



YOUTH SPORTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Welcome to the season!

Whether this is your first game or your fiftieth, we want you (and your young athlete) to feel ready, informed, and excited for what's ahead. Here are answers to the questions we hear most. Got a question we didn't cover? Senior Sports Director Matt Clark is your go-to for anything sports-related. Email him at mclark@ymcainw.org



Refund Policy Plans change — here's how refunds work. You can get a refund (minus a \$10 administrative fee) if you request it before teams begin practicing. Once practice starts, a 50% refund is available up until the first game. After games begin, refunds are no longer available. Note: games cancelled due to weather aren't refunded, but the Y will do its best to reschedule them.



Financial Assistance Cost shouldn't stand between your kid and the game. There are two ways to get support:

1. Financial Assistance Application — takes 5–7 days to process (team placement can't begin until it's cleared). Apply [Online](#)
2. Player-2-Player Program — reach out to Senior Sports Director [Matt Clark](#) for details.



Health Insurance Safety first! All program participants need to have their own health insurance coverage.



Registration We register players individually for our recreational leagues and build teams by grade and school whenever possible. We do our best to honor placement preferences, but they aren't guaranteed — if you have a specific request (like a friend or coach), just let us know. Contact Senior Sports Director [Matt Clark](#). **Good to know:** registration closes 2 weeks before games begin. If a spot opens up after that, contact the Sports Director to see what's available.



When Does Practice Start? Practice typically kicks off 2 weeks before the season begins — keep an eye on your parent notification email for the exact date. **Heads up:** if your team doesn't have a coach yet, practice may be delayed until one is assigned.



When Will I Be Contacted by the Coach? Coaches reach out within 48 hours of clearing their background check, completing training, and receiving the team roster. To make sure you don't miss it: double-check your email is accurate, your voicemail is set up, and take a peek in your junk mail folder. And if you haven't heard yet, it may just mean a volunteer coach hasn't been assigned to your team — we'll keep you posted by email.



Parent Notification & Playerspace Playerspace is our go-to tool for team, division, and league communication — that's where you'll find notices about your specific league, so keep an eye out for emails from Playerspace.



Jewelry For everyone's safety, no jewelry is allowed during games — no exceptions. Officials (gym supervisors, referees, scorekeepers, and YMCA staff) will check before each game, so leave the bling at home!



Weather Conditions Mother Nature doesn't always cooperate. The YMCA isn't responsible for weather-related delays or cancellations, but we'll always try our best to reschedule — just know it's not guaranteed.



Schedules Missing your schedule? Check the [Sports Schedules page](#) on our website — it's all there.



What Should I Do at Games? Cheer loud and cheer proud! As a parent, you're there to support your child, their teammates, coaches, and officials. Please review our [Parent & Player Code of Ethics](#) with your child so everyone knows how to keep things fun and respectful.



When Is Picture Day? Check your [schedule](#) for the day, time, and location. Dorian will contact coaches directly to confirm the team's picture time — smile!



Who Will My Coach Be Our coaches are volunteers — usually parents just like you — not YMCA staff. Every coach completes a full background check and training before stepping onto the court or field. **Thinking about coaching?** We'd love to have you! Reach out to Senior Sports Director [Matt Clark](#) — as a thank-you, volunteer coaches get their own child's registration fee waived.



Basketball Jersey Order Window Jerseys are ordered and paid for separately from program registration — you'll get an email with an order link. The window opens 4 weeks before games begin and closes 2 weeks after games begin, so don't wait too long to place your order!

Questions? We've got you covered. Contact Senior Sports Director [Matt Clark](#)