

BLYBA: Frequently Asked Questions 2018-2019 Season

What are the deadlines for registration?

Traveling Players (Grades 4-8)

September 12th is the registration deadline for traveling players. The cost is \$70.00. Incoming 4th graders and any player new to the traveling program will also need to purchase a uniform for \$60. Registrations after **September 12th** will be accepted only if players are needed to complete a team roster, and **MUST** be pre-approved by the Board of Directors.

In-House Players (Grades 2-3)

October 10th is the deadline for In-House players in grades 2-3. The cost is \$60.00, which includes a T-shirt. Registrations after **October 10th** will be accepted only if players are needed to complete a team roster, and **MUST** be pre-approved by the Board of Directors.

In-House Players (Grades K-1)

October 10th is the deadline for In-House players in grades K-1. The cost is \$25.00, which includes a T-shirt. Registrations after **October 10th** will be accepted if space allows, and **MUST** be pre-approved by the Board of Directors.

I have a 4th grader, what do I need to know?

All 4th graders will be in the traveling basketball program. When registering your child they are considered a new player even though he/she may have played In-House in the past. Therefore, all 4th graders will need a new uniform. You will order the uniform during the online registration process and request a jersey number. We will do our best to give the player one of their three choices. When determining uniform sizes you may want to consider ordering a size up so your child can wear the uniform for multiple seasons. Some players will use the same uniform 4th-8th grade. There will be a meeting for parents of 4th grade players as well as anyone new to the traveling program in September. Uniforms will be available at Parent meeting and Evaluations for players to try on to verify correct size was ordered. Please see the BLYBA website for time and place.

Is there anything new with registration for returning players?

You must have your player's current uniform number, which you will enter during the online registration process. This applies to traveling players in 5th-8th grade. Incoming 4th grade players will request a uniform number when registering. We need to know the number so we do not have any duplicates with new members joining the program at the same grade level. If your child needs to order a larger uniform, they will be able to do so during the registration process. The cost is \$50 for a uniform. If your child only needs a new jersey or shorts, they can be ordered individually for a cost of \$25 each. Any family that currently owes the Big Lake Youth Basketball Association funds from a previous season for any reason will not be allowed to register their child until the debt is paid in full.

Will my child need to attend both evaluations in September/October?

Evaluations are held for players in the traveling program (grades 4-8). Evaluations are scheduled for September 23, 2018 and October 8, 2018.. We strongly encourage all traveling players to attend both evaluations. The scores during evaluations will be used to determine teams along with a small number of coaches' picks. Players must have scores for both dates in order to qualify for the top team based on their evaluations. Players attending only one evaluation session can only be eligible for the top team if they are selected as a coach's pick. Players NOT attending any of the evaluation sessions ARE NOT eligible for the top team, without a Board approved

absence. We highly encourage parents to review the policy team formation, located under “BLYBA Policy Page” on the BLYBA website.

Will we have evaluations if there are not enough players for more than one team?

Yes, still plan on evaluations. Depending on the number of players the evaluations scores will be used by the coaches to help identify the skill level between players.

Does the BLYBA offer any scholarships?

If your family qualified for the free and reduced lunch program this past school year, then you will be eligible for free registration (\$60.00). The family must provide a copy of their free/reduced lunch documentation to the board. If your family qualifies, you will be given a code to enter at the time of registration. This code will cover the registration fee ONLY (the family will still be obligated to cover the cost of uniforms and all other costs associated with the traveling program, including tournament fees). You MUST have this number to complete the online registration process. Please contact our administration director via email with questions or documentation (Administration@blyba.com). Scholarships will be given out for players in grades 2-8 only. There are no scholarships given for grades K-1.

What additional costs are involved to play basketball?

All traveling teams will cover their own cost for tournaments throughout the season. There will be an additional cost of approximately \$75-150 per player for tournament fees (guidelines in the policy). Additional cost for travel players may include transportation, food, and tournament admission (gate fees) for family members. Most tournaments are within the metro area, but some teams may choose to enter tournaments that require a hotel stay. There are generally no additional fees associated with the In-House program. There is a \$150 volunteer deposit fee required for all players in grades 2-8, which will be shredded upon completion of the volunteer commitment.

What is the commitment and length of the season?

The traveling season will start with evaluations in September. Evaluations are scheduled for September 23rd October 7th. The teams will then be formed. Practice will begin in late October and most teams will start tournament play in November. The season will continue until the beginning of March. This may vary between teams. Generally your child will have two practices a week and tournaments on weekends. Approximately 2-3 tournaments are recommended per month. A meeting with all coaches is encouraged at the beginning of the year to discuss which tournaments will be entered.

The In-House (grades 2-3) season will begin in November. We will be separating teams this year by boys and girls. Depending on registration numbers smaller teams maybe formed and the players will play 3 on 3 games. BLYBA anticipates the girl’s in-house teams to be 3 on 3 and boys teams to be larger full teams. These teams will play on Saturdays and have 1 practice during the week. Please watch the BLYBA website for specific dates and times.

The In-House (grades K-1) season will begin in early November. The players will meet as a large group once a week to develop skills and learn the basic rules of the game. The season wraps up before the holiday break for this age group.

Are all parents required to volunteer?

Parents of grades K-1 are asked to help during practice time with gym set-up & clean-up, as well as helping organize and run specific drills. This age group depends on parent involvement to run smoothly. Parents of this age group are not required to submit a volunteer deposit as discussed below.

Parents of players in grades 2-8 are required to volunteer six (6) hours of time during the season. This requirement is per family, so if you have more than one child enrolled in the program, you need only volunteer six hours total. A \$150 volunteer fee deposit per family is required upon registration. The BLYBA puts on 1-2 tournaments per year. These tournaments are the only fundraisers for our organization. We are able to use the resources provided by these tournaments to help fund many programs. These funds are also used to keep our registration/uniform costs low, provide additional gym time, provide off-season skills clinics, and fund summer programs. It takes many volunteers to run a large tournament and we count on all the parents to help make them successful, so that we can continue to fund the organization. Again, each family is required to volunteer 6 hours during the course of the season. If you choose not to fulfill your volunteer hours, your \$150.00 deposit check will be cashed. There are many volunteer opportunities available. These include: coaching, parent liaison, concessions and other workers at BLYBA tournaments, and participating on the Tournament Committee. Volunteer opportunities for tournament workers will be listed in the DIBS section of the BLYBA website as they become available, making it very convenient to schedule your volunteer time.

Is the BLYBA part of Community Education?

Although the Big Lake Youth Basketball Association works with Community Education for scheduling and facilities usage, we are NOT part of Community Education. The BLYBA is its own separate non-profit organization. We rent gym space for all of our practices, meetings, tournaments and any other skills clinics/special events that we sponsor. We are responsible for paying custodians, building supervisors and non-volunteer coaching staff. We pay permit fees for events and a percentage of all tournament profits.

How many kids are on a traveling team?

Team sizes cannot be determined until registration is closed. BLYBA wants to make sure EVERY child that wants to play basketball has the ability to play. Because of this we do not cut any child from the association from 4th-6th grade. We currently do cut players in grade 7th and 8th if we have over 10 players per team. (These players still have the ability to play basketball through our school's basketball program though).

If we have a team that is larger than 10 players we will look to the coaches for input and suggestions. Rotating players and having 10 play at a tournament maybe an option that will allow the players to get more playing time during a game. BLYBA does allow more coaches for these larger teams.

My child is on a traveling team--- How much playing time will they get during a game?

BLYBA bylaws state that playing time is equal in 4th and 5th grade up until the last 4 minutes of the game, 6th-8th grade players should play $\frac{1}{4}$ of a game. So in a game that is two 14 minutes halves (28 minutes total game time) each player should get to play about 7 minutes a game, or about 21 minutes per tournament.

Why do we have teams split based on ability?

Our in-house and 4th grade teams are not divided based on ability. We try to keep these teams as equal as possible.

In 5th-8th grade traveling, teams are split based on evaluations. When we have an age group that is large enough to have multiple teams we do evaluations and place kids on teams based on their scores. We want all the kids to develop and grow during the year, some do this quicker than others. If we have the teams more equal in skills then more kids will get the opportunity to handle the ball during the game, which will lead them to improving their skills during the season.

August 2017