



Play Xavier Basketball!!

**2020-21 Modified Season Planned
Boys and Girls Grades 3-8**

REGISTER BY OCTOBER 2

Welcome and Online Information Sessions: We are excited to invite you and your student athletes to register to participate in the Xavier Youth Basketball Association (XYBA) 2020-21 youth season. Please visit www.xyba.org to register by October 2.

Modified Format to Reflect COVID-19 Realities: Our Xavier Catholic Schools has made thoughtful decisions that are allowing youth sports activities to move forward while also recognizing the need to implement proper COVID-19 measures. XYBA is moving forward with our 2020-21 basketball registration with plans for a flexible season that supports our student athletes' ability to play basketball safely and consistent with applicable COVID-19 guidelines. We ask families with children interested in playing with XYBA to be flexible as we work to craft a basketball program that allows us to hold a season while also providing appropriate protections for our student athletes and families.

Like all school activities this year, the makeup of youth basketball events this year promises to be very different. Some typical basketball league seasons are tentatively moving forward, while others are delaying their starts for a few weeks or months. Many school-hosted tournaments are currently in limbo. Venue restrictions and requirements for social distancing, masks and sanitizing will very much affect the types of athletic events and the places where they are played.

To reflect this uncertainty, XYBA is offering Xavier families a simplified single season that allows for our teams to begin practicing this fall while also providing for game play opportunities that become available through the fall and winter. We are offering this season at lower single fee of \$100 (not including uniform purchases) that will cover initial program costs, with the expectation that game opportunities may be limited. Should the COVID-19 situation improve toward the end of the year and it becomes clear that more expanded basketball activities will be available, XYBA will consider assessing additional fees to cover those costs.

We ask our families for their flexibility and understanding as our season moves forward. Our first priority will be providing for a safe and meaningful practice environment. Our XYBA Coaches will then move forward with planned league and tournament play opportunities as the COVID situation and Xavier guidance allows. With traditional game play opportunities likely to be limited, we will also explore smaller scale scrimmage opportunities within our Xavier group of teams and/or other local school clubs.

XYBA Program Overview. Xavier Youth Basketball welcomes student athletes of all abilities and stresses teaching basketball fundamentals, sportsmanship consistent with the Xavier way, and exposure to competitive basketball.

Oversight and Support. XYBA enjoys the support of our Xavier High School Varsity basketball coaches (Girls' Coach BJ Buss, and Boys' Coach Matt Klarnner), who provide vision and coaching guidance. XYBA has a Board that consists of parent volunteers, the Varsity Coaches and the Xavier Administration, providing oversight and support to our program.

Philosophy. All teams are taught Xavier basketball philosophy, with advancements in skills, concepts and competition as our players progress into upper grade levels. In general, grades 3-6 are organized into teams of similar talent, and players can expect to experience equitable (but not always equal) playing time. At higher grade levels, Coaches have the discretion to organize teams based on player ability and the competitive nature of individual tournaments, with flexibility to move players between teams throughout the season. At higher grade levels, all players are entitled to play each game but playing time may not always be equal.

Coaches. Coaching is led by parent and community volunteers at all levels with instruction from the varsity coaches. When possible, we seek to appoint non-parent head coaches at the upper grade levels. All coaches are selected by the XYBA Board and must complete an application and complete VIRTUS training. If parents have an interest in becoming a coach or to volunteer in another capacity, please contact any XYBA Board Member.

Practices. Each grade level will hold combined practices, normally 2-3 per week for 90 minutes, with older grades practicing more frequently. While coaches will be flexible with family conflicts and school events, players are expected to be at all practices and scheduled games. Practices will implement appropriate COVID-19 guidelines applicable to our Xavier student athletes and venues.

Fees and Uniforms. XYBA in 2020 is charging a single initial fee of \$100 for all players to cover initial program costs, which reflects the uncertain outlook for the upcoming season. Financial aid is available to families in need – please contact Mike Power or De Bleck. Players are required to purchase a uniform, which are ordered through the XYBA website as part of the player registration process. Any late orders are subject to a late fee. Players may re-use existing XYBA uniforms, provided duplicate numbers can be avoided. Players may request jersey numbers through the registration process. Fees are summarized as follows:

Grade	Single Season Initial Fee	Uniform Purchase
3 rd -8 th Grade Boys & Girls	\$100	\$30 jersey \$18 shorts

Spirit Wear: XYBA will offer a spirit wear sale for players and families through Eagle Graphics later in the fall and separate from registration.

Little Hawks: For those families with children in grades K through 2, XYBA offers a "Little Hawks" program that provides weekly instructional sessions to introduce kids to the game of basketball in a fun atmosphere. Coach Buss will host an October 25 Little Hawks clinic for Girls K-3, and Coach Klarner will host the annual Little Hawks Clinic on October 26-27 for boys in grades K-3. Look for additional details and registration to be released in early October.

Volunteers: XYBA is a success because of our many volunteers - including our coaches and team coordinators. XYBA asks families to volunteer at the XYBA-hosted events. Thank you in advance for the strong volunteer support!

Conduct. XYBA players are subject to Xavier rules of student conduct for extracurricular activities. Players, coaches and parent spectators are expected to show good sportsmanship consistent with Xavier values.

Register Today! Please share our program with any family that may be interested in Xavier Youth Basketball.

Contact Mike Power (XYBA President, mgp5@cornell.edu), Brian Heimann (Boys Program Director, heimannconcerete@gmail.com), Michelle Hermus (Girls Program Director, michellehermus@icloud.com), or De Bleck (Secretary & Registration Lead, debleck@hotmail.com) with any questions.