

St. Jude Girls' Basketball Information Sheet

The St. Jude girls' basketball teams are open to all girls from the 3rd grade through the 12th grade and all of these teams play in the Girls Western Athletic Conference (GWAC – www.gwacsports.com). We can/will form teams at the following levels:

3rd grade – instructional

4th grade – instructional

5/6th grade A – top level competitive team

5/6th grade B1 – second level competitive team

5/6th grade B – teams formed based upon equal distribution of remaining talent

7/8th grade A – top level competitive team

7/8th grade B1 – second level competitive team

7/8th grade B – teams formed based upon equal distribution of remaining talent

High School – usually we have enough to field only one high school team

The level at which we enter teams will ultimately depend on the talent level of the girls and the rules of the GWAC.

Instructional basketball at the 3rd and 4th grade level means that wins and losses are not recorded and they play only a five-game regular season. Their regular season is typically held in April with most games being on Saturdays. At the coach's discretion, these teams can choose to enter up to two tournaments. Practice for these teams can start as early as the beginning of February (particularly if a coach decides to enter a February tournament) or as late as March if the coach decides to not enter any tournaments, or at least no tournament that does not begin until March.

Teams in the 5th-8th grades are chosen based upon a tryout process. Tryouts this year will be on Dec. 21st and 22nd. The formal tryout policies and procedures are posted on the girls' basketball portion of the St. Jude Athletic Association website. The top players make the 'A' team. The next best set of players make the 'B1' team, with extra consideration given to those that are in the younger grade as they are likely to form the core of the 'A' team the following year and will need the year of preparation. The remaining players are distributed on the 'B' teams to create evenly talented 'B' teams. All of these teams play a 10-game regular season starting the last Saturday in February and concluding by the end of April. The Boosters will pay the entry fee for up to two tournaments for each team. Fees for any additional tournaments will need to be funded by the team.

I strive to have experienced non-parent coaches for our 'A' teams. At this point I have only one of those positions filled, Julie Dalton will coach the 7/8th 'A' team. Gym time permitting, the 'A' team players will be asked for a larger commitment with respect to practice time. Our 'B' teams and instructional teams typically practice two hours a week. We hope to have at least three hours a week of practice time for the 5/6 'A' team (and hopefully the 'B1' teams), with likely at least four a week for the 7/8 'A' team. Until we know the total number of teams we will have, we cannot say for sure how much gym time will be available. If there are girls that would rather not put that much time into basketball, they should let us know before tryouts that they are not seeking a spot on the 'A' team.

Anyone interested in being a head or assistant coach should let me know anytime before we get to the tryout dates. You can reach me at brian.hatch@uc.edu or at 348-8812.