

# **BLYBA: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2021-2022 SEASON**

## **WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES FOR REGISTRATION?**

### Traveling Players (Grades 4-8)

**September 18th** is the registration deadline for Traveling Players. The registration cost is \$70. Incoming 4th graders and any player new to the traveling program will also need to purchase a uniform for \$60. Registrations after **September 18th** will be accepted only if players are needed to complete a team roster, and **MUST** be pre-approved by the Board of Directors. **\*Returning players should try on their uniform to make sure they do not need a new top or bottom.**

### In-House Players (Grades 2-3)

**October 12th** is the deadline for In-House players in grades 2-3. The registration cost is \$65, which includes a jersey. Registrations after **October 12th** will be accepted only if players are needed to complete a team roster, and **MUST** be pre-approved by the Board of Directors.

### In-House Players (Grades K-1)

**October 12th** is the deadline for In-House Players in grades K-1. The registration cost is \$25, which includes a t-shirt. Registrations after **October 12th** will be accepted if space allows, and **MUST** be pre-approved by the Board of Directors.

## **I HAVE A 4TH GRADER, WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

All 4th graders are required to participate in the traveling basketball program. When registering your child, they are considered a new player even though he/she may have played in-house in the past. Therefore, all 4th graders will need a new uniform. You will order the uniform during the online registration process and request a jersey number. We will do our best to give the player one of their three choices. When determining uniform sizes you may want to consider ordering a size up so your child can wear the uniform for multiple seasons. Some players will use the same uniform 4th-8th grade. There will be a meeting for parents of 4th grade players, as well as anyone new to the traveling program, in September. Uniforms will be available at the parent meeting and at evaluations for players to try on to verify correct sizes were ordered. Please see the BLYBA website ([www.blyba.com](http://www.blyba.com)) for the time and place of the meeting.

## **IS THERE ANYTHING NEW WITH REGISTRATION FOR RETURNING PLAYERS?**

You must have your player's current uniform number, which you will enter during the online registration process. This applies to traveling players in 5th-8th grade. Incoming 4th grade players will request a uniform number when registering. We need to know the number, so we do not have any duplicates with new members joining the program in the same grade level. If your child needs to order a larger uniform, they will be able to do so during the registration process for a cost of \$60. If your child only needs a new jersey or shorts, they can be ordered individually for a cost of \$30 each. Any family that currently owes the Big Lake Youth Basketball Association funds from a previous season, for any reason, will not be allowed to register their child until the debt is paid in full or an arrangement is made and approved.

## **WILL MY CHILD NEED TO ATTEND EVALUATIONS IN OCTOBER?**

Evaluations are held for players in the traveling program (Grades 4-8). Evaluations are scheduled for Sunday, October 3, 2021. Please note that we have reduced evaluations to one session and they are **MANDATORY**. The scores during evaluations will be used to determine teams along with a small number of Coaches picks. If your player cannot attend evaluations, as scheduled, board approval is necessary. The Board of Directors will consider the reason for missing (i.e. family vacation). If a player chooses to skip evaluation day, they will need to be a Coaches pick in order to play on the top team. Illness or injury would be exceptions to this deadline; please notify us ASAP if illness or injury is a factor for your

player. Traveling Players that do NOT attend evaluations ARE NOT eligible for the top team unless the absence is approved by the Board of Directors. We highly encourage parents to review the team formation policy, located under “BLYBA Policy Page” on the BLYBA website ([www.blyba.com](http://www.blyba.com)).

### **WILL WE HAVE EVALUATIONS IF THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH PLAYERS FOR MORE THAN ONE TEAM?**

The Board of Directors discretion is used to determine the need for evaluations in this scenario. Depending on the number of players, the evaluation scores will be used by the coaches to help identify the skill level between players.

### **DOES THE BLYBA OFFER ANY SCHOLARSHIPS?**

Yes. If your family qualified for the free and reduced lunch program this past school year, then you will be eligible for free registration. The family **must** provide a copy of their free and reduced lunch documentation to the Board of Directors. If you are approved, you will be given a code to enter at the time of registration. This code will cover the registration fee ONLY; the family will still be obligated to cover the cost of uniforms and all other costs associated with the traveling program, including tournament fees. You **MUST** have this code to complete the online registration process. Please contact our Administration Director via email, at [Administration@blyba.com](mailto:Administration@blyba.com), with questions or to provide the documentation. Scholarships will be given out for players in grades 2-8 only. There are no scholarships given for grades K-1. **\*\*Please do not let money be the reason your child does not play basketball. We will do our best to work with you, so they can play. Please reach out to the Board of Directors, if necessary.**

### **WHAT ADDITIONAL COSTS ARE INVOLVED TO PLAY BASKETBALL?**

All traveling teams will cover their own cost for tournaments throughout the season. There will be an additional cost of approximately \$75-150 per player for tournament fees (guidelines in the policy). Additional costs for traveling players may include transportation, food, hotels for out-of-town tournaments and tournament admission fees for family members. Most tournaments are within the metro area, but some teams may choose to enter tournaments that require a hotel stay. There are generally no additional fees associated with the In-House program. There is a \$150 volunteer deposit fee required for all players in grades 2-8, which will be shredded upon completion of the volunteer commitment (6 hours per family).

### **WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT AND LENGTH OF THE SEASON?**

The traveling season will start with evaluations in October. Evaluations are scheduled for Sunday, October 3, 2021. The players will then be evaluated and teams will be formed. Practice will begin in late October and most teams will start tournament play in November. The season will continue until the beginning of March. This may vary between teams. Generally, your child will have two practices a week and tournaments on weekends. Approximately 2-3 tournaments are recommended per month with a total of approximately 10-12 tournaments per season. A meeting with all coaches is encouraged, at the beginning of the year, to discuss which tournaments will be entered.

The In-House (grades 2-3) season will begin in November. Teams will be separated between boys and girls. Depending on registration numbers, smaller teams may be formed and the players will play 3 on 3 games. BLYBA anticipates the girl's In-House teams to be 3-on-3 and boys teams to be larger full teams. These teams will play on Saturdays and have one (1) practice during the week. Please watch the BLYBA website for specific dates and times.

The In-House (grades K-1) season will begin in early November. The players will meet as a large group once a week to develop skills and learn the basic rules of the game. The season wraps up before the holiday break for this age group.

## **IN 7TH AND 8TH GRADE CAN MY CHILD PLAY BOTH SCHOOL BASKETBALL AND ASSOCIATION BASKETBALL OR DO THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER?**

**In 7th and 8th grade children are able to play both school and association basketball.**

**They do not have to choose between the two.** Girl's school basketball begins in early November and concludes at the end of December. The boy's school basketball season will start in early January and conclude at the end of March. The Big Lake Association basketball season runs November through March/ April and will play and practice simultaneously with the school season.

Your child will practice with their school team while the season is going on and will also practice with their association team. Association practices are typically used for extra gym time during the school basketball season. Your association coach may only choose to practice once a week vs twice a week while school practices are being held.

The benefits of playing both:

- Your child will receive more gym time to improve their basketball skills.
- Playing association along with school basketball allows your child to play more months of the year. School basketball season is approximately 2 months long. Playing both school and association basketball gives your child 5-6 months of basketball.
- Playing both also gives your child the opportunity to develop closer relationships with their teammates for years to come.

## **ARE ALL PARENTS REQUIRED TO VOLUNTEER?**

Parents of grades K-1 are asked to help during practice time, with gym set-up & clean-up, as well as helping organize and run specific drills. This age group depends on parent involvement to run smoothly. Parents of this age group are not required to submit a volunteer deposit as discussed below.

Parents of players in grades 2-8 are required to volunteer six (6) hours of time during the season. This requirement is per family, so if you have more than one child enrolled in the program, you only need six (6) volunteer hours in total. A \$150 volunteer is required upon registration—or is to be collected at the scheduled Parents Meeting. If you choose not to participate in volunteering, your \$150 volunteer check will be cashed at the end of the season (early March).

There are many volunteer opportunities available and include: coaching, parent liaison, multiple different positions with our BLYBA tournaments, and participating on the Tournament Committee. The BLYBA puts on 2 tournaments per year. These tournaments are the ONLY fundraisers for our organization. We are able to use the resources provided by these tournaments to help fund many programs. These funds are also used to keep our registration/uniform costs low, provide additional gym time, provide off-season skills clinics and fund summer programs. It takes many volunteers to run a large tournament and we count on all the parents to help make them successful. Volunteer opportunities for tournament workers will be listed under the DIBS section of the BLYBA website as they become available, making it very convenient to schedule your volunteer time.

**Again, each family is required to volunteer six (6) hours during the course of the season. If you choose not to fulfill your volunteer hours, your \$150 volunteer check will be cashed at the end of the season.**

## **IS BLYBA PART OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION?**

Although the Big Lake Youth Basketball Association works with Community Education for scheduling and facilities usage, we are not part of Community Education. The BLYBA is its own separate non-profit organization. We rent gym space for all of our practices, meetings, tournaments and any other skills clinics/special events that we sponsor. We are responsible for paying custodians, building supervisors and non-volunteer coaching staff. We pay permit fees for events and a percentage of all tournament profits.

## **HOW MANY KIDS ARE ON A TRAVELING TEAM?**

Team sizes cannot be determined until registration is closed. BLYBA wants to make sure EVERY child that wants to play basketball has the ability to play. Because of this we do not cut any child from the association from 4th-6th grades. We currently cut players in 7th and 8th grades, if we have over 10 players per team. (These players still have the ability to play basketball through our school's basketball program though).

If we have a team that is larger than 10 players we will look to the coaches for input and suggestions. Rotating players and having 10 players at a tournament may be an option that will allow the players to get more playing time during a game. BLYBA does allow more coaches for these larger teams.

## **MY CHILD IS ON A TRAVELING TEAM — HOW MUCH PLAYING TIME WILL THEY GET DURING A GAME?**

BLYBA bylaws state that playing time is equal in 4th and 5th grade, up until the last 4 minutes of the game. 6th-8th grade players should play 1/4 of a game. So, in a game that is two 14 minutes halves (28 minutes total game time), each player should get to play about 7 minutes a game, or about 21 minutes per tournament.

## **WHY DO WE HAVE TEAMS SPLIT BASED ON ABILITY?**

Our In-House and 4th grade teams are not divided based on ability. We try to keep these teams as equal as possible.

The 5th-8th grade traveling teams are split based on evaluations. When we have an age group that is large enough to have multiple teams, we do evaluations and place kids on teams based on their scores. We want all the kids to develop and grow during the year, some do this quicker than others. If we have the teams more equal in skills, then more kids will get the opportunity to handle the ball during the game, which will lead them to improving their skills during the season.

## **LOCAL LEAGUES**

In addition to the items listed above, we now have a couple of local options to highlight. We have a "Becker League" for all of our 4th grade teams and those in 3rd grade that are interested. This league is part of the 4th grade traveling schedule; 3rd graders play in this, in addition to their 2nd and 3rd grade teams, as it's an extra opportunity. The Becker League is 4 Saturdays, with 2 games each day, all played in Becker, against other local communities.

The other local league is for boys teams in 5th and 6th grades. This is the Central Minnesota Basketball League and it's a cooperation between Big Lake, Becker, Sartell, Foley, Rockford, Monticello and Zimmerman. Each community will host 1 or 2 Saturdays of games. Big Lake's hosting date is January 15, 2022. There is no admission for fans. The league is approximately 18-20 games. This is meant for our lower teams to have a place to play against other teams of similar

ability. There is an end of season tournament for these teams. Our teams will have the option to attend other tournaments, including the Big Lake Tournament.

#### **WHAT SIZE BALLS ARE USED FOR EACH GRADE?**

All 4th graders will use a 27.5" ball.

5th & 6th grade boys and 5th-8th grade girls will use a 28.5" ball.

7th & 8th grade boys will use a regulation sized ball.