

Parents of Grade 1&2 Basketball Players on the Waiting List,

This is a lengthy note, but we need to cover two areas here. First is the status of the league and second is an appeal for parents to step up to coach.

Status

The grade 3-6 leagues start practicing next week. In the next few weeks we will be get the middle school and high school leagues underway for their start at the end of November. Once those leagues are set, we will turn our attention to your child's league, which starts January 16th.

The end of registration was September 20th, extended from the normal September 15th as we allowed for some grace period with the online registration process. At that time we had limited enrollment to 120 players, up from 80 last season.

We have to establish a cut off for enrollment at September 15th, as we must contract with schools for facility use. What we do not use for DYA, other organizations may want to rent. So we need to contract in September.

We took a look at the enrollment numbers and set the maximum size of the league at 160. This will allow a number of late enrollments, most of which are already in a waiting list. The maximum was set with four factors in mind.

First, allow for late registration, especially since this league does not start until January.

Second, avoid Sunday play, which was a concern often voiced by those enrolling since July. We have only two facilities which accommodate the lowered baskets required for this level and had enrollment been higher by September, we would have to consider Sunday play. Sunday play is no longer a consideration for this year and the league will have only Saturday play.

Third, we did not want to play into Saturday evening, so we set the last sessions to begin at 500pm and end at 600pm.

Finally, we want no more than 5 players per team for 3-on-3 play. More than that, and with parent spectators, the gyms get overcrowded.

Appeal for Coaches

If we are going to take 160, why is there a waitlist above 120? Simply put, 120 players means 24 teams. At September 20th, only 5 of their parents agreed to coach. Until we can get enough coaches, the league cannot consider adding players from the waiting list or further late enrollments.

We are trying to get a jump on recruiting coaches by alerting you to the situation and also sending a similar note to parents on the 120, i.e. not on the waiting list.

To understand the responsibilities of a coach at this level, let me describe the league and what is required of you.

There are six sessions for this league, one hour each. All sessions are on Saturday at 9, 10, 11, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 o'clock. Dates are January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20. Each team will have a different time each week, so it will not be the same time every week. While it is advertised as a co-ed league, if we have enough coaches for each, we want to have separate boys' and girls' divisions.

Each week there is a 30 minute clinic to start the session. We will have someone there each of the first two weeks. If their schedules allow it, we hope to have program leaders there every week for every session. I did this last year for each of the 5 hours of the first three weeks, and the coaches took over the last three weeks, while my own school and travel teams played in tournaments. I hope to be able to assist in the program this year in each of the 8 sessions each Saturday.

Following the 30 minute clinic teams play a 20 minute running clock game, 3-on-3. There are four periods and substitutions are made at the end of each period. A parent will run the clock. The coach will see to the substitutions. The coach can provide coaching during the game, emphasizing the skills taught in the clinics. The coach does not have to prepare a practice plan.

There are no practices during the week and thus, aside from a one hour coaches' meeting in early January, only six hours of commitment are required during the season. Most parents are going to be there watching anyway. And from what we've observed in third grade leagues, there are a lot of parents who enjoy coaching from the stands. This is your chance to try it out. It really is a fun and satisfying experience.

That said, we must have additional coaches to move forward. To that end we have admitted already the children of parents on the waiting list whose parents have agreed to coach. But we still need more. Two dozen more are still needed.

You don't have to send me an email. In fact I prefer you didn't send an email if your only question is about whether your child is in the league. Your child is on the waiting list and nothing changes until we have coaches, or until you volunteer to coach. Any coaching volunteers will be admitted immediately.

I will send another note at the end of November, if not sooner, to advise you where we are at that point.

What you do need to do right now is go to your account and next to your name click "register". Fill out the coaching registration form. I will see it, so no need to send an email. I thank you in advance on behalf of the kids.

To further make your decision to help easier, every head coach will be allowed to select one assistant, and thus, have the coaches' children play on the same team. That is the only request we are taking in forming teams. Everything else will be random. Ordinarily we might consider our policy for leagues with assigned players to attempt to place another child from your child's school on the team. Given there are only 5 players on a team, we found that task is not so easily achieved as when there are nine on a team, e.g. in third grade. Assignments other than coach and assistant coach will be random.

I hope you will respond by registering to coach.

Sincerely,

Jim Link
DYA athletic director