

## The Great Northwest Basketball League

# 2025 Enrollment Form

## 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Non-Competitive League

This information is for coaches who are interested in participating in the 2025 Non-Competitive League for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls in The Great Northwest Basketball League.

**Benefits of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Programs.** While some coaches in larger communities may wonder where the benefit is in traveling with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders when you may have enough players for two or more in-house teams, our experience in twenty-two seasons of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Non-Competitive League have shown a profound impact. When young kids play games against others they know from their hometown, they lack focus and often "goof off." Playing against kids wearing different colored jerseys/t-shirts, who they don't know, helps them to focus more. Also, they learn from their opponent and their opponent's coach (sometimes younger kids listen more to coaches they don't know).

While excellent coaching, lots of fundamentals, and an aggressive game schedule, have always been the keys to success, an early start provides a huge boost. For those coaches, programs and parents who want to develop strong players, the day of first introducing the game of basketball to players in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, or even 5<sup>th</sup> grade, is a thing of the past. Programs all across the state of Wisconsin are playing competitively in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. In the more populous areas like the Fox River Valley, Madison and Milwaukee, many communities play in regular tournaments at this age level. While The Great Northwest Non-Competitive League is less structured than full blown tournaments, it allows coaches to introduce inexperienced players to the game in a scrimmage-like format and allows teams in our area to keep pace developmentally with the rest of the state.

For those unfamiliar with how the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Non-Competitive League functions, please read the 2025 Rules for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Non-Competitive League that are attached to this email and also are posted on the website at GNBL.ORG, then click on "Non-Competitive." Some of the highlights of this League are:

- ◆ There are four separate Divisions: 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls, 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girls and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys. The Non-Competitive League is **not** a co-ed activity.
- ◆ 4<sup>th</sup> grade games use 10' baskets and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade games use 8' baskets. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade players (and even entire 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teams) are allowed to play "up" in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade division, but 4<sup>th</sup> graders are not allowed to play "down" to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- ◆ All games are played between mid-October and mid-December on Saturdays, because court time and coaching time are usually easier to get that time of year than in January and February. Each team may play in as many (seven maximum dates) or as few mini-meets as they want. When hosting, communities can host up to three mini-meets (for three different teams on each Saturday).
- ◆ Each "mini-meet" is 2½ hours long on Saturday only, with each mini-meet starting at 9:00 or 9:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. or noon; and at 2:00 p.m. A mini-meet consists of four teams, with three 30 minute, running clock games on a round-robin basis. There are two 15-minute rest periods between each of the three games.
- ◆ There are no clocks, no scorekeepers, no concessions and no referees. No score is kept. One coach for each team is on the floor with a whistle. When the whistle is blown, that coach explains to all 10 players on the floor (and those on the bench) why the whistle was blown, so that incident becomes a learning experience.

**League Fees and Membership.** There is **no charge** to play in the 2025 Non-Competitive League. However, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Non-Competitive League is open **only** to Great Northwest League members. Basketball programs that do not participate in at least one grade in the competitive 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade Great Northwest League, are **not** eligible to play in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Non-Competitive League (the boys and girls programs in each community are considered to be two separate programs, even if both are part of the same basketball club). The Non-Competitive League **is subsidized by the enrollment fees** received from teams at the older grade levels, so it would not be fair to GNBL members to have non-member teams benefit from this support. For a community where the girls program has long participated in The Great Northwest at the older grade levels and the boys have not, the girls 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teams are eligible to play in the Non-Competitive League in 2025, but the boys would not be, unless they also chose to join the regular League in 2025-2026 and beyond, or vice versa if boys participate but not girls.

Only teams close enough to other participants and with older grades also registered for Great Northwest Basketball League events, are able to enroll a team.

### **Registration Deadline**

If you are interested in fielding one or more teams in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Non-Competitive League, you need to return the Enrollment Form by **September 22, 2025**. (We will begin putting the schedule together no later than October 1). All teams will receive an email informing them that the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade schedules have been posted on or before October 10. Schedules are posted on the website at GNBL.ORG, then click on "Non-Competitive." Please return pages 3 through 8 of this form no later than September 22, 2025. You can submit the form either by emailing to [tracie@gnbl.org](mailto:tracie@gnbl.org); mailing to The Great Northwest, P O Box 506, Hudson, WI 54016; or faxing to 715-749-4198.

### **Questions**

If you have questions about any of the above, please contact Tracie Tilton at 715-749-9048 / [tracie@gnbl.org](mailto:tracie@gnbl.org) or Terri Green at 715-386-4317 / [terri@gnbl.org](mailto:terri@gnbl.org).

**Please return pages 3 through 6 of this enrollment form  
no later than September 22, 2025**

**Email to [tracie@gnbl.org](mailto:tracie@gnbl.org)**

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# 2025 Non-Competitive League Enrollment Form

**Note: Please complete one form per Community, unless teams are being entered independently of other 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade teams within the community or school district.**

Name of Community/School District:	
Name of Person Completing this Form:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, Zip Code:	
Home Phone Number:	
Cell Phone Number:	
Email:	

1) **Number of Teams per Grade/Gender and Number of Mini-Meets.** Please indicate the number of boys and/or girls teams your program/community will have at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or 4<sup>th</sup> grade level and the number of Saturdays the team(s) are requesting to play. Each Saturday is one 2½ hour mini-meet.

3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Girls		4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls		3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Boys		4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys	
Numer of Teams	Number of Saturdays requested	Numer of Teams	Number of Saturdays requested	Numer of Teams	Number of Saturdays requested	Numer of Teams	Number of Saturdays requested

2) **Dates Available to Play.** It is important to get the input of the actual coach of each team before filling in this section. Let us know if there are any dates you'd prefer not playing due to conflicts (such as WIAA high school volleyball or football play-offs, or a Christmas program, etc.). For each date, indicate "**Yes**" for dates on which each team **is** available to play, or "**No**" for dates on which each team **is not** able to play. **Fill every blank.**

	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Girls	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Boys	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys
October 18				
October 25				
November 1				
November 8				
November 15				
December 6				
December 13				

*No meets will be scheduled on November 22 (deer hunting opener) or November 27 (Thanksgiving).*

3) **Hosting Dates for Home Meets.** Please read the “Hosting” section of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Rules regarding how many mini-meets your program will need to host and how those meets will be structured. Please indicate which of the following dates you will be able to host, based on the number of mini-meets your teams plan to play. When filling in the host date, remember that teams can host one, two or three mini-meets per host date – with three mini-meets, for example, a program can host for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girls, 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls and 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys on the same date.

Where possible, reserve whatever number of dates needed to host with your school’s administration before returning this form and write “reserved” in front of that date below. While your school’s administration may not allow you to reserve dates until after school starts, communities that commit first to hosting on a particular date will have a better chance of getting their preferred hosting choice(s).

**Every community** that plays in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Non-Competitive League **needs to host at least once** (unless that community is located too great a distance from at least three other teams playing at the level in question). It’s best to get at least one host date locked as soon as possible. When reserving gym time, remember to reserve whatever space has adjustable baskets. **If there are no courts with adjustable baskets**, only 4<sup>th</sup> grade mini-meets will be held, with any 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teams registered playing all their games away. If dates are not "reserved" or there are alternate dates available, write #1 in front of your first choice, #2 in front of your second choice, etc., until all the acceptable host dates are filled. Write “No” in front of any date you know you absolutely cannot host. We will coordinate your 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade host date(s) with regular Great Northwest League Basketball meets (for older grades):

October 18	
October 25	

November 1	
November 8	
November 15	

December 6	
December 13	

**Total number of Saturdays you are willing to host?** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School where hosted meets will be held: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of mini-meets that can be hosted per Saturday: \_\_\_\_\_

How many playing surfaces will you be hosting on? \_\_\_\_\_ **2** \_\_\_\_\_ **3** \_\_\_\_\_ **4**

Names of the courts being used (for example, Courts 1 and 2 or East and West Gym, etc.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Adjustable (to 8 feet) baskets: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Any additional comments we should be aware of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4) **Coaching Information.** Please provide us with the coaches names, email addresses, addresses and phone numbers for each team:

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Girls Division**

**Team #1**

**Team #2**

Coach's name:	_____	_____
Team name: (i.e. Blue, White, Bears, etc.)	_____	_____
Coach's address:	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Coach's home phone:	_____	_____
Coach's work phone:	_____	_____
Coach's cell phone:	_____	_____
<b>E-mail:</b>	_____	_____

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Division**

**Team #1**

**Team #2**

Coach's name:	_____	_____
Team name: (i.e. Blue, White, Bears, etc.)	_____	_____
Coach's address:	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Coach's home phone:	_____	_____
Coach's work phone:	_____	_____
Coach's cell phone:	_____	_____
<b>E-mail:</b>	_____	_____

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Boys Division**

**Team #1**

**Team #2**

Coach's name:	_____	_____
Team name: (i.e. Blue, White, Bears, etc.)	_____	_____
Coach's address:	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Coach's home phone:	_____	_____
Coach's work phone:	_____	_____
Coach's cell phone:	_____	_____
<b>E-mail:</b>	_____	_____

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Division**

**Team #1**

**Team #2**

Coach's name:	_____	_____
Team name: (i.e. Blue, White, Bears, etc.)	_____	_____
Coach's address:	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Coach's home phone:	_____	_____
Coach's work phone:	_____	_____
Coach's cell phone:	_____	_____
<b>E-mail:</b>	_____	_____

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