

Willmar Basketball Boosters Association

Traveling Basketball Program

www.willmarbasketball.com

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK with FAQs

In support of the



Mission Statement

The Willmar Basketball Boosters Association (WBBA) is a non-profit organization with the primary purpose of promoting the game of basketball for Willmar school district boys and girls in grades 3-8. The WBBA program strives to provide opportunities for Willmar School District youth to learn and play the game of basketball through a traveling basketball program which promotes skill development, teamwork, sportsmanship and a positive experience.

Player Eligibility

Our traveling basketball program is open to all students in grades 3-8 who attend Willmar Public Schools. A student who is home-schooled is eligible for our program as long as the student lives within the Willmar School District boundaries.

Registration Documents Required

Each participant must complete and submit the required Registration Form, Medical Consent Form, and Code of Conduct form before being allowed to practice or play with the team.

Registration & Fees

The registration process for Willmar Traveling Basketball begins early October and typically ends in late October. Registration information and links are available on the WBBA web site: www.willmarbasketball.com . An organizational/registration meeting is usually held in early to mid-October each year.

The participation fee for each player is \$190.00 for the season. This fee includes:

- A reversible red/white basketball jersey
- One pair of matching shorts
- Tournament registration for a maximum of 5 tournaments **including** our own Willmar tournament.

Parents are responsible for any and all additional costs related to participation in the program, such as shoes, travel, lodging, meals, etc.

Scholarships may be available for athletes who want to participate in the Booster Program, but whose families cannot afford the full registration fee.

Uniforms and Equipment

Participants will (hopefully) receive their jersey and shorts before the team's first tournament, assuming the program fee and all forms have all been turned in. Each player must furnish his own shoes, socks, and other equipment. Each team will be provide with a minimum of 3 basketballs for use by the team. Basketballs must be returned at the end of the season.

Team Formation

Teams shall be formed after the first several practices/tryouts, with coaches handling the formation of teams as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 3rd grade | 2-4 balanced teams |
| 4th grade | 2-4 balanced teams |
| 5th grade | 2-4 balanced teams |
| 6 th grade | 2-4 balanced teams |
| 7 th grade | 2-3 teams – A/B structure (red team, white team) |
| 8 th grade | 2-3 teams – A/B structure (red team, white team) |

With balanced teams, the teams should be formed with equal talent, ability, size, etc. in mind. With A/B/C teams, players will be evaluated for skill level, attitude and effort by coaches and assigned to the A or B or C level.

Playing at Grade Level

Each player must play with/at their own grade level. No players will be allowed to “play up” at a higher grade level unless that higher grade level lacks sufficient number of players and playing up is approved in advance by the WBBA. Players will practice together as a grade regardless of how many teams there are for that grade.

Team Size

Recommended team size is 9-10 players (minimum of 8, maximum of 12). Team sizes will largely be determined by participation levels. If a team has more than 10 players, it has worked well in the past to break the team into small groups and rotate the groups attending each tournament.

EXAMPLE: Willmar 8th Girls has 12 players. To maximize playing time, the girls are divided into 3 groups of 4: Red 4, White 4 and Black 4. For the 1st tourney, Red & White will go (8 girls). For the 2nd tourney, White and Black will go; for the 3rd tourney, Red & Black will go, and so on. Coaches will ensure that the rotation allows for each player to be scheduled for the required number of tourneys.

For the Willmar tournament, we generally do not recommend having teams of less than 8 players but it is up to coaches to determine how many teams to enter.

Team Liaison

Each team should ask one parent (non-coach) to serve as the team’s liaison and WBBA board member to aid communication of information to/from WBBA and coaches, parents and players. The team liaison will also be the team’s contact for apparel orders and attend all Willmar Basketball Booster board meetings, as a representative of his/her team. Liaisons shall also help with the organization and recruitment of volunteers for the Willmar Youth Tourney each February.

Coaches

During the registration process, anyone interested in coaching a team should fill out a Coach’s Profile Form which details their coaching philosophy, knowledge of basketball, and previous coaching experience. The form will also ask for any known availability issues (time conflicts) as well as interest/commitment level (i.e., head coach, or assistant coach). These forms may be used, if needed, to ensure that the program has committed, qualified, and enthusiastic coaches for each team. Coaches

will be required to complete a background check and training to comply with the Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 at the beginning of each season. They are also required to complete the CDC Concussion training every three years.

Practices

Each team will typically have 1-2 practices a week throughout the season, usually beginning in November. Each team will be responsible for scheduling their practice time through the WBBA gym scheduler. To minimize confusion, we ask that each team designate ONE person (preferably a coach) to be the contact with the gym scheduler on practices. Practices are typically held on week nights, with times and locations subject to gym space availability. Parents shall be responsible for transporting their child to/from all practices and for dropping off and picking up on time.

A FULL COMMITMENT TO ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICES IS EXPECTED! Parents are expected to notify the coaches as soon as possible if a player will miss practice or be late for any reason. Playing time in leagues and tourneys will likely be affected by poor attendance at practices.

Note: It is our policy that if school is dismissed early or cancelled, any and all practices scheduled for that day are also cancelled.

Playing Time

Suggested playing time is no less than 25% playing time per player per tournament. Playing time will be determined by such things as player effort, attitude, attendance at practice, flow of the game, injuries and/or foul trouble. Playing time may not be the same for every player.

Leagues and Tournaments

WBBA will pay the entrance fee for each team, up to a maximum of five (5) tournaments including our own Willmar tournament. Coaches shall select their team's tourneys. Tournament or league play typically begins in November and concludes in March or April. Tournaments are usually held on Saturdays and Sundays (including Sunday mornings). Most tournaments are 1-day tourneys, but some are 2-day tournaments. Spectators (parents, grandparents, siblings, etc.) are typically charged admission fees at the tournament site.

Information on area tournaments is posted regularly on our web site at www.willmarbasketball.com.

A FULL COMMITMENT TO ATTENDANCE AT TOURNAMENTS IS EXPECTED! Parents are expected to notify the coaches as soon as possible if a player will miss a league or tournament for any reason. Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from all league and tourney events.

Willmar Tournament

All teams will participate in our Willmar tournament on February 21-22, 2021. This is the main fundraising event for the Willmar Basketball Booster program. All parents are expected to help work the admissions gate and/or concession stand during this tournament, so please mark your calendar now! If you would like to be on the tournament planning committee, please contact a board member. We will call you and ask you to help if you don't sign up voluntarily.

Extra Tournaments

Teams may enter additional tournaments at their own expense; however, the additional tournaments must be discussed with all parents and approved by WBBA and a majority of parents and coaches prior to scheduling those extra tourneys.

Spring “Select” Teams

At the conclusion of the regular tournament schedule, coaches may elect to compose one or more “select” traveling team(s) for purposes of spring/summer Pacemaker tournaments, state qualifiers, etc. These traveling teams shall be considered an extension of the Booster season and shall follow all guidelines set forth herein.

School Ball

For 7th and 8th graders, the WBBA season (practice and traveling tourneys) shall not conflict with the middle school basketball schedule but shall be coordinated around it.

Code of Conduct Agreement

All players, parents, and coaches must sign a Code of Conduct Agreement before the season begins and agree to abide by its expectations throughout the season. It is important to keep in mind that we are representing not only ourselves individually, but also the WBBA organization, our Willmar School District, and our community at these events.

The WBBA Traveling Basketball Program reserves the right to take disciplinary action against any individual (player, parent or coach) who violates the Code of Conduct. Violations of the Code may result in consequences including but not limited to reduced or loss of playing time or coaching privileges, suspension/ejection from games, and/or expulsion from the program and loss of entry fee depending on the severity of the infraction. If your student is suspended from school they will not be able to practice the days they are suspended.

FAQs on next page

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. We have a uniform from last year. Can we re-use it again this year? If not, why not?

No. From an administrative and cost standpoint, it's much simpler to order a new uniform for every player each year and this keeps the cost very low.

2. My child is signed up to play on the middle school 7th or 8th grade team. Can my child also play on the traveling team through Boosters?

YES! Your child can also play on the traveling team. The booster program has a policy to not conflict with any Willmar Public School Junior High Basketball events.

3. My daughter is planning to start J.O. volleyball or Stingrays swimming in February. Can she play in the Traveling Basketball program?

YES -- she can definitely play in Traveling Basketball. It may be that a Booster team will be done with its traveling basketball tournaments about the same time as J.O. volleyball starts, or a team will do its best to coordinate the scheduling of practices and tournaments with the J.O. volleyball schedule. However, there may be conflicts and overlapping schedules, but it is possible to do both. You must keep you coaches informed as to any conflicts or absences from basketball.

4. How is the practice schedule and other information communicated to parents?

Almost all team communications are done via email. The team liaison (a volunteer parent) typically takes the responsibility to ensure that all players and their parents are kept "in the loop" as to their team's activities through periodic email messages. If you do not have a

working email address, you should make sure your coaches and liaison know to communicate with you in an alternate way. Text messaging is also an option for those with cell phones.