

THESA Riders Boys' Basketball FAQs

Tryouts

1. What does 12U – 18U Mean?

This is the age cutoff for the Junior High and High School Teams.

Example- 12U is for boys that are 12 and Under as of Sep 1; 14U is for boys 12-14 as of Sep 1, etc. A student-athlete can always “play up” to a higher age group provided they are skilled enough to do so, but can never “play down” with a lower age group.

2. My son is 14 and I want him to be considered for the 16U Team. Which Tryout time should he attend?

Please have your son attend both tryouts so we can gauge his skill level against both age groups.

3. If my son is 14 and is invited to play with the 16U team, can he play for both 16U and 14U? If yes, does he have to pay for both teams?

There would be only one fee. It is possible to play for more than one team. However, practically-speaking, a 12U child can play for 12/14U Team(s) and a 16U child can play for 16U/18U Team(s). Given that games and practices can often conflict between younger/older teams, we don't recommend 14U students, trying to play both 14U and 16U. If both coaches agree and it is logistically feasible, it would be permitted.

4. Do you cut players?

Our desire is to offer a roster spot to each athlete. Were we to have more than 10-12 players per age group (team), cuts would likely be necessary.

5. I can't attend tryouts. Is there a 2nd tryout date and, if no, can my son still play for THESA?

There is no secondary tryout date. We recognize that there could be conflicts and respectfully request you do everything you can to attend the tryout. Should you not be able, please contact us in advance and we will invite you to our Coaches' Look and make our recommendation from there.

6. My son has never tried out for THESA before. What can he expect for tryouts?

We will do a skills assessment that consists of lay-ups, shooting, defense, ball-handling, conditioning, etc. and likely have time for a scrimmage. We will also spend a few minutes talking to parents/athletes about the program.

7. My son has never played organized and/or competitive basketball before. Should he still try out?

We encourage all athletes to try out and should they make the team, we will work to not only build their skills, but also their Christian character. Certainly (especially as athletes get older), experience will be important. We would encourage players to attend offseason workouts, individual clinics, to play recreationally (organized b-ball) to gauge their commitment, skill, and willingness to improve.

8. After my son tries out, when/how will I hear if he has made the team?
For those that attend tryouts, we will send a group email and/or text msg. inviting him to the team ~ one week after tryouts/coaches look.

9. What is required for the Athlete Application, Physical Form, and THESA Athletic Handbook?
The Athlete Application is on the main THESA basketball page. Please print and bring a completed copy to the tryout. This will expedite the check-in process and maximize the time we have together. We will also offer a Google Form Option (preferred) in lieu of the paper form.

We ask each athlete to show proof a physical within the last 12 months; it is not necessary to get a separate physical for THESA provided the athlete has a current physical. It is also not necessary to use the THESA physical form, but one has been provided on the THESA basketball page as a courtesy. Please bring the physical record to tryouts; worst case, one is required at the FIRST PRACTICE or the athlete cannot participate until one is produced.

Finally, we ask that each guardian/athlete review the THESA Athletic Handbook on the THESA basketball site as we will ask each family to adhere to the Code of Conduct referenced therein.

10. What are the eligibility requirements for a homeschool athlete?
We follow the guidelines established by NCHC. Please review www.nchclive.com/guidelines and talk to your coach if you have questions.

Season Logistics

1. My son made the team...now what?
THESA uses Sports Engine to manage its website and player communications. Each athlete/parent will be asked to register on the site so we can "roster" the player. From there, the Sports Engine app can be downloaded on your smartphone. We will use the app for the majority of our communications. NOTE: a guardian profile can be established with Sports Engine should your child not have a phone and/or you want to receive communications as well.
2. My son has made the team. How much will he play?
We recognize that playing for THESA is a time/resource commitment. Having said that, it is competitive homeschool basketball program. As a result, unlike recreational sports programs, there is no guaranteed minimum playing time. Playing time will be earned.
3. My son is not playing as much as he would like. What should he do?
Per the Athletic Handbook, playing time will not be discussed. That said, he should ask his coach what he can do to improve and work on those things OUTSIDE of practice. Conditioning/Skills drills are posted on the THESA website. We respectfully ask that each student-athlete approach their coach first before a guardian intercedes. This teaches each

athlete how to be assertive, how to approach someone with a position of authority and how to take personal accountability for his development. NOTE: Just because the athlete respectfully inquires about areas of improvement, it is still the coaching staff's decision about playing time and playing time will not be discussed.

4. My son was placed on the "B Team" for his age group. Can he either earn his way onto the "A Team" or play on both the A and B Teams? **For all NCHC-sanctioned events and the TX State Tournament, a player may only play on one team, per age group (DasCHE Tournament, District/Regional/National, TX State Tournament). For regular season contests, with both coaches' approval, a player can play on multiple teams within his age group. Care will be given to not disrupt team continuity. Finally, a player could be moved from A to B or B to A, during the season if both coaches agree and player performance warrants.**
5. Are there opportunities for parents to be involved?
YES! Every season, we have a need for head coaches, assistant coaches, team parents, scorekeepers, clock operators, etc. We can't do this WITHOUT YOU!
6. What are practices like?
At first, we will work on general conditioning and fundamentals, but will quickly progress to instituting offensive/defensive sets and running in-game scenarios. It is imperative that players work on conditioning and basic skills outside of organized practice.
7. Where/how often are practices?
Practices are at Cross Church in North Richland Hills, Countryside Bible Church (Southlake), and First Baptist Church Grapevine. We practice on week days/nights (never Wednesday). Typically, practices are 2 times per week before games start and 1-2 times/week when games begin. 12U/14U often practice together and 16U/18U could practice together. They usually are 2 hours in length and start no earlier than 1:30 PM and end no later than 9:30 PM.
8. Do guardians have to stay at practice?
No. You are welcome to drop your son off but, out of respect for your coach (they must stay until all student-athletes are picked up), please be prompt. If you choose to stay, please refrain from "coaching" from the sidelines.
9. My son has to miss practice? Does he get to play in the next game?
We recognize situations arise where an athlete must miss a practice. Please let your coach know BEFORE practice and the reason why. Should an athlete chronically miss/arrive late, playing time could be affected.
10. How many games will we play?
12U typically plays ~30 games; 14U typically plays 30-35 games; 16U/18U typically play 40-45 games. Overall game count will vary based on tournament attendance and team tournament performance.

11. Where/when are games played?

THESA plays only a few home games at Countryside Bible Church. Games are played across the Metroplex. Games are weekday/weekends (never Wednesday/Sunday). Typically, you can expect 1-2 games per week. 12U/14U sometimes has weekday games that are late afternoon/early evening and 16U/18U are typically evenings. Tournaments are typically Thursday – Saturday or Friday – Saturday (weekday games late afternoon/evening).

12. Where are the tournaments located?

THESA plays several in-season local tournaments (vary by age group) that are in the Metroplex. THESA traditionally participates in the NCHC postseason tournaments as well (District and Regional in DFW; Nationals is Spring Break week in Springfield, MO). We also participate in the State Tournament in Round Rock, TX.

13. How long is the season?

The regular season typically runs from early November to the end of January. Postseason tournaments are in February (District, State, Regional) and March (Nationals). There will be a break for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays (Coaches reserve the right to add practices over Christmas Break). Dates/info can be found @ nchclive.com and thssbc.org. We will publish the practice/game schedule in advance on the website and communicate changes via the Sports Engine app.

Pricing Information

1. How much does THESA Cost and what do the fees cover?

We try to make THESA affordable. Fees go toward uniform cost, gym rental for practices/games, equipment, hi-res digital download of individual/team photo, tournament fees, etc. The prices will be set before the first practice. As a rule of thumb, families can expect the following:

- 1) THESA Family Fee: \$50 per family. This covers all students within a family and all sports. I.e.- if your son is playing another sport with THESA for the current school year and has already paid this fee, it is not required to be paid (again) for basketball.
- 2) Uniform Cost: Typically ~\$180 for 12U/14U (Home/Away Reversible Jersey & Short, Adidas Legend Shooter Hoodie) and ~\$225 for 16U/18U (Home/Away Jerseys & Shorts, Adidas Legend Shooter Hoodie). Uniforms are Custom Sublimation and the players can keep. We keep the same style each year so players can often get multiple years of use. 12U/14U have the same uniform and 16U/18U have the same uniform.
- 3) Team Fee: Typically \$450 - \$550 for 12U/14U and \$550 - \$650 for 16U/18U.

2. Are scholarships available?

A limited # of need-based scholarships will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please see your coach to discuss.

3. When are fees due?

THESA accepts check or cash with payments made payable to "THESA". Payments can be given to your coach.

- 1) Family Fee: Due at first practice on a separate check.**
- 2) Uniform Fee: Due at first practice**
- 3) Team Fee: 50% Due at first practice; Remaining 50% due at the end of September**

You are welcome to pay more than the minimum due as long as the deadlines are met. THESA reserves the right for the student-athlete to not play until the account is current.

4. Does THESA accept donations?

YES! THESA is a 501c(3) organization. Donation forms can be found on the THESA basketball website.

5. What do the tournament fees cover?

The fees cover the entrance cost for the team. Food and Transportation to each tournament plus Lodging for State/Nationals are an additional expense for each family. The NCHC instituted player fee(s) in 2022 for their tournaments that are payable at the time of player registration (historically \$50 per athlete).

6. Are there additional fees during the season?

Like public/private schools, most programs and tournaments charge families an entrance fee to view games.

7. Is there spirit wear available for purchase?

Yes! There will be optional spirit wear and player merchandise available for purchase. A portion of the price is returned to THESA to help defray costs and allow for need-based scholarships.