

Subject: Important Information for Spartan Youth Basketball (SYBA) League Parents

Dear SYBA Parents,

We hope this email finds you well and excited for another fantastic season of Spartan Youth Basketball! As we gear up for the upcoming season, we want to ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding our expectations and logistics. Please take a moment to read through this email for essential information.

1. Practice Expectations:

- Practices will start the week of October 9th.
- We kindly request that parents do not just drop off their children at practices. It is crucial to ensure that there is a coach present at the gym and that children are not left unattended.
- Please have your children bring a water bottle, basketball (if you have one), and dry shoes to every practice.
- If we have only one coach for a particular team, we will ask for and rely on parent volunteers to assist.
- At the end of every practice, please ensure the gym doors are closed and secured. This will help maintain the security of our facilities.
- **Gym Space Limitations:** Please note that we are facing extremely limited gym space availability this year. School gyms that we have used for years are no longer available to SYBA due to their staffing shortages. Coaches will be assigned practice slots, and we ask for your understanding and cooperation in making the best use of the facilities. This may include sharing gym space from time to time.

2. League and Game Information:

- Games will be played on Saturday mornings as part of the FMYBL (Fargo–Moorhead Youth Basketball League aka Metro League). The league consists of associations within Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton, Hawley, Ada-Borup, Moorhead, Central Cass, Northern Cass, Oak Grove, Park Christian, West Fargo, Shanley, and Fargo North. No pre-formed (aka travel) teams are allowed to complete in the Metro league.
- The 2023 regular season includes games every Saturday from October 28 - December 9 except for November 25 (Thanksgiving Weekend). We will end the season with a tournament on December 16.
- All teams have one “bye week”. All Girls teams have a “bye week” the first weekend of games (October 28) and all Boys teams have a “bye week” on December 2.
- The Metro league allows teams to be categorized as A, B, or C level at each grade level.
- Third graders will not have evaluations. For all other grades, if there are enough players for more than one team, players will be evaluated at a practice with input from coaches and outside evaluators to determine team placement.
- After two weeks of games the league may recategorize teams that are in the wrong level. For example, if a team is winning or losing all games by high double digits.

3. Uniforms: Uniforms are included in your registration fee. Details regarding uniform distribution will be provided shortly. Please keep an eye out for further communication on this matter.

4. Coaches: If you volunteered to help coach—First, THANK YOU! SYBA only exists because of the work of volunteers. Second, grade representatives will be reaching out to you soon to introduce themselves and connect. There may be grades that do not have volunteers and we will have to ask parents to help. We are hoping to put together a coaching clinic in the next few weeks for all coaches, but especially new coaches. This clinic will focus on teaching coaches drills and idea to effectively develop fundamental basketball skills for young players. This includes dribbling, shooting, passing, rebounding, and defensive.

5. Expectations of parents and fans:

A. The 24-Hour Rule: This rule means that after a game or practice, please wait at least 24 hours before discussing any concerns, disagreements, or issues with coaches or other parents. This time allows emotions to settle, provides an opportunity for reflection, and promotes constructive communication.

B. Respect for Referees: We ask that you show respect and support for the referees, even when decisions seem challenging or contentious. Negative interactions with referees can undermine the enjoyment of the game for everyone involved, including the young athletes.

C. Positive Sportsmanship: We encourage parents and guardians to be enthusiastic supporters of all our athletes, emphasizing the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play.

Your cooperation in adhering to these expectations will contribute to a more enjoyable and productive youth sports experience for everyone involved. Together, we can create an environment where our young athletes can develop their skills, build character, and have fun while competing.

6. Useful Links: This is where you will find practice and game time and locations. Save them for later!

- Practice schedules can be found at the SYBA website: Spartan Youth Basketball | (sybafargo.com)
- Game schedules can be accessed here: F-M Youth Basketball League (fmybl.com)

7. Tournaments: There will not be an SYBA sponsored tournament this season. The SYBA season will end after the December 16th Metro League tournament. For SYBA teams that wish to play in additional tournaments and use SYBA uniforms and gym space, the SYBA will pay fees for up to three tournaments. These extended season teams must allow all SYBA players to try out for travel teams. SYBA teams must prioritize SYBA players over non-SYBA players. Only if there are not enough SYBA players interested in forming a travel teams may other players be added to the roster. Gym space will be made available for practices until the end of March.

Finally, we appreciate your cooperation and support in making this season a memorable and enjoyable experience for our young athletes. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to your grade representative. The list of grade representatives is below. Let's work together to make this season a slam dunk!

Thank you for being a part of SYBA, and we look forward to seeing you on the court.

- SYBA Board of Directors