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**Basketball
Ireland**

PRIMARY
SCHOOLS | **Mini
Basketball**

#greenmeansgo



The background of the page is a photograph of two young boys in a gymnasium. One boy in a blue jersey is jumping high to reach for a basketball, while another boy in a red jersey is also jumping towards the ball. The basketball is suspended in the air above them. The text 'PRIMARY SCHOOLS | Mini Basketball Contents' is overlaid on the top left of the image. A green diagonal bar is on the left side of the page.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS | Mini Basketball Contents



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Introduction

PRIMARY SCHOOLS | Mini Basketball



Primary Schools Mini Basketball is a schools' sport programme, which enables children to learn, play, and enjoy basketball in an educational environment.

The programme complements the NCCA Primary Curriculum Framework and current thinking around the increasingly important concept of Physical Literacy. It also aligns closely with the Government's current National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027.

Most importantly, it can contribute to the child's physical, emotional, social and ethical development.

Underpinning values of Primary Schools Mini Basketball

- Emphasises the importance of learning, playing and enjoyment over winning
- A child-centred game equally suitable for boys and girls of all standards
- Teachers are empowered to deliver the programme
- Children are encouraged to understand and appreciate playing, refereeing and table officiating, particularly in the Mini 3x3 game
- Children learn 'in' movement, 'through' movement, and 'about' movement, and to self-evaluate progress

Key features

- It's indoor and outdoor – can be played in nearly every schoolyard
- Uses modified equipment including a size 5 basketball, lower 2.6m (8.5 ft.) baskets for 10-year-olds and younger, and adult 3.05m (10ft) baskets for 11 and 12-year-olds
- Equal opportunity for all to participate in each game, through the 4 v 4 (game of six periods), 5 v 5 (game of four quarters) and Mini 3x3 formats
- A variety of event options including: Just Play, Leagues, Tournaments and Festivals (see formats section)
- Showcases suitable learning activities for the PE lesson
- An appropriate balance in emphasis between participation, learning and competition

Mini Basketball and Physical Literacy

The current Government National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027, lists the components of Physical Literacy as fundamental motor/movement skills (which includes fundamental sports skills), physical behaviour, physical fitness, knowledge, awareness and understanding.

Mini Basketball cultivates and develops locomotor skills and object control skills, running (forwards and backwards) hopping, jumping for height, dodging, side stepping, landing, balancing, catching, passing, bouncing, striking with the hand (dribbling), all of which are promoted by Oide on <https://www.scoilnet.ie/> (the Department of Education's) portal for teachers and schools as fundamental motor/movement skills. The child also learns important team skills, such as cooperation with teammates, game sense, passing, creating and using space, and defending.

It is widely accepted that Mini Basketball helps develop fundamental motor/movement skills and sports specific skills that are transferable to other sports.



Approach to competition

Like all primary school sport, Mini Basketball largely occurs during school time. As such, it is important that inter-school competitions and events align with the ethos of the NCCA Primary Curriculum Framework.

So, to the extent that Mini Basketball is a competitive game, it emphasises the positive aspects of competition, such as the incentive to improve and develop individually, and as part of a team. It also seeks to avoid the negative aspects of competition for children, such as playing the best players only, inclusion of excessively complex tactics, early elimination structures, and trying to win matches at the expense of the child's development and enjoyment. Where trophies and medals are awarded, this should be done judiciously and not over-emphasised.

It is a prerequisite that Mini Basketball avoids selecting the elite players only, as they often may be early developers, or have had extra access to sport outside school. Rejecting other interested and committed children may lead to developing a poor sense of self-worth and furthermore might even dissuade them from further participation in sport and physical activity.

5 v 5 with Four Quarters

The traditional Mini Basketball game, which started in Ireland in 1973.

- Minimum ten and maximum twelve players
- Four quarters with all children playing in at least one and preferably in two quarters.



4 v 4 with Six Periods

- A variation to encourage more spacing, less bunching and more fundamental movement
- 12 players essential
- Six periods, where all children must play in two periods

Mini 3x3

Based on the adult 3x3 game, which has seen a surge in popularity worldwide, since its introduction as an Olympic sport. One basket, six players per team, three playing & three refereeing, scorekeeping and timekeeping. All rotating.



Primary School Mini Basketball in practice

Within the PE lesson, particularly as a focus of a PE unit of work

Mini Basketball offers a wide variety of movement, ball handling, shooting, dribbling, group, individual and partner activities suitable for the PE lesson, particularly through Mini 3x3.

As part a Primary School Sport/Extra-Curricular programme

Tournaments

- All teams should receive the same number of matches to ensure maximum participation. This works best in an eight or six-team tournament, played on two courts. At the end of the Pool matches, a rank order 1 to 4 for each Pool in a two Pools of four format, or a rank order 1 to 3 in a two Pools of three format, is set out. The final matches involve the 1's, 2's, 3's and - if applicable - the 4's playing their opposites. Variations can work for four and five-team tournaments. Team trophies are generally presented to the 1 v 1 winners and runners-up
- In 'Just Play' tournaments, scores are not recorded, leaving children free to play under less pressure
- Mini 3x3 tournaments which can accommodate two teams of six children per basket

Leagues

- Normally organised on a home and away basis. Teams should be involved for as long as possible and leagues should avoid eliminating teams early on and ideally not at all
- A particularly successful approach has involved local clusters early on, with all teams then getting an appropriate final, where the winning team may be awarded a trophy (but this is not essential)
- Mini-Basketball is particularly suitable for internal school leagues

Festivals/Jamborees

Children from different schools play as school teams, or form new combination teams and take part in skills sessions and possibly competitive matches.



General Points

- Child protection is of paramount importance and there must be full compliance with school policies and Government legislation
- The adult referee in Mini Basketball has a major role in the education of the children. While the referee must apply the rules, it is important that the children learn from the experience. A good Mini Basketball referee strikes a balance between protecting skill and explaining why a call is made



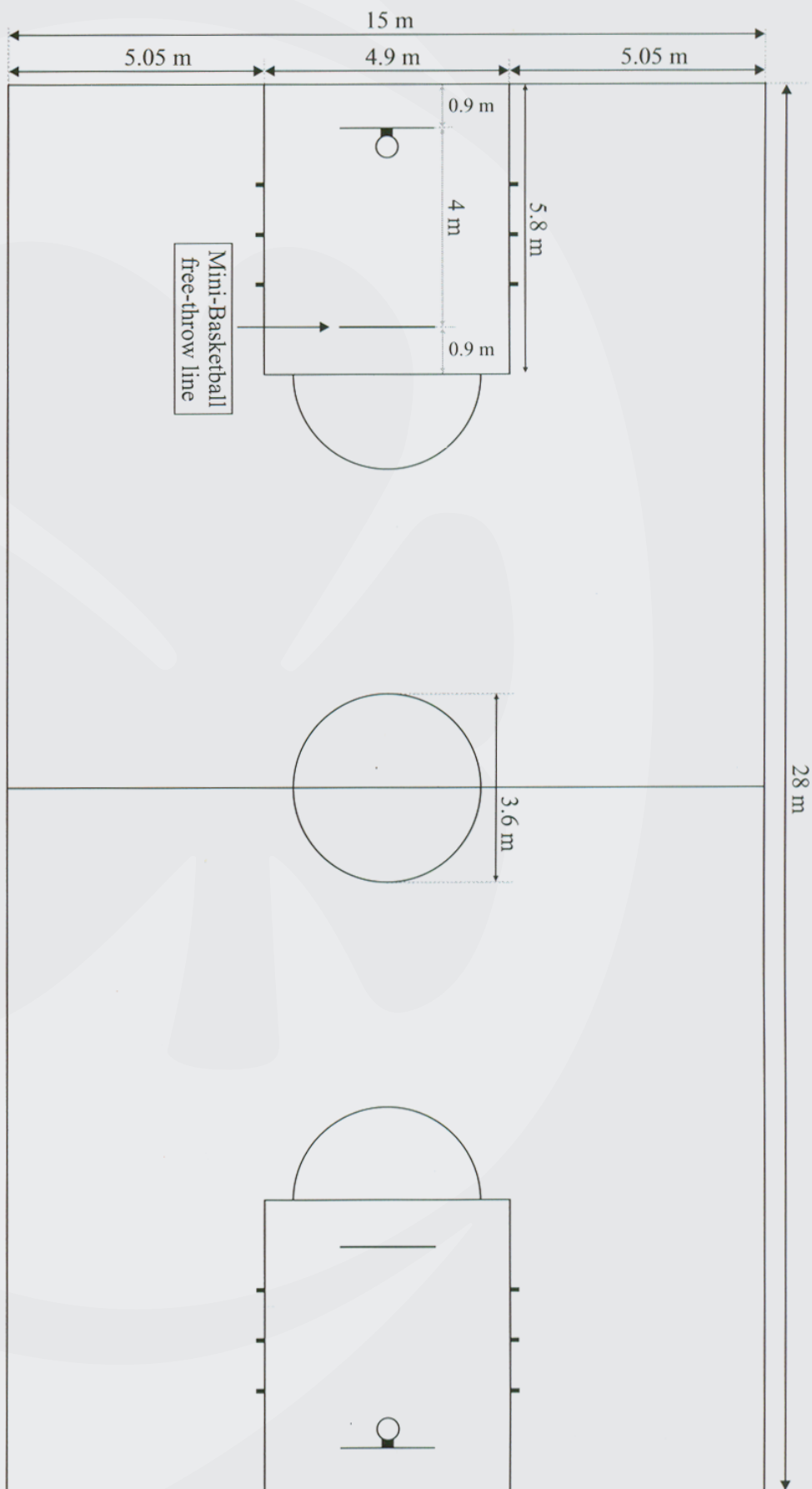
Equipment (See diagrams for illustration)

- The size 5 (maximum) ball should be used, with smaller sized balls for lower classes to encourage better learning outcomes and for safety reasons
- Some schools have found that it is safer to provide 3.05m (10ft) high baskets, to avoid having older children and teenagers swinging out of the lower baskets
- It is very important to have a safe distance (overhang) between the backboard and the supporting stand or wall, to allow for moving under the basket after a lay-up shot
- Some manufacturers provide baskets which can be adjusted for both the 3.05m (10ft) and 2.6m (8.5 ft.) heights. These work particularly well indoors
- Wall mounted units (noting the overhang) and portable baskets are also available from manufacturers
- Padding on supporting poles should be provided
- The following diagrams are provided as a guideline only. Local conditions may warrant modifications

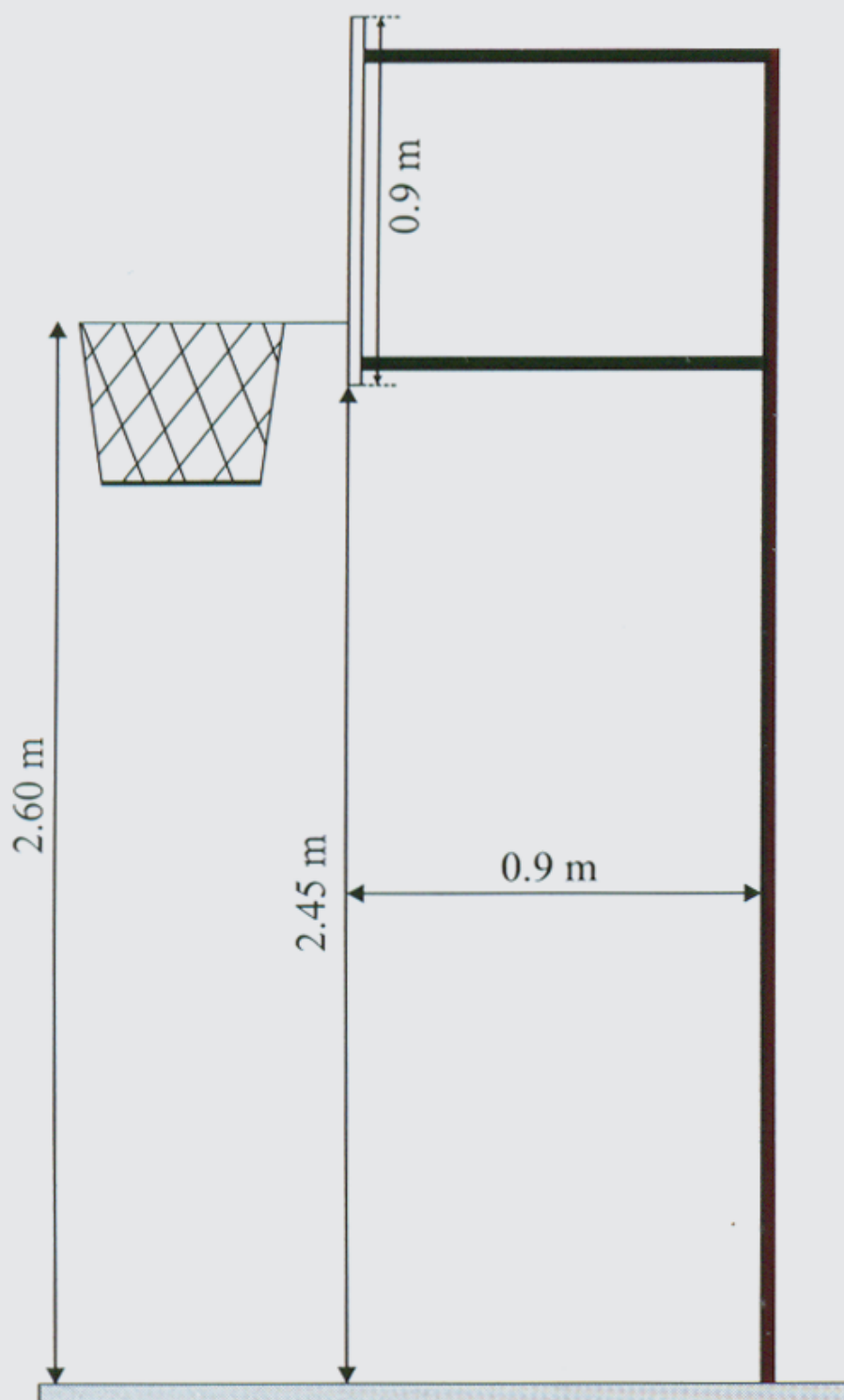


Diagrams

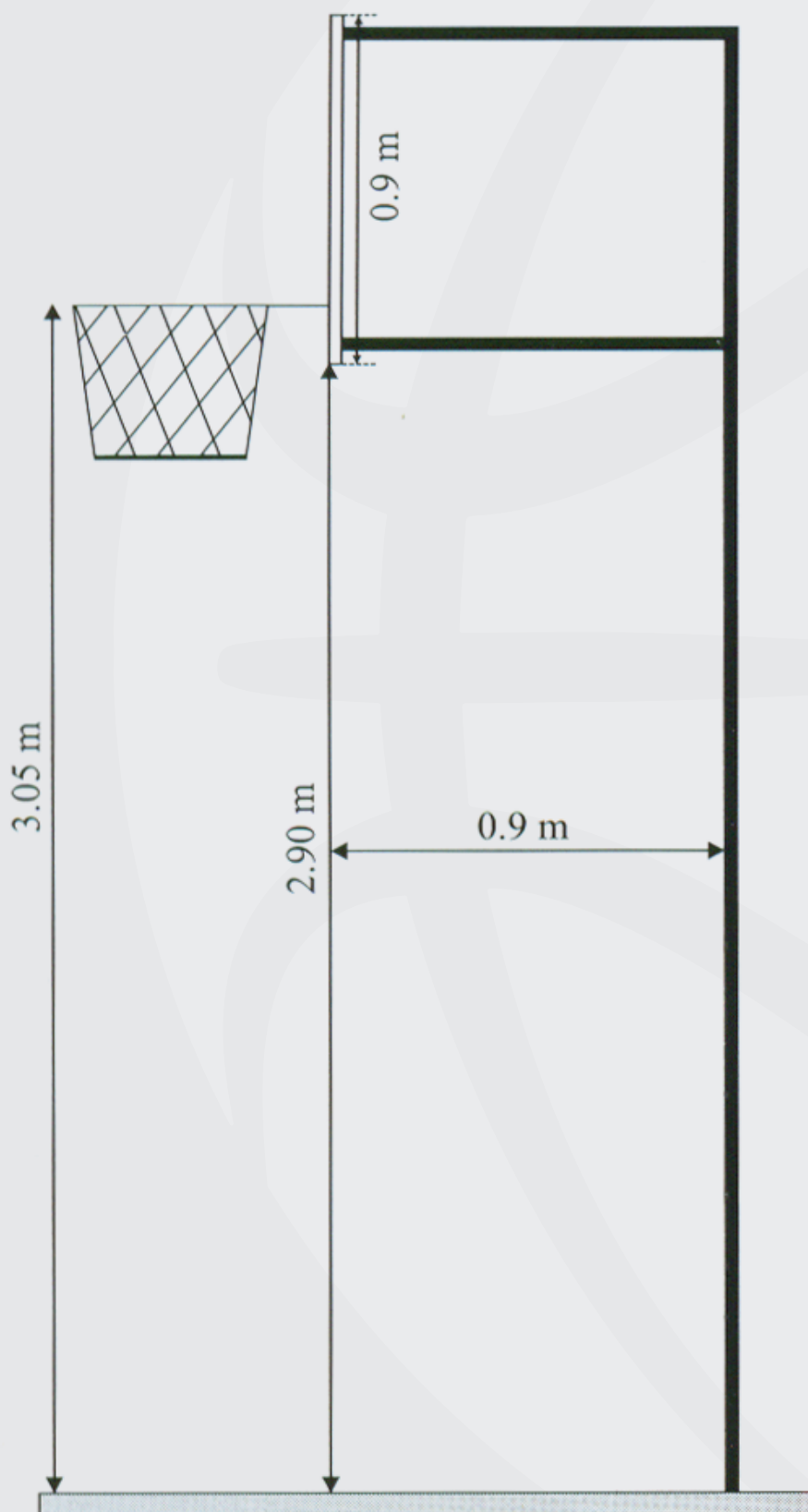
Court



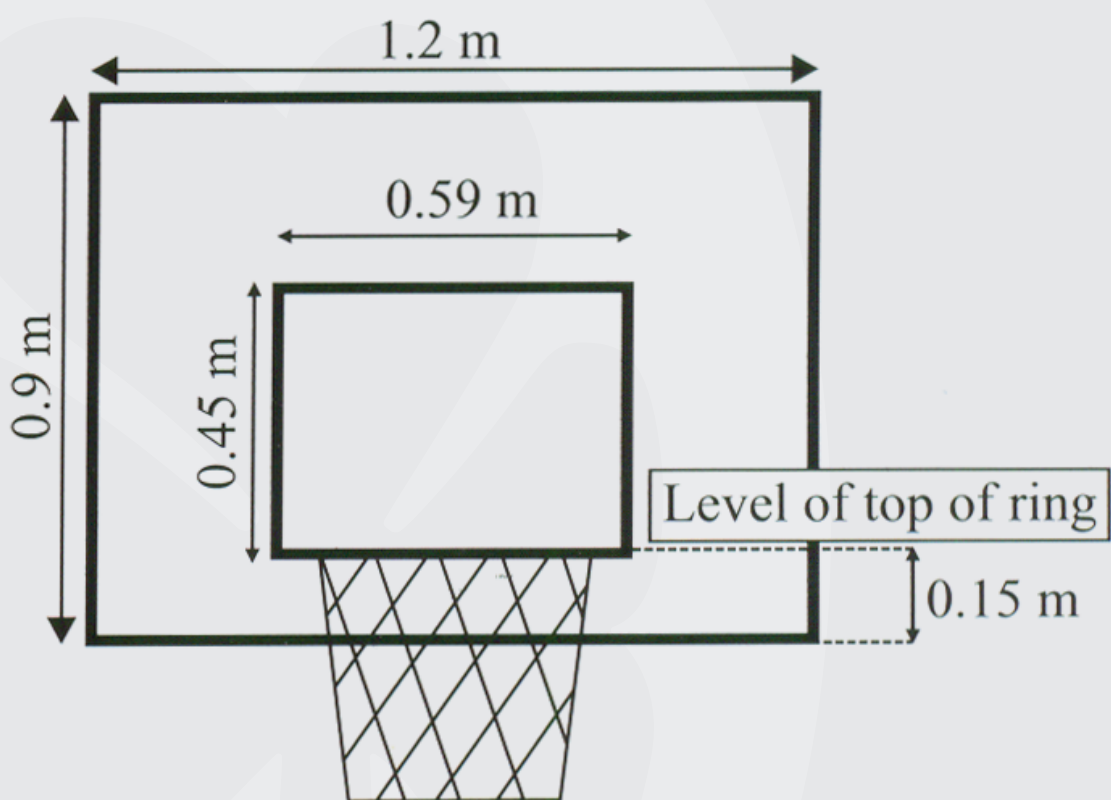
Mini Stand (10 year-olds and younger)



Mini Stand (11 year-olds and older)



Backboard



The Primary Schools Mini Basketball National Committee (PSMNC)

The Primary Schools Mini Basketball National Committee (PSMNC) is the National Committee recognised by Basketball Ireland (BI) as being responsible for the promotion, development and control of Primary Schools extra-curricular Mini Basketball on the island of Ireland. Local Area Boards, which are registered with BI, are responsible for organising Primary Schools Mini Basketball activities in their respective localities. Primary Schools Mini Basketball is organised locally and in keeping with its ethos, results do not lead to qualification for national events.

The Objectives of the PSMNC are:

- To enable children in primary schools to learn, play and enjoy Mini-Basketball in an educational environment
- To empower and support teachers, so that they can provide quality learning experiences in Mini Basketball to the children under their care, both in a PE and an extra-curricular school sport context
- To develop and support sustainable Primary Schools Mini Basketball programmes throughout Ireland at local level

Additional resources on 'Helpside'

Basketball Ireland's Learning Management System 'Helpside' has a wide variety of videos suitable for teaching Mini Basketball in PE lessons and for preparing children for extra-curricular leagues and tournaments, visit: <https://helpside.ireland.basketball/>

Other resources hosted on Helpside include:

- The rules of Mini Basketball
- The Mini 3x3 game
- The FIBA Mini Basketball Manual (for teachers wishing to learn more about the game)
- Scoresheets
- List of local Primary School Mini Basketball Area Board contacts
- An interactive chat room

How to register for Primary Schools Mini Basketball

Primary Schools enter inter-school leagues, tournaments and other events through their Local Area Boards in accordance with local practice.

Local Area Boards register with Basketball Ireland, to ensure that Committees are insured and benefit from supports.

To register as an Area Board with Basketball Ireland, just visit <https://ireland.basketball/registration/minibasketball>

For further information on BI registration, local Area Boards and supports, please contact minibasketball@ireland.basketball

Contact

PRIMARY SCHOOLS | **Mini Basketball**

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