

Appleton West Youth Basketball Association Parent/Guardian Handbook

MISSION STATEMENT

The Appleton West Youth Basketball Association (AWYBA) was formed to provide its players an opportunity to compete at the highest level of basketball in the area. In striving to play at this level it is our hope that our players improve their basketball skills and have some fun. The members of this association try to reach a balance between being competitive in tournaments and teaching skills.

Players need to take advantage of this opportunity by working to improve their skills in practice. They need to be patient and understand that they have many years of competitive basketball ahead of them. With each practice and game, they have the opportunity to improve their basketball skills. The skills that are taught by this association are done so under the direction of the Varsity boys' and girls' coaches at Appleton West High School. It is our hope that we are giving players the foundation that they need to excel at the high school varsity level.

COMMITMENT

On average, one or two practices will be scheduled per week. Players are expected to attend all practices. If a player has a legitimate reason for missing practice, he/she must let their coach know prior to that practice. It is difficult to run a quality practice with less than 10 players thus players must make every effort to attend all practices. Players who do not proactively communicate and miss practice will have impacts to their playing time.

Teams will participate in anywhere from 4 to 10 tournaments or a league depending on availability and grade level. These tournaments are on weekends and often consist of 3 to 6 games over the weekend. Players are expected to provide their own transportation to and from these games. If you cannot attend a tournament, please notify your coach.

ASSESSMENTS

Skills assessment sessions will be held in September/October; dates/times to be communicated upon finalization. Every player must attend a skills assessment session. If the group dates do not work for a player, individual assessments will need to be done. Teams will be assigned after player assessments have been completed.

“A” AND “B” TEAMS

AWYBA has adopted a “no cut” policy. In order to do this, “A” and “B” teams may be required depending on the number of players. This will allow for a more efficient distribution of playing time and appropriately matched competition in tournaments/games. “A” and “B” teams will only be utilized for our older grade levels. For our younger players, if there are enough players for more than one team, players will split across teams equally.

The Board recognizes that not all players will perform to the best of their ability at assessments; therefore, how the athlete performs in practices and game situations may result in players moving between teams. Players will be assessed during the season in several areas, including, but not limited to:

- Skill level
- Work ethic
- Effort
- Attitude
- Coachability

The Board considers these teams to be fluid, and movement between them may occur at any time during the season. Players may also be asked to participate in some games and practices for both teams.

PLAYER FEES

Each player will have to pay a registration fee, volunteer fee and fundraiser buyout fee at the time of registration. If the player needs a uniform, that fee will also be charged at the time of registration. The purchase of a uniform is only required for grades 6-8.

The registration fee amount is dependent upon the grade of the player. Registration fees cover things such as: Tournament entry fees, tickets to the end of the year parent/guardian banquet, facility usage, reduction of player costs for off season training and camps, free entry for AWYBA players to all home girls’ and boys’ varsity basketball games (excluding playoff games), among other program operating costs.

FUNDRAISING

Every player in the AWYBA program is expected to sell 10 raffle calendars at \$10 each. These have already been paid for with registration, so you can either keep the calendars and put your name on them, or you can sell them and keep the money. Calendars will be distributed by the player’s coach in October/November. The stubs will be returned to the

player's coach. Due date for the stubs will be communicated with you by the player's coach.

VOLUNTEER POLICY

All AWYBA parents are required to complete 4 volunteer hours per AWYBA Player. This helps us not only with fundraising efforts but also allows us to host a home tournament for our program. 5th-8th grade parents will pay a volunteer fee up front with registration. After completion of your volunteer hours, you will be returned this fee. If you do not volunteer the money does not get returned.

UNIFORM POLICY

Uniforms are provided to grades 2nd-5th at no cost. Uniforms must be returned at the end of the season. Failure to return uniforms or pay to replace them will impact your eligibility for the next season.

Uniforms (shorts and jersey) need to be purchased by the player for grades 6th-8th. If a player has a uniform already this can be re-used. It is expected that players wear both the jersey and shorts to any tournament or league game. Players not willing to comply with the uniform policy may not be able to participate in games that day.

Warmups are not provided by the organization. Teams will have the opportunity to purchase warmups at their own expense.

TEAMS 2nd – 4th Grade Fees:

- Registration Fee - \$125
- Fundraiser Fee - \$100
- Loaner uniforms will be given to each player to wear for the season. Uniforms **MUST** be turned back into the player's coach at the end of the season. The coach will communicate pick-up and return instructions. If the uniform is not returned at the end of the season, the player will not be eligible to play AWYBA the following season.
- Each team will participate in 4 – 6 tournaments and/or a league, including the AWYBA home tournament.
- Season will start in October and will end in January/February.

5th Grade Fees:

- Registration Fee - \$175
- Fundraiser Fee - \$100
- Volunteer Fee - \$70 (this will be returned once volunteer hours are completed).

- Loaner uniforms will be given to each player to wear for the season. Uniforms MUST be turned back into the player's coach at the end of the season. The coach will communicate pick-up and return instructions. If the uniform is not returned at the end of the season, the player will not be eligible to play AWYBA the following season.
- Each team will participate in 5– 7 tournaments and/or a league, including the AWYBA home tournament.
- Season will start in October and will end in February.

6th Grade Fees:

- Registration Fee - \$175
- Fundraiser Fee - \$100
- Volunteer Free - \$70 (this will be returned once volunteer hours are completed).
- Uniform Fee - \$90 for both top and shorts, or \$45 for each piece. If a player has a uniform from a sibling they can reuse that one.
- Each team will participate in 6 – 7 tournaments and/or a league, including the AWYBA home tournament.
- Season will start in October and will end in February/March.

7th and 8th Grade Fees:

- Registration Fee - \$190
- Fundraiser Fee - \$100
- Volunteer Fee - \$70 (this will be returned once volunteer hours are completed).
- Uniform Fee - \$90 for both top and shorts, or \$45 for each piece. The uniform fee only applies to the purchase of new uniforms. If players have a uniform from a previous season, they will be able to use that one.
- Teams will participate in 7 - 8 tournaments and/or a league, including the AWYBA home tournament.
- Season will start in October and will end in February/March.

COMMUNICATION

The AWYBA program utilizes Sports Engine for all communications. This is how the program and your coaches will communicate with parents/guardians. Practice and game schedules are also posted by coaches within Sports Engine. Please also follow us on Facebook for events, updates and general information.

For parents/guardians, it is important to separate their child's sports development from game time emotions. For this reason, we have adopted the “24 HOUR RULE”: Parents are not permitted to discuss athletic concerns with the coach for at least 24 hours after an

issue arises at a game, practice, or other instance. Do not confront the coach directly after a game or tournament. If a parent/guardian would like to meet with the coach, a meeting should be scheduled directly with the coach ahead of time. Issues should be related to your own child's performance. It is never acceptable for a parent/guardian to attempt to discuss another team members' playing time.

AWYBA highly encourages players to address concerns directly with the coach, when possible. Communication parents/guardians should expect from coaches:

- Expectations of the season, practices, and games
- Locations and times of all practices and games
- Team rules, guidelines, and consequences for not following those rules
- Injuries during practice or games/tournaments
- Behavior concerns

Coaches **are not** expected to respond to questions involving the following topics:

- Team placement
- Team strategies
- Any discussion of other players

Communication coaches should expect **from players and parents/guardians:**

- Advanced notice of missing a practice or game/tournament
- In-school disciplinary actions (suspension, ODR's, failing grades, etc). If your child has disciplinary action in their school setting where they are not able to attend school or participate on their school team they will also not be able to participate in AWYBA tournament or games for the same amount of time.
- Concerns regarding your player specifically, such as:
 - Treatment of the player or Player's behavior
 - Ways to help player improve their skills when not at practice or in a game

All concerns should be addressed with the player's coach as a first step. If the concern needs further escalation, an email can be sent to **awyba.president@gmail.com**.