

YOUTH BASKETBALL - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What kind of time commitment is basketball?

A. Players will usually have a game and/or practice 2-3 times a week.

Q. When does basketball begin?

A. The season begins with the Skills Evaluation nights below.

GRADES 2-3, BOYS & GIRLS*

- Skills Evaluation: Tuesday, January 13, from 5:00-6:00pm at the old SW Primary School Gym
- Coach Meeting & Team Assignments (Coaches only): Thursday, January 15, 6:00pm at SWPRD Room 111
- Practices: Schedule TBD, January 20 - February 3 at the old SW Primary School Gym
- Games: Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, February 5 – March 19 at the old SW Primary School Gym

GRADES 4-5, BOYS & GIRLS

- Skills Evaluation: Monday, January 5, from 5-6:00pm Jan 5 at LMS Auxiliary Gym
- Coach Meeting & Team Assignments (Coaches only): Wednesday, January 7, 6:00pm at SWPRD Room 111
- Practices: Schedule TBD, begin approximately January 14, location varies,
- Games: Mondays and/or Wednesdays, starting February 3, mostly at Langley Middle School Aux Gym

GRADES 6-8 GIRLS

- Girls in Grades 5-8 played in the fall, 2014.

GRADES 6-8 BOYS

- Skills Evaluation: Tuesday, January 6, from 5-6:30, at LMS Auxiliary Gym
- Coach Meeting & Team Assignments (Coaches only) Thursday, January 8, 6:00pm at SWPRD Room 111
- Practices: Schedule TBD, begins approximately January 20, at Langley Middle School Gyms
- Games: Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, February 3 to March 19, at Langley Middle School Gyms

Q. When will practices be?

A. Practices will begin the week of Oct 20th. Your coach will schedule these practices and contact you with a practice schedule after the Skills Evaluation and team assignments. Practice times vary based on gym availability, coach schedule, and number of participants.

Grade 2/3	Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting the week of Jan. 20th, sometime between 3:30 – 7:30PM
Grades 4/5	Varies between Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu, after 3:45PM.
Grades 6/7/8	Varies between Mon/Wed, after 5PM.

Q. When will games be?

A. Games for the 6/7/8 girls will begin in early November. The game schedule will be determined after we know how many teams we will have in each division. Your coach will give you a detailed schedule after a few practices. Teams will play 1-2 games per week. Games will take place on the following days (subject to change):

Grade 2/3	Tuesdays or Thursdays, between 5-7:30pm
Grades 4/5	Monday &/or Wednesdays, between 5-8:00pm
Grades 6/7/8	Monday &/or Wednesday evenings (possibly some Saturday mornings), between 5-8:00pm on weekdays and 9-12:00pm on weekends

Q. Where will games and practices take place?

A. Games & practices will take place at the following locations:

Grade 2/3	Primary School gym, located at 5476 S. Maxwellton Road, Langley
Grades 4/5	Will vary between LMS & Elementary School gym, located at 5380 S. Maxwellton Road, Langley
Grades 6/7/8	Langley Middle School gyms, located at 723 Camano Avenue, Langley

Q. When will the season end?

A. The girls season will tentatively conclude the end of December for 6-8th grade and the end of March for 2nd-5th grade.

Q. When and where is Picture Day?

A. Picture day and time TBA

Q. Does my child have to be at Picture Day?

A. **Yes!** Part of our thank you gift to your team sponsor will be a nice plaque with a picture of the team on it. You needn't have individual pictures taken but the whole team must be present for the team photo. No purchase is required, but we want everyone to be in the team pictures.

Q. If there is such an effort to have parity among the teams, then why do some teams always win and some always lose?

A. There are a variety of reasons as to why that happens. The ideal season would be where each team wins 50% of their games. However, that rarely happens. Whenever you have competition and play a game where you keep score, one team is going to win and one is going to lose. It's the nature of sports. Try to judge your child's season not by whether the team won or lost, but by the experience they had and the skills they gained.

Q. What if my child has never played basketball before and can't do the skills listed above?

A. That's okay. No child will be kept from playing basketball because of lack of skill or experience. We are a recreational teaching league and everyone who registers in time will be assigned a team and allowed to play. Tell your child to simply do the best he/she can. All children will be placed on a team, regardless of skill.

Q. How will I know what team/coach my child has been assigned to?

A. Your coach will contact you shortly after the draft has been completed.

Q. What is the team size?

A. We try to limit teams to 8 players. This allows each player the maximum playing time. We wouldn't have more than 10 players on a team.

Q. Does my child need to be at the Skills Evaluation if s/he participated last year?

A. Yes. There will be new coaches and players and it gives us an idea of the full range of skills in order to have a fair draft.

Q. How are the teams formed?

A. The goal is to form teams of similar skill, making for closer, more competitive games. Requests for carpooling or for a certain coach will be disregarded. There are two important parts to the forming of teams, the Skills Evaluation and the Draft (team assignments):

Skills Evaluation The purpose of the Skills Evaluation is to give coaches an opportunity to see what level kids are playing at so that teams can be assigned evenly. All kids who want to play will check in at the designated school. They will be assigned a number, which will be pinned to their clothing. Players will be evaluated by coaches at various skills, using a point system. Each player will be asked to dribble, pass, do a lay-up, and try a free throw shot. For older grades short scrimmages may be held. He/she is then compared with the rest of the players in that age group for height, skill level & experience and given a rating by the coaches in that age group. Ratings will be tallied by coaches, and will be kept confidential. Coaches will discuss the players' ratings before drafting. These ratings are kept confidential among the coaches and the basketball coordinator.

Draft (Team Assignments) Once all players have been evaluated and placed in categories 1, 2 or 3, their names will be placed in hat #1, hat #2 or hat #3, NOT including the coaches' kids. Coaches' kids will be evaluated like everyone else in the try-outs and will be placed in the appropriate categories agreed upon by all coaches. Every coach will draw a player out of hat #1 until the hat is empty and so on with #2 and #3. All teams must be numerically equal or close before the drawing process can begin. If it was determined that the coach's kids are placed in category #1, then you are starting with two number 1's, so all other teams will draw out of the appropriate hat until all teams are even numerically. There is no pre-assigning of assistant coaches. Players who are siblings will be drafted onto the same team, unless requested otherwise. Coaches will vote on which rounds siblings should be drafted in. If there cannot be an equal number of players on each team, there will be a random drawing. After the draft, coaches will notify their own team members of their selection. Players will not be told in what round they were drafted.

Q. If my child has a conflict with the practice or games with his/her team, can I switch teams?

A. No. We are not able to accommodate car pools, piano lessons, etc.

Q. I have two children that are in the same age division. Can they be put on the same team?

A. If you notify us in advance, we will make every effort to put them together on the same team.

Q. What are the uniform requirements?

A. SWPRD provides a team shirt for all participants, which will be distributed in time for the first game. Participants will be required to provide shorts to complete the uniform, we recommend black to be consistent. Players must wear soft-soled basketball shoes on the courts. You do not need expensive basketball shoes, however, shoes should offer good support. Please contact us about our "Sneaker Fund" if you are unable to afford appropriate shoes for your child. No jewelry is permitted during games.

Q. Do I need to buy a basketball for my child?

A. Balls will be provided for practices and games, but if you choose to purchase one for your child check out the rules which indicate which size your league will be using. Be sure to write your child's name on the ball.

Q. Can I bring snacks or drinks for my child or to share with the whole team?

A. No food or drinks (except water) will be allowed in any of the gyms. We must be firm on this rule, as we are guests in the use of South Whidbey School District's Gymnasiums and this is a condition of our use.

Q. What if, after the season starts, someone has to drop off the team? Can we find a replacement?

A. No. This situation will be handled by the Coordinator on a case-by-case basis.

Q. Will games/practices be cancelled if it snows or the power's out?

A. In the case of inclement weather or power outages we may cancel games or practices. If South Whidbey schools have closed, then basketball will be canceled. If there is a power outage it is unsafe to get to the game location, the game will be cancelled. We will leave a message on our voice message system (360-221-5484) indicating the status of basketball.

Q. Will forfeited or cancelled games be rescheduled?

A. We will not re-schedule forfeited games. We may attempt to re-schedule cancelled games (due to weather etc.), if possible within the time and gym availability constraints.

Code of Conduct

Participation in sports can be a great learning experience for players, coaches, referees, and parents. The following code of conduct standards were established so everyone can enjoy organized sports.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Children learn best by example, so applaud good plays of both teams.
- Emphasize the benefits of skill development and practice. De-emphasize competition in the lower age groups.
- Know the rules of the game and support the officials. This approach will help in the development of the sport.
- Applaud a good effort in victory and in defeat; highlight the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice.
- Recognize the value of volunteer coaches. Communicate with them, support them, and thank them regularly!
- Help keep the game & practice facilities clean, safe & in good condition.
- Help the coaches with time- and score-keeping as needed.
- Children (siblings of the players) **MUST BE UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION** at all times.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Play for fun and enjoyment of the sport.
- Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one.
- Work hard to improve your skills.
- Be a team player- get along and cooperate with your teammates.
- Be on time for all games and practices.
- Learn the rules and play by them. Never argue with the decision of an official or coach.
- Respect your coaches, teammates, parents, opponents and the officials.
- Respect the arena and its facilities. Without them you would not have a place to play.

COACHES

- Strive to provide a safe environment which challenges each participant's playing potential while maintaining the integrity of "team play".
- Be a positive role model to players. Be concerned with their overall development. Exit the season having left the sport and players better served than the year before.
- Care more about players than winning the game.
- Be generous with praise when it is deserved. Be consistent, honest, fair and just. Do not publicly criticize players. Do not yell at or verbally/physically abuse players or officials.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging to the players.
- Be familiar with the rules, techniques and strategies of the sport. Encourage all players to be team players.
- Maintain an open line of communication with the parents of each player.

TAUNTING AND BAITING

Regrettably, this point of emphasis has reached the game of basketball. Taunting and baiting of opponents or officials has no place whatsoever in community athletics. Using "trash talk", intimidation, aggression, ridiculing motions, pointing fingers and gestures are all forms of taunting and baiting. Such conduct is contrary to the basic concept of fair play and honorable competition which SWPRD strives to provide for participants and will not be tolerated. Allowing players, parents or coaches to commit acts of taunting or baiting is sending the message that it is acceptable behavior. These undesirable acts will not be a part of our basketball league. Spectators, players, or coaches who engage in this activity will be reprimanded and/or removed from the game.

GYM USE

We must show respect for our schools and the privilege of using them. We ask all players, coaches and parents to help out. **It is not the sole responsibility of the coach or the last team to clean the gym!**

- We are permitted in designated areas only, which includes the gym, restrooms, & hall immediately near the gym.
- **NO FOOD OR DRINK (except water) IN THE GYMS.**
- When lowering or raising electrical basketball hoops STOP when the wheel stops spinning.
- All mechanical bleachers have a latch or locking feature. Know how they work before opening them.
- Please keep the balls locked in the ball box. The leather balls must not get wet or be used outside.
- Do not use emergency doors unless it is an emergency.
- Sweep the floors, return bleachers/chairs to their original location, pick up all trash and lost & found items.
- Make sure all doors, including emergency doors, are shut and locked before leaving.