



Policy Manual

wmyouthsports.org

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Mission Statement

The goal of the Watertown-Mayer Youth Basketball Association (WMYBA) is to provide our youth with the opportunity to enjoy the cooperation of teamwork, the competition of the sport, and the value of improving skills through playing the game of basketball. The WMYBA 's program is a supplement to the Watertown-Mayer school's program not a replacement.

Our programs are successful to the degree that they allow youth to have fun and learn the game of basketball at all levels. By doing this all players are winners.

The WMYBA season typically runs between mid-October through mid-March. We are not responsible for any Spring AAU and Fall League activities parents of student players might enroll their children into.

Philosophy

The Watertown-Mayer Youth Basketball Association's philosophy is to provide a structured, enjoyable and learned basketball experience for all participants. Both recreational and competitive opportunities are offered.

Purpose and Structure

The purpose of the basketball board is to plan, structure and coordinate WMYBA youth basketball; to be the governing body of the program; and to uphold the philosophy of the program. A process of interest and/or children participating in the program selects members. Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month from August through April at the Watertown-Mayer Middle School Commons at 7:00pm. Please check our website for changes to the schedule. www.wmyouthsports.org

Policy Changes

Policy changes are typically made once per year. This reduces the chance for mid-season changes that could cause confusion or be made in error without full thought of impact. This policy is reviewed by all board members during the month of April and any and all changes are voted on. If changes are made, they will be made during the month of May. "Policy changes" are defined as any and all changes to this document.

General Information

Cost

The cost for playing in the in-house league covers the following expenses:

- General administration fees: (postage, copying costs, p.o. box)
- Equipment and gym rental expenses
- Tournament & Waconia league fees (entry fees, trophies, referee fees, game balls)
- Team T-shirt (K-2)

Senior Scholarship

The Watertown-Mayer Youth Basketball Association (WMYBA) is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one senior male and one senior female graduating from Watertown-Mayer High School. This scholarship is to recognize and support students who have participated in the Watertown-Mayer basketball program and have demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, team spirit and community involvement. See WMYBA website for required criteria for submission.

Registration

Criteria for registration: Parent/Guardian must enter player age accurately and grade must match school enrolled grade. All parents/guardians that enter the player grade incorrectly may be subject to board change before or even mid-season. Please use the honor system when registering your player.

Refunds

The parent should contact the WMYBA president to make the proper arrangements. See WMYBA website Board Members page for presidents and others email addresses.

Practices / Games

Registration will be open around July 1st and close early August. Evaluations will typically take place on the first two Sundays in August. Registration is only available online at www.wmyouthsports.org/wmyba

Refunds are allowed in season but will be reduced by \$20 for transaction fees and reduced by the number of games played in season at the time of the refund requested date. Subject to WMYBA board discretion.

- K-2 grades practice on Saturdays. December - February.
- 3rd grade practices on Saturdays and one weeknight. November - mid March.
- 4-6th graders practice two nights per week with league games/tournaments on Saturdays December - mid March.
- 7-8th graders practice or have tournaments on Saturdays and Sundays November through early March. During school ball, practices will be limited to the coach's decision.

All practices need to be scheduled and confirmed through our WMYBA Facilities Coordinator.

Program Goals

- Provide effective, high-quality training for players and coaches at all levels.
- Provide programs that are cooperative with, and respected by, other community programs.
- Strive to create a fun and entertaining environment for the players, families, coaches and community.
- Seek to maximize the potential of every player in the program.
- Develop players and teams that are able to compete at a top level.
- Encourage and foster player participation for the full length of a player's youth sports career.
- Foster the importance of teamwork and understanding that all team members play an integral part in the success of the team. Promote skill development and create positive self-esteem for every player

Players are eligible to participate subject to the following criteria:

- Must be enrolled/participate in a school basketball program (applies to 7th and 8th grade only).
- Must be a currently registered member of WMYBA
- Must have paid all applicable fees
- Must have completed all required forms
- Must meet age guideline

Recreational League Basketball / K-6th

Philosophy

Recreational basketball opportunities are offered for children in grades K through 6th.

K – 2nd

In grades K-2, we focus on developing skills with drills on dribbling, passing, shooting, defense and rebounding. T-shirts will be provided for each student participant. It has been past practice to start K-2 grade practices the first weekend in December and conclude on the last week of February. There are no practices over the Christmas and New Years school holiday break. All schedule practices are dependent on gym availability. Each student will be given a schedule either before or during the first day of practice.

3rd-6th

In grades 3rd-6th Recreational League, we focus on the value of teamwork. Balancing competition is the priority in selecting teams. A maximum of two coaches may request to work together. Teams typically have 2 practices and league or tournament games on the weekend. Playing time is shared equally during Recreational League games. The 3rd-6th grade program works on basketball fundamentals as well as team play. If more than one team is needed per grade/gender, teams will be divided with equal talent in 3rd and 4th grade. 3rd - 6th grade may participate in Waconia league on Saturdays and weekend tournaments. Numbers of tournaments are to be determined, annually, dependent on WYMBA budget.

5th-8th

In 5th grade we will be divided into "Blue" and "Red" teams if we have the registration to warrant two teams. The teams will follow the same guidelines as 7th and 8th traveling basketball. Evaluations will be conducted by an outside source at grades 5th-8th. The WMYBA also reserves the right to form a hybrid team depending on registration.

Guidelines for Playing Time – 3rd-8th grade tournaments.

Playing Time

- Once a team is selected, coaches shall treat all of the players on the team as part of the team. Coaches, particularly at the younger age levels, are encouraged to strive toward equal playing time.
- Playing time at tournaments is at the discretion of the Head Coach based on the following:
 1. Need to develop a depth of talent at every position.
 2. Attendance of the players at practices, games and team meetings.
 3. Effort of the players in practice and game situations.
 4. Commitment of the player to improve her/his skills.
 5. Skill level of the players on the team.

Position Play

1. Playing time should be arranged to enhance the development of skills for every player at more than one position.
2. Players should be given opportunities at positions where they will be successful and to build player confidence.

Team Descriptions

If numbers permit, and at the discretion of the board, there may be one or more teams. There will be an “A” team, “B” team and “Hybrid” team.

“Blue” Team A

- This team shall be made up of the top players. With a maximum of 10.
- Players shall be determined by a number of factors including evaluation results, playing experience, past year’s performance, needs at skill positions, the determination, commitment and desire to improve by the player.

“Red” Team B

- The B teams shall be made up of the top players from the players available after selection of the Blue Team.

“White” Team (Hybrid)

- Upon WMYBA board approval, a team consisting of 12-15 players may form a hybrid team. A hybrid team is defined as one team that practices together but plays games/tournaments using the following rules:
 - This approach requires WMYBA board approval and discussion with the coaches
 - Tournament fees allowed would be 1.5 of the current one team tournament allocation amounts per the Coaches Policy document
 - Coaches would be expected to play all of the players across the tournaments registered for the season
 - The coach needs to share this policy and approach to player parents and include the board on any conflicts or issues that may arise.

Extra Player

If a team needs an extra player for a game due to a schedule conflict, sickness or injury, the player must come from within the WMYBA registered players for the active season. Should a team fall below 8 players the coach will select from the next level down, red or white, in the same age group. It will be the coach's discretion to pull up a maximum of 2 players per tournament/game to fill the team to 8 players. Players being pulled up will be based on evaluations on who should be pulled up first and rotate as needed. If no one is available, they are then allowed to proceed to the next age group. Additional players are allowed to move between teams when they are deemed hybrid teams.

Playing Up

If during the course of evaluations, a player is deemed able to play above their grade that will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Otherwise, a player cannot play up except to fill a vacancy due to lack of participants as stated under the Extra Player policy. A player cannot play down for any reason.

Playing Time and Player Development for Competitive Travel Basketball

Equal playing time is not guaranteed.

Position

Not all players have the attributes required to play certain positions (for example, point guard or post).

Team-Age

In grades 3rd-5th, individual player development and equal playing time are stressed. In grades 6th-8th, team development and placing the most competitive team on the court is stressed.

Over the course of the season each participant will get a fair and ample amount of playing time, but not necessarily at the positions the player desires. Each coach is responsible for assuring this happens. The coach has the authority to limit playing time due to unexcused absences from practice or games, or for other disciplinary reasons.

Playing time can also be limited due to one or more of the following:

- Disciplinary action is being taken (based on attitude, practice habits, etc.)
- The player has been suspended
- The player is injured or sick
- The player has unexcused absences

WMYBA Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Policy

The WMYBA believes that all players and coaches participating in a WMYBA youth activity should refrain from the use of alcohol and/or controlled substances.

It shall be a violation of this policy for a player or coach participating in a WMYBA youth activity to use a beverage containing alcohol or use, consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any controlled substance.

First Violation

Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention and a decision has been made by the WMYBA Board, the player or coach will be informed of his or her ineligibility via a written letter from the WMYBA board.

Second Violation

Upon notification by the Board, the player or coach shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of a sport season in which the player or coach is participating, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted.

Accumulative Penalties

The player or coach shall lose eligibility in the WMYBA for that season. No exception is permitted. No refund. Penalties shall be accumulated beginning with and continuing throughout the players or coaches' participation in the WMYBA.

WMYBA Tobacco Policy

The WMYBA does not condone the use of tobacco by players under the legal tobacco age. It shall be a violation of this policy for a player participating in a WMYBA activity to use tobacco. Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention, the player will be informed of their eligibility. The ineligibility will be the same as for the Drug/Alcohol Policy. The basketball program demands a drug, alcohol and tobacco free sports environment.

Coaches and parents will refrain from the use of alcohol or tobacco during practices and games.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct Policy

The WMYBA reserves the right to dismiss at any time a player, coach or parent who by their conduct creates significant problems for the team or disrupts practices or games. Unsportsmanlike conduct by a player, parent or coach will not be tolerated.

First Violation

Upon notification by the Board, the player, coach or parent shall be suspended for 1 game.

Second Violation

The player or coach shall lose eligibility in the WMYBA for that sport season. No exception is permitted.

Cumulative Penalties

Penalties shall be cumulative beginning with and continuing throughout the players or coaches' participation in the WMYBA.

Grievance Policy

When a player, parent or coach has a concern regarding policies, procedures or behavior, the following steps should be followed to resolve the issue:

1. Address the concern with the coach.
2. If the problem persists or is unable to be resolved between the player or parent and the coach, bring the issue to the attention of The Board, in writing. The form can be found on the association website as a Google doc.
3. The Board should meet with the parties involved to discuss the situation and help find a solution.
4. If the parties involved cannot come to a resolution, The Board would discuss and make a decision on the issue. The decision of The Board will be final.

Coach Selection Process

Coaching Selection

Anyone interested in coaching a team must check the appropriate area on the registration form. We encourage everyone to get involved. In the event that there are multiple people interested in being the head coach, the Board members will evaluate the candidates on their commitment to coaching, experience, knowledge of the game and coaching philosophy to select the head coach. Coaches' registration dates will also be considered.

Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria includes at a minimum the following items:

- Previous youth coaching experience
- Ability to teach players of all skill levels
- Attendance and active participation in coach and player clinics
- If the applicant has previously coached, feedback from prior seasons.
- Ability to provide positive reinforcement to players in both practice and game situations.

Additional Duties

Coaches and parents are responsible for helping clean up Watertown-Mayer facilities at the end of all Tournament and League games.

PLAYERS CODE OF ETHICS:

I hereby pledge to live up to the following WMYBA Players Code of Ethics:

- I will do my best at all practices and during all games.
- I will listen to my coaches while at practice and at games.
- I will practice good sportsmanship by treating all players, coaches, parents, and officials with respect.
- I will not use profanity. I understand that I will be warned for the first offense and, at the discretion of the coach, can be suspended from play for the remainder of the current practice, game or the following game.
- I will do my best to help my parents get me to play games/practices on time.
- I understand that improvement comes from practice and sometimes I may decide to practice on my own, away from scheduled practices and games.

Violation of these ethics will result in:

- 1st offense: verbal or written warning
- 2nd offense: player unable to play for the next event - league games or tournament
- 3rd offense: player is removed from the WMYBA program

COACHES CODE OF ETHICS:

I hereby pledge to live up to the following WMYBA Coaching Code of Ethics:

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of my personal desire to win
- I will remember to treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I promise to review and practice the necessary first-aid principles needed to treat injuries to my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will lead, by example, in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will ensure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of basketball, and that I will teach these rules to my players.
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.
- I will remember that I am a youth coach, and the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will demand a drug, alcohol and tobacco free sports environment for my team and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all games and practices.

- I will refrain from the use of profane language.

Violation of these ethics will result in:

- 1st offense: verbal or written warning
- 2nd offense: coach unable to attend the next event - league games or tournament
- 3rd offense: coach is removed from the WMYBA program.

PARENTS' CODE OF ETHICS:

I hereby pledge to live up to the following WMYBA Parents' Code of Ethics:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will provide support for coaches and officials working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a drug, alcohol and tobacco-free environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all youth sport events.
- I will remember that the game is for youth and not for adults.
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience within my personal constraints by assisting with coaching, being a respectful fan, providing transportation or whatever I am capable of doing.
- I will assign responsibility for my child to the coach if I am not present at games.
- I understand that WMYBA reserves the right to dismiss at any time, a player who by the conduct of their parents significantly creates problems for the team or after verbal warning, continues to disrupt practices or games.
 - Violation of these ethics will result in:
 - 1st offense: verbal or written warning
 - 2nd offense: player unable to play for the next event - league games or tournament and parent unable to attend next event
 - 3rd offense: player and parent are removed from the WMYBA program

SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY

In the event that there is an allegation of sexual abuse or molestation made against an individual acting on behalf of WMYBA, the organization shall have the following procedures in place:

- WMYBA will not investigate such matters, but instead will contact the proper authorities, depending on where the alleged incident(s) occurred.
- The names of any potential victims, the accused perpetrator(s) and the person who reported the incident shall remain confidential.
- WMYBA deserves the right to determine an appropriate course of action, including the suspension or termination from volunteering with the organization regardless of the outcome of any investigation.
- Any requests from the press or the surrounding community shall be forwarded to WMYBA, in order to handle any questions or inquiries.

THREE PERSON RULE

- WMYBA prohibits one adult from being alone with one youth. A second adult or second youth must be present at all times.

Parents' Additional Responsibilities

Parents with participants in grades 3rd-8th are required to volunteer at WMYBA hosted tournaments, Waconia Recreation League games and other events as needed. A volunteer deposit check will be collected at the end of the season, if hours are not fulfilled.

Duties to include admissions greeters, concession stand workers, scorekeepers and timekeepers if high school or middle school students are unavailable to help, set up and clean up.

DISCLAIMER:

The Watertown-Mayer Youth Basketball Association (WMYBA) is not responsible for any injuries which result from participation in their basketball program. In addition, the WMYBA is not responsible for replacing any lost or stolen articles the players might lose during the season.

The WMYBA Board has the final decision on any issue not covered in this handbook and reserves the right to change policy during the season should an issue warrant an immediate change.