



Basketball 2016-17 INSIDER

Here is the PRELIMINARY (subject to change) information on the Boys & Girls Club of Whatcom County Basketball 2016-2017 season. Note: By virtue of enrolling in the program, the parent and youth agree to abide by all policies, decisions, directives, procedures and rules of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County.

- 1) The following leagues are offered:
Kindergarten/1st grade co-ed;
2nd-6th grade girls individual leagues; 7th/8th grade girls
2nd-6th grade boys individual league; 7th/8th grade boys.
High school league (City Rock) for 9th thru 12 grades. (see specific City Rock info for registration info)
- 2) This program is strictly governed by the published RULES. All rules are enforced. Whenever a question is posed, our first response is, "What do the rules say?" The quality of your experience is dependent in large part on your coach's understanding, listening, supporting, and communicating rules and procedures. Parents are responsible for assisting the coach in these endeavors. It is the responsibility of the parent and player to abide by Club rules and to assist and cooperate with the coach at all times.
- 3) Primary REGISTRATION runs from September 27th to Oct. 11th. Register at the Bellingham Branch weekdays between 11:00am-6:00pm or at the Ferndale Branch weekdays between 11:00am-4:00pm. The basketball fee is \$85 plus a current 16/17 Club membership (\$30). Secondary registrations after October 11th are accepted where needed on a space available basis. **Refund policy: membership fee is non-refundable. Athletic Fee refunds** will be given as a credit that can be used by any child in the household for one year from the date of credit and only if the participant is injured and has an excuse from a doctor stating that they are unable to participate. If the injury occurs prior to the start of practices a 50% credit will be granted. If an injury occurs after the first practice no credit will be granted. Athletics participants who have received financial aid will be credited 50% of their out of pocket portion paid to participate in accordance with the schedule stated above and you forfeit all financial assistance granted for that program.
- 4) Registration for the high school league (City Rock) begins on Tuesday, November 8th.
- 5) Registration is on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED basis with the following exceptions: coach's kids and children that played for the same coach the year before **if they sign up during our regular signup window (Sept 27-Oct 11)**. Teams will be put together by requests then by school if there is not a request. Requests will be taken but are not guaranteed regardless of registration order
- 6) Practices begin the **week** of November 7th. Teams will likely have 5 practices prior to the first game. Games will begin December 1st. Game days will be determined by gym availability. There will be no practices or games during the holiday break in December. Regular season will end on February 4th. There may be a single elimination tournament for all teams in 4th-8th grade. This would begin the week of February 6th. **The practice and game schedules are subject to being affected by snow and school closures**. Whenever school is closed it is likely that all practices and games are cancelled. If a team practices in a school, the B&GC does not cancel the practice, the school does. Check the school district website for after school program closures.
- 7) Games will be held at the B&GC-Bellingham and Ferndale Branch, Vista Middle School (Ferndale), Blaine Middle School, Meridian Middle School, Mount Baker High School/Jr. High, Kendall Elementary, a Nooksack site, a Lynden site, and other countywide locations.
- 8) Please be aware that gym time is very limited. We must share gyms with the Parks Department, school usage, adult sports, etc. There will be times when your practice might be cancelled at the last moment because of a school activity. We will try to find an alternate day and time for your practice. Your patience and understanding are appreciated.
- 9) We are still looking for coaches and referees for our basketball program. If you know of anybody who might be interested please contact Sam at the Bellingham Branch or Angela at the Ferndale Branch. We also are still looking for more sponsors for our teams. If there is someone who might be interested in sponsoring your son or daughter's team please download the sponsor form at www.whatcomclubs.org.

- 10) Coaches meeting for Bellingham teams will be held at 5:00pm on October 26th at the Bellingham Branch Gym. Coaches meeting for Ferndale and Blaine teams will be held at 5:00pm on October 26th at the Ferndale Branch Gym. Coaches will request practices and receive rosters at this time. Practice sign-ups are NOT first come first serve. Coaches will fill out a gym practice request form and we will inform coaches of their practice time by Friday, October 28th. Coaches will then begin calling players to set up the first practice or team meeting.
- 11) Basketball pictures for Bellingham teams will be taken on November 29th & 30th at B&GC. Pictures for Ferndale will be on November 28th at the Ferndale Club. Coaches will receive a picture packet for distribution to the players. Coaches will sign up for pictures when they pick up rosters. Team uniforms will be given at picture time.
- 12) The Athletic Department assigns color and sponsor names unless previously reserved (and unduplicated) by the coach or sponsor.
- 13) We will attempt to have two officials at each game or one experienced official. Our pool of officials is small and the number of games is large. Qualified officials can officiate 4th-12th grade games. Inexperienced officials can start in our K-3rd grade leagues. Each team will be asked to supply one person to work at the scorer's table.
- 14) **No Basketballs in the Bellingham or Ferndale gym on game days. This is a distraction for parents who are trying to watch the games. Therefore, again this year we are not allowing basketballs to be brought into the gym. Coaches are instructed to leave their practice balls at home. We will supply a cart of balls to be used for warm-ups and a game ball for each game. Please, also do not bring any outside food or dinks (other than water) in to our gyms. This will help protect our gym floors.**
- 15) Kindness, courtesy and SPORTSMANSHIP are required. We will not hesitate to act if the standards of the Club are compromised. Good sportsmanship is not extinct. Good sportsmanship begins and ends with parents. Good citizenship, good role modeling, ethics and values are requirements for everyone! It must be noted in the strongest terms that problems in this program most frequently occur from the few parents whose conduct is unacceptable. The Club will act decisively and with a no tolerance policy to eliminate those problems and individuals. Thank you for your cooperation as positive role models.
- 16) Game schedules and standings will be posted on our web site www.whatcomclubs.org before the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.
- 17) NO TOBACCO (including Vaping) or ALCOHOL at any program site. PETS are not allowed inside the Bellingham or Ferndale Branch.
- 18) **Good citizenship in the schools is crucial to the program. Schools must remain clean, supervised and orderly. Failure to follow proper procedures will result in corrective action. If you bring other children to practice please make sure they are supervised closely.**
- 19) Finally, the three most important words; communicate, communicate, COMMUNICATE! It is your responsibility to know the name and phone number of your coach. It is your responsibility to know your practice schedule, game schedule and any other team function. It is your responsibility to conduct yourself respectfully and appropriately. Thank you. Have a great season.

FAQ's

1. **When will I hear from my coach?** You should hear from your coach from October 26th-November 3rd. If you do not hear from a coach by the 4th please call the athletic department. Your team may not have a coach yet and we are still looking for one or the coach may have a wrong phone number.
2. **When do practices begin?** Practices begin the week of November 7th.
3. **Where do we practice and what time?** The coach will set up a practice time and place with the B&GC. Practices are scheduled from 4:00-8:00 p.m. during the week and some Saturdays.
4. **When are the games?** Depending on the division, teams will play one game a week on Thursday or Friday night or on Saturday.
5. **When are pictures?** Pictures are November 28th for Ferndale and November 29th and 30th for Bellingham. The coach has signed up for a picture time. Please talk with them about pictures.
6. **Can my child play B&GC basketball if he/she is playing AAU?** Yes. They may still play but should play one grade level up. Individual AAU players may appeal to play at their grade level. Multiple AAU players may not play on the same team unless the entire team is playing up one grade level. Please ask if you have any questions about this.
7. **How does the Lystedt Law affect my child playing basketball?** Each child and parent must sign a concussion acknowledgement form prior to playing basketball for the B&GC. The form can be found on the B&GC website at www.whatcomclubs.org and is now the back of the B&GC membership form.