

WRS Youth Mission Team Basketball FAQ

wrcc.org/sports

What is the goal of Mission Team Basketball?

First and foremost, the goal of Mission team(s) is to go out in the mission field (the community and specifically the basketball gym) and set an example of Christ-like behavior for other players and coaches. The mission team players, coaches, and parents are held to a higher standard because they are representing White River Christian Church, White River Sports, and most importantly, God and his son, Jesus Christ. This means that before the games, the players and coaches will meet at mid-court and invite the opposing team to pray with them and parents will pray from the stands at the same time. During the game, the players compete, coaches coach, and the parents cheer for their team. Outside of game days, the players and coaches will volunteer at times with the in-house basketball program and in the community. They will participate in our in-house service project, in addition, to their own service project, and they will do the same devotions that our in-house program does (in addition to several more). Our goal is to be an outstanding basketball team that consistently wins games, but does it with a positive, Christ-like attitude without some of the negative aspects that are often found in competitive sports. From a basketball standpoint, it is a more intense level of competition than our in-house league. Playing time is not required to be balanced like it is in the in-house league, but all players that make the team will play every game.

How old must my child be to participate?

For the 2019-2020 season, White River Sports is proud to support 4th, 5th, and 6th grade boys travel teams.

When is the season?

Mission Team seasons run from tryouts in late-August to the last games in early March. Practices will start in early September. Teams will play in a fall and winter league for a total of approximately 20 games. Each league will play to a division championship and team awards will be provided. Additionally, some teams may play in a few tournaments around the state (no more than one per month).

Where and when will games be played?

Fall and Winter League games will be played on Friday nights, Saturdays, or Sundays depending on the team and the division they are in, and all games will be played at either the Indiana Basketball Academy, Grand Park Fieldhouse in Westfield or Finch Creek Fieldhouse in Noblesville. Other tournament games may be played at other sites, typically around Central Indiana.

Are there tryouts?

Yes, all players will be required to attend a 90-minute tryout session. During this session, the players will go through a series of drills and will participate in a scrimmage against other players trying out for a team. The evaluations are closed to parents and will be conducted by a group of volunteers including the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade head coaches. Each player will be assigned a number and will be referred to by

that number with 8 (sometimes 9) kids being selected for each team. Parents will be required to attend a parent meeting during the evaluation process.

What is the duration and frequency of practice?

Practices are typically twice a week for 1.5-2 hours each night. Specific practice nights are to be determined later.



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When and how to register?

Mission Team players will need to follow the normal WRS registration process prior to the beginning of the season. One registration per player will cover the Fall and Winter Leagues. If selected, additional paperwork and training may be required.

What is the registration cost? What does it include? What do I need to buy?

The total program cost will be approximately \$275 with an initial payment of \$100 (\$20 is nonrefundable if the player does not make the team and chooses not to play in-house). This cost includes a reversible team jersey, reversible shorts, game day shooting shirt, and a practice uniform. All team equipment (balls, cones, practice jerseys, etc) is provided by the league. Players will need to have their own basketball shoes (black and white or black and gold) and will be required to purchase team socks. For any kids not selected for the Mission Team, they will be placed on an in-house team and the registration fee paid at the initial registration will be applied to the in-house fee.

What are the game rules?

White River Sports Mission Basketball will follow the League Game Rules for whichever league the team ends up playing in. It is "regular" basketball rules, playing with a 28.5" basketball on a 10' goal.

Do we have to be members of the church?

Participants in the league are not required to be members of White River Christian Church or of any church. The league is designed as a community league open to anyone, regardless of church affiliation. However, please be mindful of the elevated expectations regarding devotions and service projects. The first priority of the Mission Program is God with basketball second.

For more information and questions about the league, contact:

Youth Mission Basketball Director

Tucker Brown

youthbasketball@whiteriversports.org

White River Sports Pastor

Ross Wellman

317-773-2233 ext 145

rwellman@wrcc.org

