

NOTRE DAME DON BOSCO BASKETBALL LEAGUE.

To all Athletic Directors & Interested League Members.

For 2025-26 Season.

- League Play will begin on **Saturday December 6, 2025**. If necessary, the league will have a double weekend on Dec 13 and 14. No league games scheduled for December 27th and Jan 3rd, however, this could change.
- League fees for the 2025-2026 season will be \$490.00 per team. To be eligible for the Padre, 8th grade teams must play in the Notre Dame Division.
- Based on number of teams - we will have teams from the North Shore and Parkview participating in our 7th and 8th grade Divisions this upcoming season. In general, the League received positive feedback from those teams that participated this past season. There was one notable exception. And for the first time in a long time, congratulations to the North Shore St. Monica boys and Holy Family Girls for their Padre win.
- Starting in 2025-26, the Arch will allow 4th grade teams to participate in league play. We are not sure how this will play out. We expect some schools to have a strong 4th grade and other schools may combine 4th grade with 5th grade. In that case, the 4th grader would play again in 5th grade with his/her existing class the following year.
- We will continue with the "borrow a player" format as outlined in the arch rules for 25-26 season. I was very happy with the diligence in reporting. We had only one major problem and that was resolved quickly.
- Changes to schedules during the season are a challenge to handle. Almost impossible and what looks like a slam dunk is never one. Reschedules due to the weather are also a problem - parents have made plans. We will continue to review schedule change adjustments on a case-by-case basis - and the ultimate decision is up to the master schedulers who do an outstanding job in addressing those issues. For any unknown or major situation affecting the league, any mass rescheduling decision rests with the League Director.
- The League will gladly entertain any suggestions about handling 4th grade including prohibiting zone defenses, zone traps and double teams, and eliminating pressing.
- **PARENTAL WARNING.** The game of basketball has changed and evolved. I am pleased to see the game evolve even in the professional ranks. It is a wide-open game and for years the NDDB League has enjoyed that reputation. That pace of play creates contact and bumping and sometimes slight pushes - many times contact is created by the offensive player - that's great. It's time the parents understand that and the officials will not catch every infraction nor will they call every possible violation and that will allow for a flow to the game. Pressure defense normally is ahead of training offenses to move beyond pressure. Parents get angry when their child gets pushed or bumped or has the ball stolen from the player. Time to get with it and understand it. In 2025-26 the league will begin to take harsh action on the parents of any team who create uncomfortable situations for game officials. School Principals will be contacted, and parents may be asked not to attend games. Loud cheering is fine, loud groans are fine, but direct those towards a specific official or any kind and you may find yourself talking to your school principal the next week. This applies to every parent. I observed too much of this during the past two seasons. Everything is alright until "it's my child".
- **Formal required Meetings:** We will again have a formal organizational meeting with all Athletic Directors on Sunday November 9th (time/place TBA). Primary discussions will center on 7th and 8th grade and 4th grade.
- **Initial team summaries will be required by October 29th** so the league can begin formatting possible divisions.
- Discussions about the NDDB League absorbing the North Shore are no longer on the table. The success of teams from the North Shore playing on a selected divisional basis has worked very well and we both agreed to continue that format. In addition, the Archdiocese supports this thinking. Also, based on feedback from our members, there is limited support for forming a super traveling division with selected teams from NDDB, Parkview and North Shore. Our three divisional format (Notre Dame, Don Bosco and Cousins) is working in 7th and 8th grade, although we do not always have a third division every year.

Have a safe and fun summer
Notre Dame Don Bosco Basketball
Tom Collopy
League Director.
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