

WNSL Basketball Frequently Asked Questions

If you have a question, start here. If you still cannot find your answer on this page, e-mail scott@wnsl.net

Sign-Ups, Cost and Division Related Questions

When can we register? Pre-K through 12th Grade deadline is Mid November.

How do I register and pay online? Go to www.wnsl.org and click on one of the sports you would like to register for. Once on a sport-specific page, log into your WNSL account (see the Login button on the right side of the screen). Once logged into your account, click "Register Now" in the top left corner to select the sport you would like to register your child for. If you do not have a WNSL account, click the "Register" button on the right of the screen to register/create an account. You will then "Add Participants" to your account and select which sport(s) you would like to register them for.

What if I do not want to register online? You can download a paper application on the Basketball page at www.wnsl.org. You may mail it in with a check but there will be a \$10 paper registration fee as indicated on the application.

What if I forget to register? You will be charged a late registration fee during the Late Registration period and assuming there is a team with an available spot. After this period expires, no more registrations are accepted.

Do you give refunds if my child decides not to participate? Refunds are not issued and until November 1st the registration fee may be transferred to another sport. After November 1st no refunds or transfer of fees is allowed. Exception: A player that has a Doctor's excuse and cannot play due to injury will have his/her registration transferred to another sport for the future.

What are the age divisions? The WNSL offers Co-ed Pre-k, separate boys and girls divisions in grades K through 9th grade, and Boys divisions in 10th, 11th and 12th grade.

How long does the season last? Games last 8 weeks. Games will be on Saturdays and some Sundays. Usually 4 in January and 4 in February. Practices typically begin in December. There is also a preseason tournament held in December as well as a postseason March Madness tournament the weekend after the final regular season game. These tournaments are optional and are not included in the league registration fee.

Are players allowed to "play up" or "play down"? Players are allowed to play up a division. However, players must have approval from scott@wnsl.net in order to play down. Players that play "down" may not be eligible for the March Madness tournament where birthday guidelines are stricter.

Can a player play on two teams? A player desiring to play on two teams in the same grade must receive prior approval from Scott Tygard (scott@wnsl.net). Players playing on two teams must pay two registration fees. No scheduling considerations will be given to players playing on two teams.

How much does the league cost? Please visit www.wnsl.org for fees. Price usually increases after November 1 so make sure to register early! Cost is normally in the \$140-\$160 range.

What is included in the registration fees? Uniform (Reversible jersey and shorts), Eight games, Referees, Gym Space, Participation award, Insurance, Newsletter, Website, Team Sportsmanship Trophies for some teams, League Administration and more. **Practice Locations are NOT Included.**

How do you form teams? WNSL is open to full or partial teams and free agents. All players are welcome to request a coach on their registration, however, this is just a request – unless the coach identifies your player on his roster, there is no guarantee that the participant will be placed on the team they request. We try our best to accommodate requests, however, coaches with pre-formed teams or partially formed teams that submit rosters with the players they intend on playing on their team will be honored first. Players not on a pre-formed roster are free agents and will be placed on a team(s) with classmates/players from their area of town.

What happens if my team does not have a coach? WNSL relies heavily on volunteer coaches. Sometimes, we do not have enough volunteers for the number of players that register. If your team does not have a coach, WNSL will first ask if any parent or group of parents is willing to take on coaching responsibilities.

Coach Related Questions

Who coaches the teams in the Basketball league? Volunteers! Some teams bring coaches with them and often parents coach. If you are interested in coaching or being an assistant you may indicate this on the “Volunteer” portion of the registration site.

My child is on a “Free Agent” Team. Who will coach the team? Parents with players on a free agent (new team) team will be asked to coach the team or assist in finding a coach for the team. If no one surfaces to coach the team, then the WNSL will try to find a coach that must be paid by the parents on this type team.

How does a parent notify the league that he or she would like to coach or be a team parent? During the online registration process there is a “Volunteer” page. Click on the volunteer position you would like (Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Parent) and fill out the requested information. You will then be assigned to your child’s team once the registration process is closed.

What do coaches need to do to prepare for the league? (1) Register your player with the league and then yourself as a coach. (2) Inform your parents to register online before the deadline in early November. Have them put your name in the 'coach requested' box. (3) Send scott@wnsl.net a roster close to the registration deadline of your team so we can cross-reference who has registered vs. who you are expecting. (4) We will build the teams from there and you will have a roster to view at the coaches' meeting. (5) Start looking for a practice space. The league does not provide practice locations.

How are coaches certified? Coaches are screened at the Coaches’ Meeting and sign a “Code of Conduct”, as well as complete a background check.

How do you come up with team names? The coaches determine team names but these will not be reflected on the provided WNSL jersey.

Once I register, how long will it be before I hear from a coach? The Coaches' Meeting is typically held the week before Thanksgiving to finalize all rosters. After that meeting, a coach will be in touch with you.

Basketball Basics and Miscellaneous Questions

What type of Basketball league does the WNSL offer? The WNSL feels all youth sports should be recreational in nature yet also competitive. The sports program is not a babysitting service but it is a league that does not encourage a win-at-all-cost attitude. Sportsmanship, camaraderie, fun and learning the game are the most important aspects of our basketball league. The WNSL feels that the casual recreational player as well as the more serious competitive player will both be accommodated. In short, the WNSL wants players of all different levels to have fun, excel and feel good about what they are doing.

What are the rules for the different divisions? Rules will be posted on the Basketball page at www.wnsl.org closer to the season start date.

How many players are on a team? The WNSL recommends teams carry 8-10 players, however, some coaches may choose to have more. Eight players is the minimum to have "full" team. The league may add free agents to a team with less than eight players.

Where are the games played? Games are played at over 20 locations throughout Davidson and Williamson counties. A few of the schools can include: West End Middle School, Harding Academy, Oak Hill School, J.T. Moore, Eakin Elementary, Brentwood Middle School, The Covenant School, Christ Presbyterian Academy, Currey Ingram Academy and Nashville Christian School.

When and how often do teams practice? Teams usually practice one time per week. However, practice frequency and location is determined by each coach. Many gyms charge a fee for practice time and the team is responsible for this expense. ***The WNSL does not provide practice times nor does it pay for them.*** Limited practice times at Cohn Learning and West End Middle are available through WNSL for teams that are not able to locate their own practice location. The WNSL charges a fee to cover rental costs for these locations.

Does the WNSL provide referees for games? Yes. A minimum of two trained referees are provided for every game played.

Does WNSL post standings? No, the WNSL does not provide standings as we do not want to promote over-the-top-competitiveness and focus on the "Love of the Game" instead. Scores and brackets are posted for the preseason and postseason tournaments and teams are rewarded for winning.

Are end of season trophies presented to the league champions/runners up? The WNSL does not award Championship and Runner-Up trophies to teams in the Basketball league. We like to keep the focus purely on the Love of the Game. We do give out "Love of the Game" sportsmanship trophies to teams that exemplify good sportsmanship throughout the season. We also award every player in the league an individual participant trophy or medallion at the end of the season. Championship trophies are given out at the preseason and postseason tournaments.

Does the league provide photos for teams and individuals? The league does not organize team photo days at this time.

What happens in case of inclement weather? Are games rescheduled? How will a parent/coach know if games are canceled? If games are canceled there will be a notice on the homepage of www.wnsl.org and the league's social media outlets as well as a message stating games have been cancelled at 615.376.4700. We also try to send out a league-wide e-mail. Coaches and team parents are responsible for spreading the word from there. Games are not rescheduled by the league; however, if coaches from both teams find and agree upon a gym for a weather-related makeup game, the league will provide referees. A five-day notice is mandatory for this policy.

What is the difference between WNSL and other basketball leagues? The West Nashville Sports League is a top-notch youth sports organization that emphasizes all players valuing the pure love-of-the-game over a winning-at-all-costs attitude. We do our best to place teams (depending on the number of teams in that grade level) in different levels of competition (bronze, silver, gold divisions) to provide a level playing field and create the best possible experience for all players. We also work hard to keep everyone heavily involved in the community by promoting and being involved in local organizations, colleges and events. Providing a fun January Jamboree event for younger players, the best gym conditions possible, certified referees, excellent communication to all participants, parents and coaches and an informative and user friendly website, the WNSL goes above and beyond to create a memorable and positive experience for all involved.

Sponsorship and Financial Assistance

Are there any opportunities for corporate sponsorships? Yes. The WNSL offers corporate sponsorships for each individual sport, as well as the overall league. We also offer corporate sponsorships of our preseason and postseason Basketball tournaments. You can see all opportunities under the sponsorship link at www.wnsl.org.

What if I am interested in sponsoring the league? Please contact scott@wnsl.net.

Does the WNSL provide financial assistance or scholarships? Yes. If you are in need of a full or partial scholarship, fill out and submit the financial assistance information at www.wnsl.org. A WNSL representative will be in touch in regard to the amount of financial assistance available for your participant.