:00 pm
7th Boys Big Gym @ 6:00 pm
5th Boys Big Gym @ 7:30 pm
6th Boys Big Gym or Small Gym @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday/Thursday

5-6th Girls Small Gym @ 6:00 pm
15U Boys Big Gym @ 6:00 pm
7-8 Girls Big Gym @ 7:30 pm
Intermediate Boys and Girls Small Gym @ 7:30 pm

Important Dates

- Sept. 16th, Ballers formation day
- Practices starting Sept. 25th
- Optional Practices Oct. 1-7
- No practice Nov. 19th-25th
- No practice Dec. 22nd-Jan. 6th
- Season Ends May 27th
- Ballers Extravaganza June 1st

*Season traditionally ends on Memorial Day weekend.

Expectations of Players

Appreciate that it is a privilege to be part of the Reno Ballers. Respect your coaches and teammates at all times, and thank your parents for the opportunity they are providing. Support and encourage all Reno Baller players.

Reno Ballers is a BGCTM program. Being a member of the Club, all Ballers are encouraged to use their membership to be a part of Club after-school and summer programs. If Baller players need to arrive at the Club earlier than 5:30 pm, they may register for and participate in age-appropriate BGCTM programs until practice begins. ***Otherwise, players are not permitted to enter the facility prior to 5:30 for their scheduled practice. Failure to adhere to this may cause the team or player to lose practice privileges. All players and parents must enter the facility through the west parking lot glass doors. Coaches may open the attached vestibule area on coldevenings to allow players to wait inside until their scheduled practice time.***

Please be respectful of the facility and ensure the gyms and bathrooms are left clean, with all trash being disposed of, and that all equipment, including balls, are returned to the Ball Closet/ Tubes ***and locked after every practice.***

Finally, be respectful of BGCTM staff at all times, as they are the people making this facility available to you!

Expectations of Parents

First, thank you for the commitment you have made by having your player participate in the Ballers program. It takes as much commitment from the parents as it does from the player to make this work!

Just so you know, **our team coaches are all volunteers**. We select the best coaches available, all of whom have the experience and knowledge to effectively lead their teams and improve your player's individual abilities and skills. We strive to respect all our players and provide them the best opportunity to succeed.

It's important that we have open lines of communication; however, this is not a recreational activity, but one with high expectations and requirements that must be adhered to and followed by all Ballers members, players, parents, and coaches.

Our hope is that we will all support each other, both on and off the court. But, with a nine month season, including lots of tournament play, we are not always going to agree on what's best for the team and/or your player. Disagreements are a natural part of life; it's how you deal with such disagreements that makes the difference.

If you have any issue, please be sure to voice your concerns to the person or people who can help resolve that issues. But timing in doing so is also imperative. You should always start with you team's coach. If the issue cannot be amicably resolved at that level, the BGCTM Reno Baller Administrator may be used to help reach an agreement.

24-Hour Rule

We would appreciate your adherence to the **"24 hour rule," which essentially is that if you have an issue, please refrain from approaching any coach on practice days at the Boys & Girls Club or on travel trips (from the time we leave to the time we return).** We all know we tend to lose perspective without time to thoughtfully review the matter. Further, the coach is busy with the entire team at a practice or tournament and does not have time to focus on one player or parents issue(s) during such. Questions about playing time, coaching time, playing patterns, other players, etc. should be addressed by scheduling a time outside of the practice or tournament schedule to meet with the coach and/or Reno Ballers Administrator.

We are sure that you would not like us discussing issues with your player with others, so please afford us the same courtesy.

Practices

Baller practices are open to parents; however, if you choose to stay and watch practices you are asked to respect the teams time together and not to interact with your player during practice at any time.

Tournaments

When attending tournaments, focus on the positives of the game and encourage, not criticize your player, his/her coach, the program, or the other players.

It can be confusing to players during games or practices when parents coach from the sidelines. The players need to focus on the instruction of the coach while attending Baller functions. Of course, you can spend time with your player away from Baller functions and work with them on areas where you can assist their development, but hopefully, you are teaching the same skills the Baller program is emphasizing. Again, this can be very confusing to players if you are teaching them something different than his/her coach.

If your child is unhappy or doesn't understand something about Ballers, please encourage him/her to speak to the coach. Athletes who can stand on their own and articulate their questions and issues are more likely to have their opinions heard and valued.

When traveling, we do not want alcohol to be prevalent around the players. While we are all adults, we ask parents to use discretion involving alcohol during trips.

Behavior

As a parent, you are part of the Ballers family and represent our club while in the stands at tournaments. Inappropriate behavior at practices and/or tournaments is grounds for dismissal from the program. Again, we're all here for the players benefit. Anything that distracts from that mission is not acceptable.

Volunteering

We *expect* parents and players to volunteer throughout the year, as needed. We also host a tournament at our Boys & Girls Club facilities in mid-March, during which will need volunteer support:

- Scorekeeping
- Concessions
- Set-up
- Breakdown

Tournaments, Travel Rules, and Travel Information.

Traveling to tournaments is the highlight of the program. Although winning is important, there are many life-lessons a player learns by participating in team sports that are even more important.

Reno Ballers teams travel to the Sacramento area to play predominantly in one-day tournaments (Will be looking to do more over night trips) at the Hardwood Palace ([1091 Tinker Road, Rocklin](#)), participate in several large multi-day tournaments hosted in the Reno area, and play in local Reno/Sparks area tournaments.

Players are invited to play on Travel Teams; meaning not all players are guaranteed to travel to all tournaments. Players are invited to travel to tournaments based on their practice commitment and demonstrated hard work.

Individual team tournament schedules are established by the head coach of that team in conjunction with the BGCTM Reno Ballers Administrator. Coaches submit a request for dates to travel to be approved by the Ballers Administrator. As much as possible, we try to have all Ballers teams play on the same date to build unity and bonding.

Each Ballers team travels to play in one overnight, two-day tournament, usually in the Northern California area. During these scheduled overnight tournaments, player rooms are provided as part of our registration fee.

Playing time while at tournaments is at the discretion of the coach; however, Reno Ballers believes all players should have the opportunity to exhibit their skills and gain from the valuable experience of playing in such tournaments if they have earned that time.

As at practices, players are to be respectful of coaches, teammates, parents, and other hotel guests while on trips. You are representing the Reno Ballers program and the great reputation we have built over many years!

Room Assignments during Overnight Tournament

- We are guests of the hotel, but not the only guests. Be courteous to other hotel guests, including not running through halls, screaming down a hallway, being too loud in your room, etc.
- The maids don't work for you, they work for the hotel! Keep your room orderly and clean so the maids can do their jobs.
- Rooming assignments are the sole discretion of the coach. Under no circumstances are players allowed to change rooming assignments for any reason without the consent of the coach.
- Players are expected to stay in their rooms with their teammates, not with their parents. If accommodation changes are necessary, it is the parent's obligation to speak with the coach and gain his/her consent.
- Players are not to use their in-room phone unless it is to call their coach, teammates, or his/her parents. Do not use the phone to harass or tease players or other hotel guests.
- Players should never watch inappropriate programs on their television. If you have a roommate that ignores this rule, alert your coach or parent.

Team Functions at Overnight Tournament

This is not a family vacation, it is a Ballers tournament trip. Players are required to attend all functions with their team. This includes eating meals, staying in their rooms, and other scheduled or unscheduled activities as decided by the coach.

Expenses

Whether a one-day over and back, or the scheduled overnight trip, parents are required to cover player meals and other incidental expenses. Players traveling without a parent may ask their coach to hold their money for safekeeping.

When staying overnight, we typically stay at hotels where the morning breakfast is included in the cost of the room. Players should be prepared to pay for lunches, dinners, snacks (including drinks), and any other incidentals.

What to Bring

Players should learn to perform a "head-to-toe" check of what they are packing to ensure nothing is missing, including:

- Basketball shoes
- Socks
- Ankle wraps or other such devices.

- Uniform
- Shooting Shirt/Sweats
- Swimsuit (when appropriate)
- Change of clothes evening
- Toiletries
- Pajamas
- Money for meals/snacks/drinks/video games/etc.

The Ballers program is not responsible for lost or stolen items. So, use your discretion when allowing your player to bring iPods, PSPs, video games, etc.

Expected Behavior

- Players are not allowed outside of their rooms after curfew. Coaches establish the curfew time for their team.
- During team meals, no cell phone use is permitted.
- Players should not call the hotel for deliveries or services without their coach's approval.
- Players must keep the interior latch on their door latched when in their rooms.
- Players must adhere to the Buddy Rule: never allowed to leave room without one or all of the roommates, including leaving the room to visit parents. Players must inform their coach if he/she plan to go off their designated floor for any reason.
- When at the pool, players are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.
- Fighting, "panting," stealing, and lying is not tolerated and may result in dismissal from the program.

Consequences

Violation of the rules could result in:

- Loss of travel rights.
- Loss of privileges of staying with teammates and being required to stay with their parents at the parent's expense.
- Loss of playing time.
- Dismissal from the program.

All consequences are at the discretion of the coach and the BGCTM Ballers Administrator. The coach or Ballers Administrator may enact other consequences, as necessary.

Ballers Extravaganza

Our major fundraiser of the year is the annual Reno Ballers Extravaganza, a much-anticipated event that highlights the successes of the program and recognizes players, parents, coaches, and community leaders who have played an exceptional role in making Reno Ballers all it can be for all members. The event is entirely volunteer-driven, thus necessitating parent participation. The revenue from the Reno Ballers Extravaganza covers all of the program expenses that are not met through the \$300 annual registration fee.

The 2023-24 Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024. Every player (family) is expected to not only participate in the Extravaganza, but to also obtain and/or provide a donation in the form of a basket with a value of at least \$50 to be included in a Silent Auction. We recognize that some players and families may not have the resources to make a donation to the program; however, every player and/or parent is capable of soliciting some sort of a donation, whether it is an item to be auctioned off at the Extravaganza or a cash donation.

Donations, including gift baskets, may be provided to the BGCTM at any time throughout the season, but must be received by no later than May 7, 2024.

The success of the Reno Ballers program and its financial stability is directly linked to the success of the Extravaganza. Therefore, no player is excluded from participation. To be able to provide the extraordinary experience players receive at such a low annual cost requires us to raise a minimum of \$20,000 each year through the Extravaganza.

Each Ballers team is assigned a specific part of the event, including but not limited to:

- Ticket and table sales
- Silent and live auction organization (8th grade teams)
- Set-up
- Decorating
- Alcohol serving
- Clean-up
- Sales of Baller gear

Each team is responsible for the donation of at least one “live” auction item with a value of \$500 or more, and to secure program sponsor ads totaling at least \$250.

- Inside front cover \$500
- Back Cover \$500
- Full page ad \$250 (four available)
- Half-page ad \$125 (eight available)

Donations are accepted at any time throughout the year.