

Notre Dame Don Bosco Basketball League
MEMO concerning 2022-2023 basketball season.
May 25, 2022

To All Athletic Directors, Board Presidents, and Basketball Coordinators and some coaches.

From: Tom Collopy, Notre Dame Don Bosco League Director and President.

Hi Everyone

Hope you all had a safe and happy Easter celebration and also good weather if you traveled.

There are a number of topics that require review by the individual school and programs in the NDDB Basketball League. This requires feedback to me and would like the feedback by June 10 so I can review with the Archdiocese . Please review this memo and discuss among your athletic board, coaches, parents and players.

- 1) This season was more successful than I anticipated. Thank you for your cooperation and a special thank you to Gary and Cheri for the extra work they put in in attempting to reschedule games. In general their efforts were very successful.
- 2) Rescheduling is not as easy as it appears to the coaches. There are times where coaches worked together to make a switch in time on the same game day and worked out the details. Thank you . The League will not perform detail work unless it is authorized and due to a league grave error.
- 3) What a great turn-out and success for the Padre Tournament. The girls teams from SJV, Christ King, and St Mary Meno Falls. Great Job. SJV Boys - Great job. I think that the competitive nature of the league helps our teams in tournaments like the Padre. St John Vianney Girls received another Padre Banner.

Some ideas we are discussing and require your feedback.

- 1) We will continue to support playing majority of our games on Saturdays. However we need more officials in order to continue to do this. Or, we may have to move some games to a different venue.
- 2) Jack Fleming is actively looking and attempting to recruit new, young officials into the profession. Training is involved and you get your start officiating grade school games. Efforts are made to have an experienced official with a new official - does not always happen.
- 3) League fees will increase next year to a minimum of \$475.00 per team. We will pay officials a minimum of \$30.00 per game and if we need to increase this in order to attract officials, we could see the fee hit \$490 / \$500 per team. As usual, fees must be paid in full prior to the start of the season.
- 4) Players on second teams, AAU Teams or so called- high school feeder programs. The League continues to allow and sees the management of this as a school or parish responsibility. This means the league will not police the Arch general policy regarding student athletes to put the school team's schedule ahead of the AAU per traveling team's schedule. The league feels it is the responsibility of each school or program to police and correct situations where needed.
- 5) Forfeits. The League did not enforce forfeits except in a few specific situations this season. However there were a number of forfeits that happened with and without warning. The kids were on two different teams and chose the non-Archdiocese team - thus leaving the parish-

school team in a lurch. Next year forfeits will be the responsibility of the parish-school team to resolve and the forfeit fee of \$80.00 will be imposed. For the time being the ARCH is watching how we resolve the issue. We do not want to see the single team rule re-introduced as an ARCH Mandate.

- 6) Scheduling conflicts. The League will work with 7th and 8th grade coaches to work around the travel schedules that conflict with league games-provided the coach gets us the information prior to starting the league scheduling process. Once the schedule is completed and posted it is hard to redo the schedule. Our priority is the 7th and 8th grade. We will work with 6th grade coaches as best we can. This is not a promise that every known conflict will be resolved.
- 7) The League will continue to support multiple teams in the same grade. The ideal number of kids on a team is 8. If a school enters more than one team in each grade, then the parish-school team is responsible to see that the kids are at the games and not playing for another team. In this format, the League will continue to allow a "borrow-a-player program in order to prevent a forfeit. Remember the policy is to prevent a forfeit - the team needs only five players to begin the game and can finish with as few as two.
- 8) In rare circumstances, the ARCH and the LEAGUE have allowed a fourth grader to play up on a fifth grade team.
- 9) Doubleheaders. We will continue to use this option in our scheduling format. I understand that doubleheaders are pretty common place in AAU and Travel Tournaments. We expect to be able to schedule double headers back-to-back but still need the Arch to agree with this format.
- 10) We will consider playing some 8th grade games Wednesday or Thursday evenings and even Sunday evenings. The priority would be with the 8th grade teams. This could relieve some of the pressure with the second team absence situation. Is this something the league should discuss and pursue?
- 11) Padre Tournament. School. It appears the Padre has found a home and great success at St. Thomas More High . For the time being, the ticket to the Padre requires a team from the NDDDB League to play in the NOTRE Dame Division. The success of this division is pretty self-evident.

Appreciate your reviewing and discussing these items with your Athletic Board, Principals and coaches, and get back to me with your thoughts.

There is one easy solution. Allow only one team per school. This is not a solution the League wishes to entertain.

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