



## **BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AND BENTONVILLE WEST HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Students must try out for their zoned high school and attend a Bentonville Public School (BPS) to be eligible (or a traditional homeschool). Bentonville Youth Athletics prepares basketball players for both high schools, and the programs operate independently under the guidance and philosophies of the BHS and BWHS high school coaches.

## **WILL THERE BE CUTS?**

Yes, unfortunately, not all players registered will make a team. There will be only 1 round of cuts (all players will be notified by email). We know this is always difficult and the decisions are very tough, but we always encourage players to continue to find a way to play and practice. Each year, we have kids who grow and develop and make a team after not making it in the previous year.

## **HOW ARE TEAMS CHOSEN?**

Volunteer coaches and BYA board members will evaluate and rank players individually on specific skills, and the top 8-10 players will be selected to form a team. The number of teams each year depends on registration numbers (we anticipate having multiple teams in most grades for boys, and at least one team per grade for girls).

## **DIFFERENT TEAM DIVISIONS**

Our league has three different division types. Our organization classifies these divisions as follows. Gold – Kids are expected to be able to compete right away while still developing throughout the season. Silver and Bronze – Kids are expected to focus more on developing the fundamental foundation while learning how to consistently compete.

## **WHEN DO WE FIND OUT IF OUR CHILD MAKES THE TEAM?**

We aim to have team rosters announced via email within 7-10 days following the tryout date. For updates, follow us on Facebook (BYA West Wolverines), Instagram (@byawestwolverines), and X (@BYA\_West).

## **MY CHILD DID NOT MAKE THE TEAM IN THE GOLD DIVISION**

It is important for parents to know that just because you believe your child should make the gold team does not make that a fact. If your child makes a silver team and not a gold team, we encourage you to still celebrate that with your child. Several great and successful people overcame obstacles along their journey by holding their heads high, utilizing perseverance, and continuing to work hard.

## **WHAT IF A CHILD DOES NOT MAKE A TEAM?**

We would encourage all families to ensure that each child spends time each day developing the fundamental foundation for playing basketball. This can be done by consistently watching different levels of highly competitive basketball, attending basketball camps in your community, developing the fundamentals at home, and playing as much basketball as possible during free time.

### **WHAT IS THE REGISTRATION FEE?**

The registration fee will be between \$235-\$250 for players (includes league fees, uniform, shooting shirt). If selected for a team, the player must pay the non-refundable fee of \$125 within 72 hrs of rosters being posted to secure their roster spot and ensure a uniform is ordered. Failure to pay the deposit within 72 hrs of roster posting will lead to immediate loss of roster spot. The full payment is due before the first team practice. Scholarship applications will be available after rosters are announced.

### **PRACTICES AND GAMES**

Teams will practice 1-3 times per week in BPS gyms starting late September/early October. Kids currently participating in BYA West football and cheer will need to communicate this to their assigned basketball coach. You will be contacted by your coach after rosters are announced with exact days/times. Games are played at Arkansas Athletes Outreach in Fayetteville & Rogers (Wednesday, Thursday, or Saturday). The league game schedule runs from November to February, concluding with a single elimination tournament at the end of the season (Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Or Sunday).

### **IF MY CHILD PLAYED THE PREVIOUS YEAR, IS HE/SHE AUTOMATICALLY ON THE TEAM AGAIN?**

No, each year your child will need to try out.

### **IS MY CHILD GUARANTEED PLAY TIME?**

No, we do not have minimum playing time guarantees. We are in a competitive league, and not every matchup will allow for all players on a team to play. Our coaches are instructed to focus on the development of all players in practice and then encouraged to make the best decisions possible to give the team a chance to win in games. We encourage players to visit with their coach about what they need to work on and improve to be able to earn more playing time.

### **CAN PARENTS WATCH PRACTICES?**

No, all practices are closed. The Bentonville West Youth Athletics board does background checks and interviews all coaches and assistant coaches. Please contact the board if you have individual concerns.

