

## **2021-22 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 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 pro-

gram 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:**

Grades 3-8 will play in the Overtime Basketball League in Mequon formerly known as North Shore Girls Youth Basketball League (NSGYB). Teams are guaranteed at least 10 games that will be played on Friday, Saturday, or Sundays November 5<sup>th</sup> through December 19<sup>th</sup>. We are guaranteed 2 games for each weekend scheduled with a league tournament on the final weekend.

### **TOURNAMENTS:**

Our teams typically play in around 5 local tournaments from December through early March. These tournaments will be communicated throughout the season as they are confirmed and we understand the competition at each one. Coaches and the Board will determine the tournaments that are the best fit for each team.

At grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, 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**

Our plan is to begin practicing at The Warehouse and local gyms for overflow space beginning the week of October 25. Typically we will practice once per week for 3rd grade and twice per week for grades 4-8th. Once availability of coaches and schedule are finalized, they will be communicated to the teams. We will follow facility rules as we take our teams to various locations to practice and play.

### **FEES:**

Registration will be open from September 20<sup>th</sup> through October 2<sup>nd</sup> on our website <https://www.jr-dukeshoops.com>. Fees will be paid directly on the website

After several years of flat or very small increases in fees, player fees will be \$400 for Grade 3, \$550 for Grades 4-6th, and \$650 for Grades 7-8th. This increase aligns with the number of practices, games, and tournaments provided from October to March for our players and helps us maintain our new practice facility. Uniforms are an additional cost.

\*If your family is in need of financial assistance to cover fees for the upcoming season, please reach out to Kelly Balthasar at [kellybalthasar@yahoo.com](mailto:kellybalthasar@yahoo.com) .

### **UNIFORMS and SPIRITWEAR:**

Uniforms are approximately \$85 for Grades 3, 5, 6, 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. If your daughter's grade is up for reordering but her uniform still fits, you don't have to reorder, but just realize the new uniform style will be slightly different.

Uniforms will be ordered through Burghardts Sporting Goods' online system and must be done by September 22. A link will be provided to you and will have a very quick turnaround in order to get uniforms in time for our Nov 5th League. It is recommended that you contact Catherine Mattke to view/try on sample uniforms before ordering if you were unable to do so during tryouts. Catherine can also confirm jersey

numbers if needed. Spiritwear ordering is open a little longer and will need to be completed by September 27th. Catherine Mattke 414-213-4353 or Catherinemattke@yahoo.com.

### **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.

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.

Our plan is for Team placement emails to go out September 20 with acceptances due by September 22. Uniform orders must be made by September 22 in order to ensure delivery before our League starts. Please direct any questions about team placement to John Burkemper at [johnb@james.construction](mailto:johnb@james.construction) or 414-526-8265.

### **COVID and 2021-22**

We ask for your patience and understanding as we do our best to plan basketball programming for our 2021-22 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 again 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. We will follow facility rules as we take our teams to various locations to practice and play. Parents will need to be comfortable with players being required to wear masks in some facilities and not wearing one in other situations.