



NEW! Girls Spring Basketball (Grades 7 & 8)

The Blaine Girls High School Boosters program is excited to announce that we will offer Girls Spring Basketball for 2019! The Booster program will provide support and coordination. All coaching will be provided by the Girls HS Coaches, in addition to potential for current and former players to provide assistance.

We are intentionally starting small with up to (2) teams for 2019 (grades 7/8). Teams will practice together (for competition, and to play with & learn from each other). Jason Wirtz will coach all teams for 2019. Our plan is to offer two options for teams playing this year and it's important to note that these decisions need to be made/agreed to by the full TEAM!

- ✓ **WHITE:** this option will be ~ 10 weeks of practices & 5 tournaments with the season running early April through early June. Estimated cost per player is \$875.
- ✓ **CAROLINA:** this option will be ~ 6 weeks of practices & 3 tournaments with the season running early April through mid May. Estimated cost per player is \$575.

2019 will be a learning experience for all of us, we plan to expand the program for Spring 2020. Our goal, over time, is to offer teams for grades 5–12. We appreciate your patience & support.

What's Next? Important Events!

Information Night:

Thursday, March 21, 5:15pm–5:45pm @ BHS Cafeteria (just before youth banquet)
Key info for upcoming season will be shared; please attend if you are interested
Chris Brustuen, Jason Wirtz and Mike Tieden will be available to answer questions

Skill & Assessment Night:

Tuesday, March 26, 7:15pm–8:45pm, Northdale MS

REQUIRED for all players interested in playing on a Spring 2019 team

CLOSED to parents, please drop your daughter off for skill/assessment night

Our goal is to maximize the number of Blaine girls playing Spring Ball, however, not all that attend will be offered a spot. Will be based on skill & readiness.

FAQ's – Blaine Girls Spring Basketball

Why are we starting Blaine Girls Spring Basketball? *Our goal is to provide a cost effective and competitive Spring basketball opportunity to players that live in the Blaine district. We'd love to see our Blaine players stay together in the off-season.*

How is this different than AAU or other teams across Metro? *We will play in a mix of AAU & MYAS tournaments. Our focus will be on fundamentals, teamwork, and developing our youth on & off the court. We are not planning to do out of state tournaments. We aim to be competitive against other teams, and to push players to be their best. We will also work hard to support multi-sport athletes.*

Will you work with multi-sport athletes? *Yes, we believe kids should play multiple sports as long as they can. We'd love to have spring basketball be an option, and we will work (as a team) to work around schedules. Clear communication and proactive planning will make this best for all involved.*

Why should I consider this for my daughter? *This program is an option for your daughter to continue her basketball season (beyond winter travel ball). We believe this program will be best suited for those with traveling basketball experience, and for those that want to continue to play traveling basketball, and HS basketball.*

Is this part of the youth program, or part of the HS program? *This program is part of our High School Booster program. We will partner closely with the youth program to ensure they are aware of, and can support our teams and offerings. Our goal is to provide cost effective and competitive spring basketball options for players within the Blaine district – our youth program is a BIG part of that!*

Who will coach the teams? *Our intention is to have all teams coached by our Girls HS coaching staff. For 2019, all teams (up to 2) will be coached by Jason Wirtz, HS JV Head Coach. Coach Brustuen will be involved with the program as our leader for Boosters and other coaches will get involved as the program expands. We also intend to bring in current and former players to help our HS coaches, players love to give back and will do a great job connecting with our teams.*

How (and when) will teams be formed each year? *For 2019, we will hold a skill and assessment night on Tuesday, March 26 at Northdale Middle School. This will be a closed skill night (only for players), and will run from 7:15pm–8:45pm. Gym will be open at 7pm so players can be ready to go at 7:15pm. For future years, we will make a decision to hold FALL skill and assessments OR Spring. We appreciate your feedback on this topic.*

What will we do for uniforms? *For 2019, we will use existing youth traveling uniforms. This helps keep costs low AND ensures we are ready for April tournaments. Affordability is something we are striving for so even in future years we may use youth traveling uniforms or HS uniforms for our older teams.*

How long is the season and what will the cost be? *We will offer (2) team options – WHITE will be ~ 10 weeks with 5 tournaments and an estimated cost of \$875. CAROLINA will be ~ 6 weeks with 3 tournaments and an estimated cost of \$575. Note: we MUST align on an option PER TEAM and schedules for other sports will be considered. It will be critical to share what weekends will NOT work for your player ASAP.*

Where (and when) will practices be held? *Practices will be held at Blaine area facilities – e.g. National Sports Center, Northdale MS, Roosevelt MS, and Blaine HS. Times may range from 5pm-10pm.*

Where (and when) will tournaments be played? *We will sign our teams up for AAU or MYAS tournaments in the Twin Cities area. At this time, we are not planning any out of state tournaments. Many Spring tournaments are held in Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Chaska and Chanhassen.*

Where can I find out more information? *We will add a Spring Basketball section to our Blaine Girls High School Basketball website. For now, we encourage you to attend the information session on Thursday, March 21, from 5:15-5:45pm at the BHS cafeteria. This is just before the Girls Youth Banquet.*