



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to welcome you and your child to the 2025/2026 Waynesboro Area YMCA Youth Basketball League! We are looking forward to a fun, organized, and positive experience for all players and families. Below is an overview of how the 2025/2026 league will be structured and how the season will run.

### League Format

Our league is designed to emphasize skill development, teamwork, sportsmanship, and enjoyment of the game. Teams will compete in a structured regular season with a strong focus on player growth and confidence.

### Why This "New" Format?

We understand this structure may look different from previous years. However, this format is intentionally designed to provide more ball touches, better competition alignment, and increased opportunities for skill growth. We are confident your child will benefit greatly from this approach.

### Season Schedule

All divisions will play games on Saturdays beginning January 10th and running through March 14th. Please plan to arrive on-time as the games must stay on time. Please do not enter gym until your scheduled floor time as there is limited space in the gym.

### Grade-Level Format and Scheduling

#### Kindergarten–1st Grade (K–1)

- Schedule: Saturdays from 12:30–1:30 PM
- Team Size: 8–10 players per team
- Format: coaches will split teams into two groups based on current skill level and comfort with gameplay (more aggressive and less aggressive play).
- Teams will play 3-on-3
- This structure allows players to compete against others at a similar developmental stage and gives coaches flexibility to adjust groupings weekly to maximize individual growth.
- 6 ft rims

#### 2nd–3rd Grade

- Game Times (Saturdays): – 10:00–10:45 AM – 10:45–11:30 AM – 11:30 AM–12:15 PM
- Team Size: 5–6 players per team
- Format: 3-on-3 gameplay to increase each player's touches on the ball and maximize skill development with increased spacing compared to 5-on-5 which is important for this age group.

- Practices: One 1-hour practice per week between 5:00–7:00 PM (specific day and time will be on schedule)
- 8.5 ft rims
- Score will be kept throughout the season and the final week March 14<sup>th</sup> games will be based on seeding from the regular season.

#### 4th–6th Grade

- Game Times (Saturdays): – 8:00–9:00 AM – 9:00–10:00 AM
- Team Size: 6–7 players per team
- Format: 4-on-4 gameplay to increase touches, decision-making opportunities, and overall development with increased spacing compared to 5-on-5 which is important for this age group.
- Practices: One 1-hour practice per week between 5:00–8:00 PM (specific day and time will be on schedule)
- 9 ft rims
- Score will be kept throughout the season and the final 3 weeks of games Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, and March 11<sup>th</sup> will be a 3 round playoff based on seeding from the regular season.

#### Game Rules and Playing Time

- Games will follow age-appropriate basketball rules.
- All players will receive meaningful playing time.
- The focus is on learning and development rather than solely on winning.
- Officials and coaches will assist younger players with rules and gameplay as needed.

#### Sportsmanship and Expectations

We ask all players, parents, and spectators to help maintain a positive environment:

- Respect coaches, referees, players, and league staff.
- Encourage all athletes, not just your own.
- Refrain from negative comments toward officials or opposing teams.
- Remember this is a youth development league.

#### Communication

League-wide communication, including schedules, updates, and important announcements, will be sent via the Band app. Please join the Band group that your child is a part of. Team-specific information will come directly from your coach. Any questions about the team should first go through your coach, then Kegan Crider, and then Whitney Wolff. Please ensure your contact information is up to date.

### YMCA Inclement Weather Policy

#### Decision Making:

A decision to cancel or delay practices or games due to weather will be made by league leadership based on facility status, road conditions, and local school or municipal advisories.

**Notification:**

Families will be notified of any cancellations or schedule changes as soon as possible through the Band app. We will try to make the decision as early as possible, but no later than 7:00am for Saturday games and 4:00pm for weekday practices.

**Facility Closures:**

If the YMCA is closed due to weather, all league activities scheduled at that location are automatically canceled during that time. Please follow the Waynesboro Area YMCA Facebook page for more information and most recent updates.

**Make-Ups:**

If a Saturday game is cancelled, those games will be made up during the scheduled practice time that week for levels 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be no make ups for K-1.

Thank you again for being part of the YMCA mission and this program! We are excited for a great season and appreciate your support in making this a positive experience for all athletes. If you have any questions throughout the season, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

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