



2023-2024 WARREN COUNTY YMCA 2nd-3rd Grade CO-ED Basketball Parent's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to the 2nd-3rd Grade CO-ED Basketball Program at the Warren County YMCA. Thank you for having your youth in our program! First things first, our YMCA basketball programs and leagues are all about the kids. It's all about teaching them the "fun"amentals of the great sport of basketball. We thank you for the opportunity to help lead your kids!

For our 2nd-3rd Grade group, we will meet on Saturday mornings starting at 11:30am (give or take a few minutes) following K-1st Grade Rookies Biddy Basketball Games. For this first week (12/9), we will split the kids into multiple groups and run a station-to-station clinic focusing on the following basketball drills/skills: Shooting, Passing, Defending, Footwork, Rebounding and Dribbling. Some of the kids may already know these skills, but it is important that we go over them as a group as some of the kids in the program may have never touched a basketball before. This also gives me and my staff the opportunity to better see each kids' abilities and skills so I can better pair them up to make teams. That way, I can make teams as even as possible when we get to games. We will run this clinic for 1 hour and 15 minutes. For week 2 (12/16) the kids will be placed on teams and will practice with their team while running through skills stations.

The entire CO-ED Basketball program's schedule is as follows:

December 9th – Intro Skills Clinic

December 16th – Skills Clinic – Station Practice WITH Teams

December 23rd & 30th – NO BASKETBALL (Christmas and New Year's Weekends)

January 6th – PICTURE DAY*, kids receive team shirts, practice #2 with teams.

January 13th, 20th, 27th, February 3rd, and 10th are all scheduled as game days.

February 17th and 24th will act as MAKE UP DAYS IF we have any cancellations.

Games – As stated above, the games for this program will all be on Saturdays January 13-February 10. We will have 5 games in total. The first 2 weeks of games (1/13 & 1/20), game times will be 11:30am and 12:30pm as they will trail immediately after Rookies Biddy Basketball. If the Rookies Biddy Basketball season ends on time with no cancellations on (1/20), starting (1/27), this group's games will be earlier in the morning at either 9:30am or 10:30am. This will be reflected on the game schedule, and I will update you if we need to change times around. This worked perfectly in the past, and I hope schedules will work out again this year.

Picture Day* – The asterisk on January 6th means it is Picture Day! We will hand out picture forms before Christmas. I will hand out team t-shirts on picture day prior to pictures. We will take 1 team at a time during the practices that day for pictures so that way each team has plenty of time to practice and work on drills.

Shyvel and Becky from Shyvel's Photography will be taking our pictures again this year! A big thank you to them for doing so again!

Make-up Days/Cancellations – There will be 2 make up day options at the end of the session as stated above (Feb 17th & 24th). These will be used only IF we have to cancel one of the above dates. Cancellations will be made ONLY if the winter weather is deemed too dangerous or there is an issue with the building (example – power outage). If I feel like we won't be able to have the program, I will cancel, but I will wait until the last possible minute before doing so to ensure it is the right call. If you live out of town, and don't think you can make it, but I have not cancelled, it is on you to decide if you want to come or not. I will wait as long as I can before making the call. I will send you all an automatic text from our computer system or my personal phone that will let you know if a cancellation is happening. I will also text coaches who will then forward the message to you. Please avoid bombarding the Y with calls if you have not heard from me yet.

Volunteer Coaches – This program is one of several throughout the year that we need help from volunteers to help as team coaches. My staff and I will be focused on refereeing and running game clocks so the more help we have leading the kids, the better. I currently only have 1 volunteer to help, so please consider helping. If we do not have enough coaches, my staff and I will run the games like we do for the Rookies Biddy Basketball program where we coach and ref at the same time. This is much trickier with this older group, and it would require extra help from my staff and having enough staff each week to cover all spots. With all of that said, any help you can provide is extremely important and welcome! I will host a coaches' meeting this Thursday, Dec. 14th @5pm in the AP Room. If you want to coach, but can't make it to the meeting, please let me know. We will go over all program info, rules, and I will give you your team roster. Unlike our other sports, you will not be required to run additional practices outside the 2 weeks of practice Saturdays.

Finally, if you are interested in sponsoring your child's team, the cost for the basketball season is \$200. This helps offset t-shirt, equipment, and staff/referee costs. Your logo/business or family name will be added to the back of your child's team shirts as well as on the game schedule. If interested, I will need confirmation and will need your logo artwork sent to me by the end of week 2 prior to when I order shirts. As a thank you, I will also have a 2x2 banner made for you that will hang outside on the baseball field fence during all Spring, Summer and Fall sports in 2024.

Thank you so much for reading this letter. I hope you and your child enjoy our program! If you have any questions, call me at the Y at 309-734-3183, or email me at ben@warrencountyyymca.org.

Thank You,

Ben Davis

Youth Development Director

The Y: We're for Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility