

# **Westborough Youth Basketball Association**



**Information for Parents**



# Westborough Youth Basketball Association

## Information for Parents

The WYBA Board of Directors has assembled this information to answer many of the questions that parents may have about the WYBA Program. If you have any questions that are not covered, please do not hesitate to ask a WYBA Board Member or email

[President@WestboroughBasketball.org](mailto:President@WestboroughBasketball.org)

### *General Information*

- **WYBA Website:** [www.westboroughbasketball.org](http://www.westboroughbasketball.org)
- **WYBA Board of Directors:** <http://www.westboroughbasketball.org/board-of-directors/>
- **Westborough Recreation Basketball:** WYBA is separate from Rec Basketball, which is run by the town Recreation Dept. WYBA has a strong and positive relationship with Rec and strongly encourages players to play Rec Basketball in addition to Travel.
- **WYBA Bylaws:** Key WYBA activities, including tryouts and team selection are governed by bylaws, available at <http://www.westboroughbasketball.org/wyba-constitution-and-bylaws/>
- **WYBA Mission:**
  - Create a supportive, safe, learning environment in which our youth can learn the proper fundamentals of team basketball, in a competitive league format
  - Teach basketball skills, both basic and more advanced, to instill respect for the rules of the game and teach the strategies necessary to continue in the sport of basketball.
  - Promote high self-esteem and good sportsmanship in a fun and highly competitive environment.
- **WYBA Teams:** Up to 2 travel teams for Boys & Girls in 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Several factors will determine whether there is a 0, 1 or 2 Teams for each Gender/Grade grouping. Factors include Coaching Availability, Level of Interest, Talent Level, Gym Availability, League Matchups. We won't know for sure about the # of teams until after tryouts.
- **Practices:** WYBA provides gym space for 1-2 practice(s) per week, usually weeknights or Saturdays
- **MetroWest Basketball League:**
  - Westborough teams participate in the Metrowest Basketball League with hundreds of teams from nearby towns - usually (but not always) within a 1 hour drive from Westborough.
  - Metrowest is a competitive league with 5 divisions that allow WYBA to place each of our teams in a division with even competition.
  - Practices start the last week of October or the first week of November, games start the first week of December and are usually on Sundays (varying times) until early March.
  - There are games on Super Bowl Sunday and both weekends of February vacation. The season concludes in early March with playoffs, when a boys and girls champion for each division is crowned.
  - Each coach may elect to enter non-league tournaments as well. Many teams enter at least one tournament – usually on weekends or during school vacation weeks.



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- **Travel Basketball Costs:**

- WYBA is a non-profit (501c3) organization and all fees are used to provide a competitive basketball experience for our players.
- Costs to WYBA include insurance, gym time for games, website/advertising, league fees, referees, uniforms, equipment, practice time, tournaments, etc.
- Revenue generation by League includes tryout fees, team fees, fundraising & sponsorships
- The cost of the program has historically ranged from \$300 to \$500 per player. Each Head Coach is responsible for paying for all costs for the team & collecting money from parents.
- There is a reduced fee to participate in the tryouts sessions if you register prior to the tryout session, otherwise a higher fee will be collected on the day of tryouts
- Financial assistance is available for families in need by sending filling out the confidential form at: <http://www.westboroughbasketball.org/financial-assistance/>

## *Coach Selection*

- WYBA solicits coaches for A Teams in each grade in July. Candidates fill out an [application](#), complete a CORI and interview (if appropriate). At the conclusion of this rigorous process, the Board votes to select each A Team coach.
- We have continue to solicit coaches for possible B Teams in each grade until those teams are formed. If anyone is interested in possibly coaching a B team, please fill out the [application](#).
- After the A Team in each grade is selected, the Board will select the B Team Head Coach based on the applications it has received – the coach will be selected prior to notification of team roster selections.
- To be clear, submission of an application to coach the B Team will not affect your child’s ranking or the selection process for the A Team. B Coach candidates will be allowed to attend tryouts.
- If your son or daughter is selected for the A Team and he/she wishes to play on that team, you can simply withdraw your application if you no longer wish to be considered as head coach for the B Team.

## *Tryout Process*

- The WYBA Team Selection process is designed to be a fair and open approach to assembling the best teams to compete in the Metrowest Basketball League.
- Our WYBA Bylaws state: “Players, if physically able, are expected to participate in both tryouts.” All things considered, you have a better chance of making a team if you attend both tryouts.
- The only way to make a team having not attended either tryout is to be selected with the coaches one “silver bullet” as described in WYBA Bylaws (Article VII, Section 3.C.2). This is usually used at coaches discretion for injured players or special situations, so attending at least one tryout is critical (and in most cases it is required) to be considered for a team.
- The board works hard to avoid conflicts with town sports, but there is no way to account for all the various club teams. Each parent has to make their own decisions regarding priorities, but the vast majority of club coaches will understand if you need to skip a tournament game to attend your town travel tryouts.



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- Players who are late for a tryout or leave a tryout early will be included in the rankings as long as they attend  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the minutes of the tryout. For example, if the tryout is scheduled from 9am-10am and the player arrives at 9:20, they will not be allowed to participate. If a player leaves at 9:40, their tryout score will not be included in the player rankings for team selection.
- Players must tryout with their own grade and gender.
- A standard tryout format is used for all sessions and is facilitated by members of the WYBA Board of Directors. Tryouts are closed to parents.
- Tryout evaluators are selected by the WYBA Board, made up of coaches and former players, who can effectively assess basketball skills. Tryout evaluators are not allowed to evaluate or see the scores for players in a grade that they have a child in.
- Players are evaluated (1-10 scale) on a standard set of criteria, which includes basketball skills, positional attributes as well as attitude and hustle.
- The A Team Head Coach and B Team Head Coach applicants may be present at tryouts to observe, but do not evaluate the players and cannot communicate with the evaluators.
- Coaches have specific requirements based on the tryout results that must be followed when selecting teams. We encourage parents to review the WYBA Bylaws to gain a better understanding of how the teams are selected.
- The WYBA Board of Directors works meticulously to plan each tryout session so that the process is as fair as possible. However, no tryout process is perfect and some players may be disappointed with the results. We strongly encourage any players who do not make a travel team to continue playing basketball and tryout again in future years.
- If parents have any questions or concerns about the tryout process - or any other issues once the season starts – our Player Advocate is available to answer questions, address concerns and provide support as needed. You can email confidentially at [player.advocate@westboroughbasketball.org](mailto:player.advocate@westboroughbasketball.org)

### **Team Selection**

- All of the Evaluators scores from both tryout sessions will be totaled to come up with a ranked listing of all players (e.g. if 30 players try out, they will be ranked 1 – 30 based on evaluation scores).
- The coach of the team determines the size of the roster of his/her team; between 10 -12 players.
- Selection Process for A Team and B Team
  - Automatic 4 - The top 4 players from the try-out evaluation ranking are automatically invited to join the Team.
  - 1 Silver Bullet - The coach can select 1 player at his/her discretion from all remaining players.
  - Rest from Top 50% - The balance of the team is selected from the greater of 50% of the remaining ranked players or the next 16 ranked players.
- The league will notify the players/parents of the tryout results approximately 5-10 days after the last tryout.