

WNSL Fall/Winter 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? Registration is open now and will close on September 22 (Fall Season) or December 4 (Winter Season)

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. If you are registering a team, you will only need to add one participant, then register your team.

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 only given with a Doctor's excuse that a child cannot play due to injury (less a \$35 administration fee). Registrations may be transferred to another sport up until the Coach Meeting or uniforms are ordered, whichever comes first. After uniforms are ordered or the coach meeting has occurred, there is no transfer of fees available.

What are the age divisions? The WNSL offers separate boys and girls divisions in grades: PreK (Winter season only), K through 9th grade and boys divisions for the 10th - 12th grade. The number of participants will determine all divisions. If there are not enough teams in a division for fair play, divisions may be combined and girls may play boy teams.

How long does the season last? Fall Basketball will play on Saturdays in Late October through December (No Games Thanksgiving weekend). Winter Basketball will play on Saturdays in January and February.

Is there an End Of Season Tournament? There is an end of season tournament for Fall Basketball. All WNSL Fall Basketball teams are automatically entered. Non-WNSL teams may enter this tournament for \$100 per team. WNSL Winter Basketball Teams receive a team discount for the March Madness Tournament in early March.

Are players allowed to "play up" or "play down"? One player per team may play down one division with approval from the league. To get approval for your player to play down, contact scott@wnsl.net.

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. **NO PLAYER MAY PLAY ON TWO TEAMS IN THE TOURNAMENTS REGARDLESS OF DIVISION.**

How much does the league cost? Fall Season: K - 1st Grade - \$150, 2nd - 12th Grade - \$170
Winter Season: PreK - 1st Grade - \$170, 2nd - 12th Grade - \$190

What is included in the registration fees? Uniform, minimum 6 regular season games (depending on season), Referees, Gym Space, Participation Award, Insurance, Newsletter, Website, League Administration, **Practice Locations are NOT Included but the league may assist in providing a time/location for a reasonable fee. We also provide insurance for teams with their own practice locations.**

How do you form teams? The WNSL is open to full teams, 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 or partially formed teams submit rosters with the players they intend on playing on their team. We go by this roster first. Players not on a pre-formed team are free agents and we work to place them on a team with classmates/players from their area or create an entire team from free agents. If you would like to be on a certain coach's team, you must communicate directly with that coach and receive coach approval to join their roster.

What happens if there are too few teams in a division? The WNSL will do whatever possible to have all divisions play. If there are not enough we will combine divisions, make division's co-ed, or have boys/girls teams play against one another. If we are unable to form divisions we will offer refunds.

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 son/daughter 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 your season's registration deadline. 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 may assist with practice locations but there is no guarantee.

How are coaches certified? Coaches are screened at the Coaches' Meeting and sign a "Code of Conduct", as well as complete an online background check.

How do you come up with team names? The coaches/players determine team names but team names 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 in Early October (Fall) or Early December (Winter). At that meeting, coaches will receive their team rosters and begin to contact their players shortly after. Coaches that add Free Agents to their roster are asked to contact the free agent immediately.

What if there are not enough coaches signed up? The WNSL does its best to never turn away a player. If there are not enough coaches initially volunteered, the league will create new teams called "Free Agent Teams" and ask parents from that team to volunteer to coach.

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

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 reserves the right to add free agents to a team with less than eight players.

Where are the games played? Games will be played at various gyms in the West Nashville Area including West End Middle, Eakin, Cohn Learning Center, St. Paul, JT Moore Middle, Harding Academy and more.

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, gym monitors, etc. 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.

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. 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 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. No player is turned away for financial reasons.