

VABA Winter League Updated (COVID) Schedule & Plan

See website for more program-specific information regarding VABA's winter leagues!

Due to the adjusted/safety school plans of Albemarle County, Charlottesville City, private schools and other neighboring counties for the 2020-21 school year, and VABA's dependence on servicing our winter league participants via the use of these facilities for team practices and game-sites, VABA has made accommodations to its typical winter league calendar. Despite the unforeseen circumstances, VABA's priorities remain consistent: Safety, Sportsmanship, Mission-centered, Strong Leadership, Character Development, Professionally-trained/High-quality coaching & instruction, Organizational excellence.

Winter League Format Adjustments:

1. **Extended COVID Refund Policy (by one month):** For the '20-'21 season, VABA has extended its three-term COVID refund policy (by one month) in the event of a pre-season and/or in-season cancellation – please check “Refund Policy” on website.
2. **Fewer Teams/Roster-spots (Hard Registration deadline: TBD):** For the '20-'21 season, in order to maximize the number of games for teams, VABA will be accepting fewer rosters and, thus, fewer registrations/roster spots. Teams will be capped *much* sooner, and waiting lists may not be opened and/or re-opened. Having fewer teams will allow VABA to schedule more double-header weekends (within a more condensed period of time – 8 weeks), so those that do participate will receive *the same #* of regular-season games!
3. **Limited/Delayed fall evaluations for JBL (grds. 1-4) & VDBL (grds. 5-8):** Normally, throughout September & October, VABA would host 10-12 large-scale, open, in-person evaluations in order to assess each player's abilities/skill-level/etc. in an effort to balance teams and determine playing level. For the '20-'21 season, VABA will be using last season's team assignments as well as comprehensive post-season coaches evaluations (from the '19-'20 season) for team assignments in order to balance teams. With the VDBL (grades 5-8) “Gold/Silver” leagues, based on coaches evaluations invitation-only, small-scale, socially-distanced skill evaluations will be held in December.
4. **Delayed start to practice schedule (guided by VHSL):** For the '20-'21 season, VABA will begin practices the week of January 4. This plan is in accordance with the state-mandated protocols of the Virginia High School League which has determined that full-scale, in-person team practices will start the week of December 14.
5. **Delayed start to game schedule (guided by VHSL):** For the '20-'21 season, VABA's game schedule will begin the weekend of January 9-10. Traditionally, most youth basketball leagues across the country do NOT begin until after New Year's. Typically, VABA schedules 1-2 game weekends prior to Christmas. For this season, we will take on the “normal” youth basketball start time for games. VHSL competition opens Dec. 28 – VABA would begin game competition two weeks later than this.
6. **Volunteer Coaches/Team Manager Training will be done virtually:** Normally, all VABA Volunteer coaches would be required to attend one (1) *in-person* coaches' workshop. For the '20-'21 season, VABA will provide 3-4 dates for virtual Coaches Workshops. All Head and Assistant Coaches would be required to attend. Team Managers would be required to attend a portion of the Coaches Workshop.
7. **Pre-season Fall Skills Academy will provide extended dates for training:** VABA's summer camp schedule was super successful a very well-received. All COVID precautions were strictly adhered to (physical-distanced, masked-coaches, temperature check-in, etc.). For the '20-'21 season, VABA will be extending its FSA (Fall Skills Academy) four (4) weeks, providing a comprehensive, weekly 10-week, a-la-carte, extended offensive-skills program, following all COVID protocols. This will be a dynamic, powerful, exciting, fun and productive way for our community's youth to get quality exercise & instruction, safely be around their peers, and play the game they love as they anticipate the exciting winter league season. Participants do not need to be registered for the winter league to participate!

KEY VABA 2020-21 WINTER LEAGUE DATES

(Updated/COVID Calendar)

See website for more program-specific information regarding VABA's winter leagues!

- **September 27** → **Pre-season Fall Skills Academy begins** (w/ COVID precautions)!
- **October 1** → **Term #1 Refund policy ends:** If season is cancelled prior to this date, registrants receive 100% refund (minus processing fees)
- **October 1** → **Coaches 2019-20 Post-season Evaluations Due:** Coaches post-season evaluations will be used to for projected team assignments for the 2020-21 season. Limited, invitation-only evaluations may be held for VDBL-Boys, grades 5-8 "Gold"/"Silver" League assignments.
- **October 18 &/or November 6** → **Coaches Workshops #1 & 2:** Live, virtual Zoom Coaches Workshop!
- **October 31** → **Winter League REGISTRATION DEADLINE (unless teams/rosters are filled)!** Registering before October 30 DOES NOT GUARANTEE there is space. Fewer players and teams accepted for this season to provide more time, in a condensed eight-week schedule, for double-header weekends once game competition begins. Waiting lists are formed when teams are filled (unlikely to release spots).
- **October 31** → **Refund Policy Term #2 Ends:** If season is cancelled between October 1 – 31, registrants receive refund minus 30%.
- **November 1** → **Coaches Commitment Deadline:** Those interested in serving as volunteer coaches must have completed "Volunteer Application."
- **December 1** → **Coaches Certification Deadline:** All committed head coaches must have received a passing score for their respective league.
- **December 6** → **Final Fall Skills Academy session!** w/ COVID precautions
- **December 14** → **VDBL Invitation-only/Limited Evaluations held:** 2019-20 post-season coaches evaluations will be used to determine small-scale, individual, invitation-only "evaluations." Emails will be sent to those invited. Failure to attend may impact team placement/assignment.
- **December 31** → **All Team Sponsors Completed:** For the 2020-21 season, every, single VABA winter league team IS REQUIRED to have a sponsor and/or raise \$30 per player.
- **December 31** → **Refund Policy Term #3 Ends:** If season is cancelled between November 1 – December 31, registrants receive refund minus 50%. After January 1, registrants receive pro-rated refund according to games played.
- **January 3 – 9** → **Team Uniforms Distributed:**
- **January 4** → **Team Practices Begin/Game-Schedule Announced:** Teams may begin their first in-person, full-scale team practices.
- **January 9-10** → **Game Competition Begins:** Game Week #1! VABA games underway for all leagues (JBL, VDBL, REC). Double-header weekends assigned in order to get all teams as many games as possible!
- **February 27 – 28** → **Final Regular-season Weekend of Game Competition:** Playoffs & Championships would be the following weekend – March 6-7.

All dates listed above are subject to change!

In the event of a change or update, updated documents and info will be posted on the website and/or emailed to VABA email distribution list. Registering for 2020-21 winter league will automatically add you to VABA's email distribution list.