

# WRS Youth Basketball FAQ

[wrcc.org/sports](http://wrcc.org/sports)

## **What is the difference between in-house basketball and mission team basketball?**

In-house basketball provides an opportunity for players of all skill levels to learn basketball skills, play weekly games, and learn more about Jesus through a weekly team devotion. In-house basketball is perfect for any players just beginning to play or for any players who like to play and have fun. Mission team basketball provides a more intense level of basketball and spiritual experience. The goal of the Mission teams is to go out in the mission field (the community and specifically the basketball gyms) and set an example of Christ-like behavior for other players and coaches. The Mission team players, coaches, and parents are held to a higher standard because they are representing White River Christian Church, White River Sports, and most importantly, God and his son, Jesus Christ. From a basketball standpoint, the games are primarily at Grand Park Fieldhouse in Westfield, Finch Creek Fieldhouse in Noblesville, and Indiana Basketball Academy on the north side of Indianapolis. Also, some teams may play a few tournaments around the state.

## **When is the season?**

Evaluations will take place in early November, practices will start in early December and all teams will finish games by early March. (pending any rescheduling due to weather)

## **I have children in different age groups, can they just play in the same age group?**

No, unfortunately they will need to play in the league according to their age group barring some significant reason otherwise.

## **How long is the season? How long are the games?**

The season includes 7 to 9 one hour weekly practices and a minimum of 7 games. Games take approximately one hour to play.

## **Are there tryouts?**

For in-house, no, there are no tryouts as all kids who sign up to play in the in-house league will be placed on a team; however, all 1st thru 8th graders must attend one evaluation. Kindergarten players are NOT required to attend evaluations. The purpose of the evaluation is to try and field as evenly matched teams as possible. All evaluations in WRS are an open-house format and take approximately 30-75 minutes depending on the volume at the time you attend. The evaluations will take place on Monday through Wednesday, November 4-6, 2019 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

## **What is the duration and frequency of practice?**

Practices are once a week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday. Practice times are either 5:30-6:30 PM, 6:30-7:20 PM, or 7:20-8:20 PM.



### **Can I request a practice night or coach?**

You may let us know if you have more than one child participating in the program and we will put them on the same team (if in the appropriate age bracket) or do our best to have them practice on the same night, however, due to the size of the league and the way individuals are placed on teams so that they are evenly matched, we DO NOT accept practice night requests. We will allow you to choose one night per week to NOT have practice, but cannot accept specific night requests. We will not move a player from one team to another due to practice night conflicts. We also do not honor coaching requests unless the coach is a parent or guardian. We DO honor practice night requests for our volunteer coaches.

### **When and how do we register?**

Registration is highly recommended to be done online and prior to evaluations. Registration opens on August 1 and ends on November 6, 2019. **Please note that we will NOT accept late registrations.**

### **How old must my child be to participate?**

WRS is a grade-based program, not an age-based program. We offer leagues from kindergarten through eighth grade for both boys and girls. The exception to this guideline is if your child is 5 at the time of evaluations, but not in kindergarten, he or she may participate in the kindergarten league.

### **What is the registration cost? What does it include? What do I need to buy?**

Your registration fee of \$100, includes a team jersey, shorts, long sleeve shooting shirt, and drawstring bag. All team equipment for practice and games regarding balls, wrist-bands (for defensive guarding purposes), cones, practice jerseys (pennies), etc., is provided by the league. Players will need to have their own athletic shoes. Though basketball-specific shoes are recommended, they are not required.

### **What are the game rules?**

For the most part, the game rules are the same as high school basketball, but are tailored to be age and skill level appropriate. For example, at the younger ages kids cannot steal off the dribble or block shots to allow for the development of proper fundamentals. Full detail of rules by grade will be available at the start of practice.

### **Are the teams co-ed?**

No, depending on registration numbers we will have four girls only divisions (likely K-1st, 2nd-3rd, 4th-5th, and 6th-8th) and seven boys only divisions (K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5<sup>th</sup>-6th, and 7th-8th). If we are in a position of having extremely low registration numbers in the younger age groups, we may combine to form co-ed teams, but that would only be in the extreme and has not been required in recent seasons.

### **Do we have to be members of the church?**

Participants in the league are not required to be members of White River Christian Church or of any church. The league is designed as a community league open to anyone, regardless of church affiliation.



### **Do you keep standings?**

While standings are not kept, we do offer a season ending tournament for the full court leagues (3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys and 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls). Cross court leagues will not have a tournament, but will instead play another regular season game. The league is designed to teach and emphasize fundamentally sound basketball and provide players the opportunity to compete.

### **Can I coach in the league?**

Anyone is eligible to apply to coach in the league, however, we do complete background checks on all coaching applicants and reserve the right to accept or decline coaches based on our discretion. To fill the role of head coach, it is mandatory that you are a baptized believer and are actively involved in a local church.

### **For more information and questions about the league, contact:**

#### **Youth Basketball Director**

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