

2020-21 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 3rd through 5th 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 6th through 8th 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 goal of bringing in paid coaches at the 7th and 8th 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:

Typically, grades 4-8 would participate in the North Shore Girls Youth Basketball League (NSGYB) in Brown Deer, however due to COVID that league will not play this season. Instead, we currently have one team in grades 3-8 registered for the Wilson Winter League held at the RecPlex in Pleasant Prairie/Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha. There are multiple divisions available in this Winter League, which would allow additional teams in grades 4-8 to also be registered if we have enough to fill rosters. Teams are guaranteed at least 10 games that will be played on Saturdays or Sundays November 14th through December 20th. We are guaranteed 2 games on Saturday or Sunday for each weekend scheduled.

TOURNAMENTS:

We have registered all grade levels to play in Muskego’s Hoops For Hope Tournament, which is held November 7th (grades 3, 6, 7) and November 8th (grades 4, 5, 8.)

Once league play ends in December, our teams typically play in around 5 local tournaments from January through early March. These tournaments will be communicated throughout the season, as we understand where tournaments will be running due to COVID restrictions. Coaches and the Board will determine the tournaments that are the best fit for each team.

At grades 5th through 8th, 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

As of September 25th, Whitefish Bay gyms remain unavailable for rental as do every other gym we have previously used for both girls and boys Jr. Dukes Basketball. We are continuing to

explore other options, however we believe gym space will be hard to come by and practice opportunities will be very limited. In the past, 4th – 8th grades would practice twice a week and once a week for the 3rd grade group. We currently do not have gym space to support that kind of schedule and do not know if or when the Whitefish Bay gyms will be released for rental. Practice schedules and gym availability will be communicated as quickly as we can confirm them and could be on short notice. We will follow mask and capacity guidelines set forth by whatever facility we are utilizing. We know it is far from ideal to not have a robust practice schedule, however we decided to move forward with the tournaments and league to give the players as much of a season as we can.

FEES:

Registration will be open from September 25 through October 4 on our website <https://www.jrdukeshoops.com>. Due to the uncertainty of so much right now, we will collect payments for the 2020-21 season in two installments. The first installment of \$200 will be due at registration, which will cover the programming through December. Our hope is that we will be able to extend programming until the end of February or beginning of March for most teams. Players can decide to continue after the league ends and can pay the second installment at that time.

The second installment fees will not be known for certain until we have a better idea of tournament availability or extended league play opportunities. Our plan is to not exceed another \$100 fee for 3rd grade, \$200 fee for grades 4th- 6th and \$250 for grades 7th – 8th. Your initial fee of \$200 is non-refundable unless we are unable to place your daughter on a team or if WIAA cancels girls basketball, in which case we would cancel programming this season. Our plan would be to refund an appropriate amount back to each player depending on what costs were already incurred.

The first \$200 is due upon registration and checks can be made out to *WFB Girls Jr. Blue Dukes Inc.* and sent to Catherine Mattke, 4746 N. Cumberland Blvd. Whitefish Bay, WI 53211. We will not be using the payment option via the website this year, as we normally do, since it hinders refunds if needed.

*If your family is in need of financial assistance to cover fees for the upcoming season, please reach out to Catherine Mattke at catherinemattke@yahoo.com .

UNIFORMS:

\$85 approximately- Grade 3, 7 and for athletes who are new to the program. We replace uniforms every 2-3 years to keep up with our fast growing girls, so please size accordingly. There is an option for Grade 3 to utilize practice jerseys for this season. This will be decided with parents and coaches after registration.

Uniforms will be ordered through Burghardts Sporting Goods' online system. A link will be provided to you after registration and will have a fairly quick turnaround. It is recommended that you contact Catherine Mattke to view/try on sample uniforms before ordering. Uniforms take around 6 weeks to come in, so it is very likely that we won't have them back before the start of

the season. We will utilize extra uniforms from last year or practice jerseys in the meantime.

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.

Balanced team placements for grades 3rd through 5th will be made by grade level coaches once practices are able to begin. We plan to secure gym time in October for grades 6th through 8th where 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.

COVID and 2020

We ask for your patience and understanding as we do our best to attempt to plan basketball programming for our 2020-21 season. We will need to remain flexible throughout the upcoming season, as we never know when tournaments could be cancelled or gyms closed down. We are facing a challenging season to plan for and are doing our best to attempt to provide safe opportunities for our girls to keep playing basketball.