

## **2023-24 Whitefish Bay Jr Dukes Girls Basketball Club**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**

The Whitefish Bay Jr Dukes Girls Basketball Club is a program designed and organized to teach, develop and train athletes to play the game of basketball. Our goal is to teach life lessons and solid, fundamental basketball skills by giving athletes the opportunity to develop and advance, so they may have the opportunity to play at the high school level.

### **MISSION:**

The WFB Girls Jr Dukes Basketball Club exists to provide a positive, competitive environment where girls can learn and develop basketball and critical life skills. Our mission is:

- to teach and develop athletes to play the game of basketball at a competitive level, thereby enhancing their opportunity to play at the high school level.
- to prepare athletes both on and off the court by teaching values such as integrity, teamwork, confidence, commitment, hard work and perseverance.
- to create a positive environment that fosters a sense of community and love of the game for athletes and their families.

### **PHILOSOPHY:**

The Jr. Dukes Girls Basketball program is dedicated to raising and empowering young basketball players. And as a feeder program for Whitefish Bay High School, we work to not only build a love for the game, but also prepare the girls for competitive play at the high school level.

With this in mind, we look to build the girls' skills and confidence over time in the program, providing a "step-up" approach that increases competitively as they progress.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade teams, we teach the fundamentals of the sport and focus on whole team development. We provide a balanced environment that caters to every skill level. Our goal is not to cut players at these levels and work our best to create balanced teams.

As the athletes progress, we begin to prepare and transition them for a higher level of competitive play.

For the 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams, we move to more of a "select" model where our goal is to split the teams into A and B levels, applying cuts if numbers exceed roster maximums. This allows the club to build skill levels that successfully transition them to our high school program, while providing team options that are more aligned with individual needs and level of play. Our coaching philosophy follows this step-up approach, with the possibility of bringing in paid coaches at the higher grade levels.

Playing time follows an "equal opportunity" model. Our goal is that every girl has the opportunity to play in both halves, but that does not necessarily mean equal minutes. Effort, attitude, and attendance in practice and games can impact playing time. Managing minutes during a game is hard with a running clock, the coaches will do their best in the flow of the game to substitute accordingly.

## **COACHES:**

Teams are coached by predominantly parent coaches at the younger levels with potential for paid coaches at the older levels. The coaches spend hundreds of hours each season to work toward our overall program mission. These are volunteer positions and without these dedicated individuals we would not be able to provide such a positive experience for our athletes. We will work with the Varsity coaching staff and other professionals to provide workshops and guidance for the coaches.

## **LEAGUE:**

Grades 3-8 will primarily play in the Overtime Basketball League in Mequon. Teams are guaranteed at least 12 games that will be played on Saturday or Sundays November 4<sup>th</sup> through December 17<sup>th</sup>. We are guaranteed 2 games for each weekend scheduled with a league tournament on the final weekend. Teams will play all of their games on a single day of each weekend. League will confirm by the end of October the day of the weekend each grade level will play.

## **TOURNAMENTS:**

Our teams typically play in around 3-5 local tournaments depending on grade from January through the end of February/early March. These tournaments will be communicated throughout the season as they are confirmed and we understand the competition at each one. Coaches and the Board will determine the tournaments that are the best fit for each team. Our Whitefish Bay Tourney is planned for February 24-25th at the Whitefish Bay High School Fieldhouse.

Coaches may also select players to field a team of girls to participate in one of the State Tournaments offered. Additional costs may apply if your athlete is selected to play on a State Tournament team. Our participation in these tournaments is heavily dependent on the dates they are offered.

## **PRACTICES**

Our plan is to begin practicing at The Warehouse and local gyms for overflow space beginning the week of October 23. Typically we will practice once per week for 3rd grade and twice per week for grades 4-8th. Once availability of coaches and schedule are finalized, they will be communicated to the teams. We will follow facility rules as we take our teams to various locations to practice and play.

## **FEES:**

**Registration will be open from September 13th-24th** on our website <https://www.jrdukeshoops.com>. Fees will be paid directly on the website or can be made via check. A link will be provided.

Player fees will be \$400 for Grade 3, \$550 for Grades 4-6th, and \$650 for Grades 7-8th. This model aligns with the number of practices, games, and tournaments provided from October to March for our players and allows us to maintain our new practice facility. Uniforms are an additional cost.

## **UNIFORMS and SPIRITWEAR:**

**Uniforms are approximately \$85.** We replace uniforms every 2-3 years to keep up with our fast-growing girls, so please size accordingly. If your daughter's grade is up for reordering but her uniform still fits, you don't have to reorder, but just realize the new uniform style might be different. All new players and those in need of a different size should order a uniform. Long sleeve shooting shirts are also recommended.

**Uniforms will be ordered through Burghardts Sporting Goods' online system and must be done by September 20th.** A link will be provided to you and will have a very quick turnaround in order to get

uniforms in time for our Nov 4th League. Sample uniforms for sizing will be available at Fox Point Burghardts. A new provider will be used this season as the previous uniform style will no longer be available. As soon as the sample uniforms are available for try-on at Fox Point Burghardts, we will communicate to parents. Jersey numbers will be confirmed for new players or players wishing to change their jersey number at tryouts. **Spiritwear ordering will also be available until September 20th.**

**Practice jerseys** will be ordered by the club for any player that needs one. **They are WFB white/blue reversibles and the cost is \$15**, players sizing will be collected at tryouts. Players are encouraged to wear their practice jersey at all practices. These will be delivered in October at the first practices. Players can pay by cash, check, or Venmo once delivered.

**TRYOUTS AND TEAM PLACEMENTS:**

We welcome girls Grades 3-8 that live in Whitefish Bay or go to a Whitefish Bay public or parochial school to register for the Jr. Dukes program. As our mission is to prepare girls for the WFB high school program, team placement priority will be given to those girls who reside in Whitefish Bay and have a path to attending the high school.

Team placement recommendations will be made by our evaluators with final decisions voted on by the Jr. Dukes Board of Directors. Any special circumstances or exceptions will be reviewed by the board.

We invite girls to register at their individual grade level, but empower our evaluators to review the girls' skill levels and recommend them for team placement, as well as potential advancement to a higher grade level. If select girls are deemed at a greater skill level and roster sizes support it, they may be considered for higher than grade level teams. If a player is offered a placement on the higher grade team, she will be allowed to decline the offer and remain at her grade level.

Our plan is for **Team placement emails to go out no later than September 13th with acceptances due by September 17th. Uniform orders must be made by September 20th** in order to ensure delivery before our League starts.

Please direct any questions about team placement to John Burkemper at [johnb@james.construction](mailto:johnb@james.construction) or 414-526-8265.

<b>DATES</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
September 13	Offers sent
September 13-17	Offers accepted
September 13-20	Uniforms and Spiritwear ordered
September 13-24	Registration completed/fees paid
September TBD- will be communicated as soon as available	Uniform sizing available at Burghardts/Fox Point