



West Linn Select Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) 2021

OVERVIEW OF OUR PROGRAM

West Linn Select Basketball offers boys and girls in our community the opportunity to experience competitive youth basketball. Run entirely by volunteers, the Select basketball program is designed for those interested in a competitive environment where the goal is to improve individual and team skills beyond the recreational level. We develop fundamental basketball skills, self-confidence, team cooperation and sportsmanship in an atmosphere of safe, cooperative fun. Playing time consists almost entirely of weekend tournament play (Saturday and Sunday). Tournaments begin in November and run through March. For more information about the program, please check out our website (www.westlinselectbasketball.org).

TRYOUTS

1) What is Lion League and does it have any impact on tryouts?

Lion League is offered on four consecutive Sunday afternoons/evenings beginning in late September. These evenings are coordinated by the West Linn High School coaches and provide a mix of drill work and scrimmages. These sessions give some of the tryout evaluators a chance to familiarize themselves with some of the players. Although it is certainly possible for a player previously unfamiliar to us to come to tryouts and perform well enough to make an "A" team, Lion League helps provide a more well-rounded look at a player's abilities. Lion League also gives those new to our program a chance to meet some of the people involved in the program and to learn more about it.

2) Who is evaluating players during the tryouts?

The West Linn High School coaching staff, members of the West Linn Select Basketball board and invited volunteers who know basketball are involved in the evaluation process.

3) How will I know if my player made a team?

Hold on to the number your player received at tryouts. We post teams by number approximately a week after tryouts.

4) Why was my player not selected for a team?

Making the determination not to offer a young player a spot on a Select team is a difficult decision for our evaluators. Several factors contribute to our decision, including the player's command of basketball skills necessary to participate in a competitive level of play. Most importantly, we want all players to be on a team where they can learn, develop and love the game of basketball. If another program is a better fit for your player this year, we encourage him/her to continue to work on their skill development and tryout again next year.

5) Why was my player not picked for the “A” team?

Players are placed on teams based on many factors. First and foremost is the player’s basketball abilities and skill level. In addition, team formation takes into consideration the positions and skills needed to complete a team – ball handlers, shooters, defenders, etc. Each team must have a variety of skill sets to be competitive (i.e. we can’t have a team made up entirely of point guards.) In our experience, a player who was on the “bubble” between an A and B team is often better off being placed on the B team where he/she can be a leader and typically enjoy a good deal of playing time to continue to develop.

6) My player was not placed on a Select team. Will I receive a full refund of the fee I paid when I registered?

Yes. We will process a full refund of the registration fee you paid.

7) I only want to play on a certain team. If my player is not placed on the team we want and we decide not to play West Linn Select Basketball, will I get my registration money back?

We are happy to refund registration fees, but you MUST make this request BEFORE we post the team results (typically about a week after tryouts). Please talk to our President or the Boys or Girls Select Coordinators about your situation during the tryout period or as soon as possible after it concludes. Once we post team placements, teams are final and it is extremely difficult for us to make changes. As such, we can only accommodate a partial refund at that time.

8) If my player didn’t make the “A” team, does that mean they won’t make a team in high school?

Absolutely not! We frequently see players move from team to team at the elementary and middle school levels. We have seen “C” team players in middle school join the varsity squad at the high school. A player’s love of the game and commitment to building their skills is the ultimate determinant of where they end up.

9) If my player did not make a team, can you tell me why not?

As much as we would love to be able to provide individual feedback to each participant in the tryouts, we evaluate hundreds of players during this process and work late into the night for several weeks to finalize rosters. Our recommendation is to contact the Board or the Player’s Advocate on the Board with any questions you might have. Please be patient in waiting for a response – we will respond as soon as we can. Also please understand that we will likely not be able to provide full evaluation notes in most cases. However, we will do our best to answer any specific questions you might have.

SELECT BASKETBALL PROGRAM

10) Who are the coaches in the West Linn Select Basketball program?

The coaches in our program are typically parent volunteers with a passion for the game. Every coach undergoes a background check and training prior to the start of the season. We also keep in contact with coaches during the season to ensure things are running smoothly for coaches and players.

11) My player doesn't seem to be playing as much as other players. Isn't there an equal playing time requirement?

No. There is not an equal playing time requirement at this level. While coaches do their best to ensure that every player spends time on the court, playing time is at the coach's discretion. Our goal is that each player plays a minimum of 10-12 minutes per game. Factors that generally contribute to increased playing time include overall skill level and commitment shown during practices. In the event that a player plays less than 10-12 minutes in a game, the expectation would be that they would play more minutes in another game. Coaches will manage this over the course of weekend tournaments and the season.

12) Why did the program's annual fees go up again this year?

The fees for the 2021-2022 season went up to \$540 that was broken up into three payments of \$180 each. This year we are seeing rising costs from tournaments, gym time, insurance, and equipment for the program (uniforms, etc.) With the unpredictable COVID environment we felt that breaking up the payments would give us the most flexibility to ensure easier refunds if we do see closures again.

We understand this fee is not a small one for families and we are mindful of keeping program costs down wherever we can. We are happy to assist families for whom this cost is an excessive burden. The payment assistance form is available on our website. We believe this fee still represents a tremendous value in comparison to other club programs in the area.

13) If COVID does create closures and the season is shorten this year, how will I get a refund?

We have broken up the payments to help in case of closures. If we are unable to complete the season, the board will meet to ensure we get the correct amount refunded to all parties. Any refund issued due to COVID closure will be less a processing fee charged by our registration/enrollment vendor.

14) How else could COVID impact the program this season?

Our coaching staff will be following and enforcing all rules established by the OSAA. We will have a page dedicated to the current rules from the OSAA on our website. We ask that all student athletes, coaches, and parents/spectators follow the guidelines posted by OSAA. During the registration period and at the first parent meeting at tryouts we will require all parents to sign our 2021 COVID acknowledgement document.

15) My player made a team and I paid for the season. How come I still have to pay admission fees for every tournament? Can't you wrap tournament admission fees into the Select program fees so I don't have to pay an entry fee at each tournament?

We would love to be able to wrap tournament costs into our fees, but it is not feasible. Here is why: each coach in our program selects their own tournament schedule; each tournament costs a different amount; and each player requires a different number of tickets at each tournament. The logistics of "pre-paying" each tournament are too difficult to try to implement with this many variables.

16) My player is not having a good experience with the program this year. Who can I talk to about it?

We want every player to have a positive experience with our program. We recommend first engaging your coach for a conversation about how to improve the experience. Alternatively, please contact the Players' Advocate on the Select Board to address your concerns.

17) My player loved their experience with the program! Do you guys offer other opportunities to play during the offseason?

Yes! Coach Dave VanBeenen runs a year-round clinic to work with players of all levels to bolster their skills on the court. Please see our website for dates and times. He also has a mailing list you can join for updates. The WLHS coaches also offer summer camp programs for both boys and girls. Check out our website for updates!