



Red Wing Basketball Association  
Parent Handbook

# Red Wing Basketball Association



## 1.0 Overview

**1.1 Mission Statement** The mission of the Red Wing Basketball Association (RWBA) is to foster the growth and development of young athletes by promoting skill-building, teamwork, sportsmanship, and a love for the game. Through both recreational and competitive opportunities, RWBA aims to create a positive and inclusive environment where players of all abilities can thrive physically, socially, and emotionally.

**1.2 Summary** Our Youth Basketball Program is designed to introduce and develop basketball skills in a fun, inclusive, and supportive environment for both boys and girls.

- **Grades K–3: Entry-Level Skills Program**

This foundational program focuses on teaching basic basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting, and teamwork. It's perfect for young athletes who are new to the sport and want to build confidence while having fun.

- **Grades 3–8: Traveling Basketball Program**

For players ready to take the next step, our traveling program offers competitive play against teams from other communities. Athletes will continue to develop their skills, learn game strategies, and experience team camaraderie through practices and weekend tournaments.

Whether your child is just starting out or looking to compete at a higher level, our program provides a great opportunity to grow as a player and teammate.

**1.3 Eligibility Requirements** To ensure fair play and alignment with Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) guidelines, RWBA has the following eligibility criteria:

- **Grade-Level Participation**

All players must register at their **current grade level** as of the beginning of the basketball season.

- **MSHSL Participation Restriction**

Students in **7th or 8th grade** who are participating on a **MSHSL team** that competes **with or against 9th–12th grade students** are **not eligible** to participate in RWBA or any other non-school/community basketball program during the same season.

# Red Wing Basketball Association



## 2.0 Registration

2.1 Details Registration for the Red Wing Basketball Association (RWBA) occurs **once per year**, beginning in late-Summer for the upcoming **fall/winter season (November to March)**.

**Key Details:**

- Registration announcements are sent via email to families in the RWBA database and shared through Red Wing Public Schools.
- Meeting the registration deadline is essential for:
  - Forming teams
  - Recruiting coaches
  - Ordering equipment
  - Registering for tournaments
- **Late registrations** will be accepted **only as space allows** and will incur an **additional fee**.

2.2 Participation Fees Participation fees support the essential costs of running the RWBA program, including:

- Tournament entry fees
- Equipment and uniforms
- Facility rentals
- Other operational expenses

RWBA is committed to keeping fees affordable from year to year. However, adjustments may be necessary based on program needs and rising costs.

**Financial Assistance:**

Scholarships are available for students enrolled in the **free and reduced lunch program**. To apply, parents must submit a verification letter from **Red Wing Public Schools** prior to the start of practices.

2.3 Refund Policy

RWBA understands that family plans and circumstances can change. However, because participation fees help cover upfront costs such as tournament registration, equipment purchases, and facility rentals, we have established the following cancellation policy:

- **Full Refund:**
  - Cancellations made **before the first scheduled practice**
  - If **Refund Protection** was purchased during registration and is covered per the selected policy
- **No Refund:** No refunds will be issued **after the first practice** has taken place, as most program costs have already been incurred.

**Scholarship Recipients:** If a scholarship recipient withdraws, RWBA requests timely notice so that resources can be reallocated to other eligible families.

All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to the RWBA Board

# Red Wing Basketball Association



## 3.0 Team Leveling

- 3.1 Purpose Starting in 6th grade, youth basketball players begin to show noticeable differences in skill level, physical development, and game awareness.
- Benefits of Team Leveling:**
- **Skill-Appropriate Placement:** Players are grouped based on ability, allowing for more effective coaching and development.
  - **Meaningful Playing Time:** Athletes receive game experience that matches their readiness, boosting confidence and engagement.
  - **Tailored Coaching:** Practices and instruction can be customized to meet the needs of each group.
  - **Competitive Balance:** Games are more evenly matched, reducing frustration and promoting fair play.
  - **Positive Team Culture:** Players feel supported and valued, fostering teamwork and mutual respect.
  - **Long-Term Retention:** Athletes are more likely to stay involved and progress to higher levels of competition.
- 3.2 Evaluation Strategy Evaluations are led by impartial, experienced third-party evaluators — including non-parent coaches and, when appropriate, Red Wing HS coaches — to ensure a fair and transparent process.
- Evaluation Components:**
- **Equal Opportunity:**  
Players rotate through scrimmage teams to compete with a variety of teammates.
  - **Skill & Team Play Assessment:**  
Players are evaluated through stations focusing on layups, dribbling, shooting, and scrimmages to get a comprehensive view of each player's individual skills and ability to contribute in team settings.
- 3.3 Injury Clause Injured players must notify the RWBA President prior to evaluations.  
If unable to participate:
- The head coach and evaluators will review the player's history and skill level.
  - Players with a strong history (e.g., prior A team placement) may be placed accordingly.
- 3.4 Format/Details All registered players must attend evaluation sessions for their grade level.
- Wear a numbered jersey. If a player does not have one, one will be provided.
  - Parents are not permitted in the gym during evaluations.
  - 2025-2026 Evaluations:
    - Boys Evaluations: Nov. 3-6, 2025
    - Girls Evaluations: (TBD)



## 4.0 Team Formation (Parent-Coached Teams)

- 4.1 Grades 3–5
  - If multiple teams are needed, RWBA aims to create **balanced teams**
  - Efforts are made to:
    - Distribute height evenly.
    - Ensure each team has at least one ball-handler.
  - Team sizes may vary depending on registration numbers to ensure a positive experience.
  - Coaches are assigned to the team their child is placed on.
    - **Exceptions** must be approved by the RWBA Board **before** teams and coaches are announced.
- 4.2 Grade 6
  - Players participate in **evaluation practices**.
  - Based on skill and ability, players are placed on **leveled teams** (if numbers allow).
  - Team sizes playing level are determined at the evaluators' discretion.
  - Leveled teams help RWBA schedule tournaments that match each team's competitive level for optimal development.
- 4.3 Grades 7–8
  - **School basketball takes priority** over RWBA participation.
  - To be eligible for RWBA, students **must also play on the Red Wing school basketball team**.
  - Evaluations are held within first few weeks of practice.
  - Players are placed on **leveled teams** based on skill and ability (if numbers allow).
  - Team sizes and tiers are determined at the coach's discretion.

## 5.0 Uniforms

### 5.1 Parent Information Summary

Each player will receive a team jersey prior to their first tournament. Parents will be asked to provide their child's **preferred jersey size and number** during registration to help ensure a proper fit.

Jerseys are **high-quality and reused** each season to maintain consistency and reduce costs. At the end of the season, jerseys must be **returned after the final tournament**.

Please note:

- A **\$90 replacement fee** will be charged for any jersey that is not returned.
- If the replacement fee is not paid, the player will **not be eligible to participate** in the following season.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain the integrity and sustainability of our uniform program.

# Red Wing Basketball Association



## 6.0 Practices

6.1 Locations Practices are held at:

- Red Wing High School
- River Bluff Education Center
- Twin Bluff Middle School
- Burnside Elementary
- Sunnyside Elementary

6.2

Schedules

- Practice schedules are created after teams are formed.
- Up to two practices per week per team while school is in session.
- Avoid major school events
- Schedule **younger teams earlier in the evening**
- No practices are scheduled on Wednesdays out of respect for church activities. **NOTE:** Exceptions may occur if coaches and parents agree.

6.3 Parent

Guidelines

- **Drop-Off & Pick-Up**  
Arrive no more than 10 minutes early and make timely arrangements for pickup after practice.
- **Practice Attendance**
  - Parent attendance is not allowed
  - Parents who have completed the **Trusted Coaches** Background check are permitted to assist practice **as needed**.
- **Why Parent Presence Is Limited:**
  - Encourages player independence
  - Reduces pressure and distractions
  - Supports effective coaching
  - Strengthens team bonding
  - Ensures fair and unbiased evaluations

6.4 Player

Guidelines

- **Be On Time:** Attend all practices, games, and events. Arrive early and ready to participate.
- **Stay Positive:** Show respect to teammates, coaches, officials, and fans. Encourage others and maintain a good attitude.
- **Work Hard:** Give full effort in practices and games. Focus on improving and helping the team.
- **Act Respectfully:** Represent RWBA with integrity—no swearing, bullying, or disrespectful behavior.

### If Expectations Aren't Met

- Verbal warning and discussion with player and/or parents
- Temporary suspension from practices or games
- Possible permanent removal from the team or league



## 7.0 Playing Time Policy

7.1 General While equal playing time is a goal at the youth level, it is not guaranteed. Playing time in youth basketball is influenced by **attendance, effort, attitude, and coachability**—but the impact of these factors increases with age.

- **Grades 3–4:**

Equal playing time is emphasized to support learning, confidence, and enjoyment. While effort and attitude are encouraged, skills have a limited impact on court time at this stage.

- **Grades 5–8:**

Playing time becomes more performance-based. Effort, attitude, and team-first behavior play a larger role in determining minutes. Players who consistently show commitment and coachability earn more opportunities.

This progression helps prepare athletes for competitive play while reinforcing values like accountability and teamwork.

7.2 Grades 3–4

- These are developmental years.
- Players should receive **equal playing time**.
- **Starting positions should be rotated.**

7.3 Grade 5

- All players should experience a variety of game situations.
- Still developmental, but playing time is considered “opportunity-based.”
- Players may not receive equal minutes, but all should play appropriate amounts.
- Coaches should continue rotating players into starting roles and game situations.
- It is acceptable to prioritize competitiveness in the final minutes of a game.

7.4 Grade 6

- First year of **evaluations and leveled** teams.
- Playing time remains **opportunity-based** but should still be appropriate for all players.
- Coaches may adjust lineups in competitive moments.

7.5 Grades 7–8

- Focus remains on **player development**, but also on **preparing for higher-level competition**.
- Playing time is **not equal** and teams are expected to be competitive.
- All players should participate in each tournament they attend.



## 8.0 Tournament Selection

8.1 Details Each grade level will be assigned a minimum number of **paid tournaments** to ensure all registered players have ample opportunity to participate. If a player is unable to attend a scheduled tournament, they may be eligible to play in a different tournament, depending on availability and team needs. Please note: **Consistent attendance is expected.** If a player misses multiple tournaments, additional tournament registrations may not be made on their behalf

8.2 3rd Grade

- Minimum 3 Paid tournaments
- Season ends mid-February

8.3 4th-6th Grades

- Minimum 4 Paid tournaments
- Season ends early March

8.4 7th – 8th Grades

- Minimum 3 Paid tournaments
- Season ends early March

8.5 Substitutes If a team is short players due to illness, vacation, or injury:

- Coaches may request a substitute from another team.
- The substitute **must be first offered of similar skill level** to the absent player.
- This ensures **fairness** and maintains the **integrity of team competition** by preventing “stacking” teams.

# Red Wing Basketball Association



## 9.0 Coaching

- 9.1 Coaching Volunteers Needed
- **RWBA is built on volunteers**—no prior coaching experience required!
  - Parents are encouraged to get involved, even as **assistant coaches** to gain experience for future head coaching roles.
  - A strong program depends on **passionate, positive role models** to guide players.
  - **All coaches must pass a background check** to be eligible for RWBA coaching responsibilities.

- 9.2 Preseason Briefing
- Preseason Kickoff Communication – Coaches & RWBA**
- The purpose of this communication is to align all youth basketball coaches with the goals, expectations, and logistics for the upcoming season. Key topics include:
- Team structure and tournament planning
  - Player participation guidelines and attendance expectations
  - Communication protocols between coaches, parents, and the program. **NOTE:** Most teams utilize the **GameChanger App** for team scheduling and communication.
  - Code of conduct and sportsmanship standards
  - Opportunities for collaboration and support among coaching staff

- 9.3 Parent Briefing
- Parent Information Communication – Purpose & Goals:** Coaches will perform information sharing within the first few practices via an after-practice meeting or email. The information sharing is designed to:
- Introduce coaches and program expectations for the upcoming season.
  - Outline team structure, practice schedules, and tournament plans for each grade level.
  - Clarify player participation guidelines, including attendance expectations and tournament availability.
  - Foster open communication between coaches and parents to support a positive, team-first environment.
  - Answer questions and ensure everyone is aligned on goals, responsibilities, and logistics.

- 9.4 Background Checks
- Background checks** are required to coach with RWBA. RWBA utilizes **Trusted Coaches** as a third-party resource to perform the checks. Background checks are required to be performed every **three years**.

- 9.5 Reporting Violations
- If a player, parent, or staff member sees a **violation of the policy**, they should report it to a **RWBA board member**.
  - All reports will be handled **confidentially** during the investigation process.



## 10.0 Coach Expectations

- 10.1 Player Development
  - Focus on teaching **fundamentals**: dribbling, passing, shooting, defense, and court awareness.
  - Prioritize **skill development** over winning games.
  - Encourage **equal playing time**, especially in grades 3–4, to build confidence and experience.
  - Reevaluate team compositions periodically to reflect growth and development. Emphasize that leveling is not permanent or punitive—it’s a tool for growth.
- 10.2 Communication
  - Use **encouraging language** and constructive feedback.
  - Communicate clearly with players and parents about schedules, expectations, and goals.
  - Be approachable and open to questions or concerns.
- 10.3 Practice
  - Plan practices with a balance of **drills, scrimmages, and fun activities**.
  - Keep practices **engaging and age-appropriate**.
  - Reinforce teamwork, hustle, and effort.
- 10.4 Gameday
  - Emphasize **sportsmanship**—win or lose.
  - Rotate players to ensure **fair participation**.
  - Stay calm and respectful toward referees, opponents, and spectators.
- 10.5 Attendance
  - Track player attendance at practices and tournaments.
  - Encourage players to **communicate absences early**.
  - If a player misses multiple tournaments without notice, they may not be included in additional tournament registrations.
- 10.6 Safety & Well-being
  - Ensure players warm up and cool down properly.
  - Monitor for signs of injury or fatigue.
  - Promote hydration and healthy habits.
- 10.7 Lead by Example
  - Be a **role model** in attitude, effort, and behavior.
  - Show respect to all players, coaches, and officials.
  - Foster a **positive team culture** that values growth and effort.