

**NOTRE DAME DON BOSCO BASKETBALL LEAGUE
2023-2024 SEASON**

August 30, 2023.

To all Athletic Directors & B-ball Coordinators.

From: Tom Collopy League Director

I cannot believe it's already the end of August! I hope you all enjoy the remaining days of summer and I understand volleyball is starting. Have fun!

This Memo is to give you a general heads up and to advise that we may have an hour long required -to-attend league administration meeting in early September. This will be different from the 7th and 8th grade coaches and B-Ball coordinators meeting in October where the league establishes divisions and team placement.

If you are no longer the athletic director for your school, please inform Gary and me of the change and give me a call to introduce yourself: 262 215 2730.

Play will begin on Saturday December 2 followed by games on December 9th and 16th, then a two week break for Christmas. Depending upon the number of teams entered in a division, there may need to be some games scheduled on Sundays again this year.

(Note: In the past, Sunday games usually only happened for 8th grade boys due to the high number of teams entered in the Notre Dame "A" division.)

We experimented with scheduling "double header games" last year on Saturdays in which teams played two games on a few Saturdays during the season. We WILL use this format again this year in order to finish up ALL divisions by the end of February.

Our intent remains to play the majority of games on Saturdays. We will again schedule both boys and girls games in the mornings and afternoons.

Gary and Cheri will again work to accommodate conflicts with other Saturday games, but that requires informing them of those dates prior to scheduling the specific team and grade involved, With that, they will do their best but there are no promises. Remember early information is the key.

The entrance fee per team is \$475.00. (See information on NDDDB entry form-invoice below.)

As with volleyball, there are a number of forms that must be completed as per Milwaukee Arch requirements. These can be found in the Milwaukee Archdiocese Athletic Policy Manual, link on www.NDDBBB.org.

The League will issue a form that is both **an entry form and an invoice for league play** that will come out in early September. You use this form to enter all of your teams. Remember that league fees are due by mid

November and certainly no later than the first games. In general we expect that checks will follow shortly after the school's entry form is received.

The Padre:

To receive an invitation to the Padre, the team must play in the 8th grade Notre Dame Division. Last year 7 girls' teams were invited with Christ King coming in at 3rd place.

Last year 12 boys' teams were invited with St Jude winning the Padre and St Boniface and Messmer following. Great showing considering St Boniface was 5th place in the League and Messmer St Rose came in 6th place.

The Padre has its own rules and scouting groups - so be aware of those rules. The NDDB League has an open policy for adding new players during the year as long as you inform the League and update the Roster. The Padre makes "the call" if there is a roster problem for their tournament.

The League did enforce the forfeit rules last year and all teams that forfeited did pay the fee. We had an eligibility problem last year and unfortunately we had to forfeit some games. All administrators need to be aware that if you have a child on the team who did not play for the school team the preceding year, then the league needs an explanation in writing explaining the circumstances. Much better to do this prior to the season rather than mid-season.

The fee remains \$75.00 for a forfeit.

The growth of girls volleyball has hurt girls basketball. It is easier to show up at the volleyball center and play three or four matches between 8:30AM and 4PM. It is easier and more fun and very social and the parents can drop the kids off. I am aware of this fact. I am also working with the Arch to be as creative as we can be in order to facilitate girls basketball. In my opinion with the grade school kids, it is important to have fun and learn the game and enjoy some successes. That rests upon the coach. A positive approach works. Sometimes I think the coaches forget that these are "kids", and not all of the kids will or want to play in high school. They do however want to enjoy the time with their friends on their grade school's basketball team.

Finally: First Place T Shirts

Next year we will have T Shirts in Youth Sizes - Large and Medium.

I pre-order the shirts so that they are available immediately after the season. The Shirts will again go to the first place teams. In general - other than the sizes - order and pickup went well and much better than the previous years for trophy pickup. In order to expedite the ordering process we may stick to large sizes for 7th and 8th grade and medium and large sizes for 6th and a medium for 5th grade. The company has offered to have a direct order basis but that would add to cost and more importantly lead-times.

I do not expect to have awards for second or third place again this year due to budgetary considerations.