



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
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## YMCA of Greater Charlotte Youth Basketball Family Playbook Winter 2024-2025

Our youth basketball league is a recreational league for youth athletes ages 4-17. This league is played throughout the YMCA branches in a regional model, and will focus on practices that encourage athletes to love their sport as well as develop the fundamental skills needed to play the game. Please note: If there are not enough teams in certain age divisions, teams may be scheduled to interleague with teams within the association and play at other YMCA branches that are not in your region.

The Y league is a true recreational basketball program where we promote at least 50% playing time in games for our athletes throughout the season.

- **What does the regional model consist of?**
  - Our association's regional model promotes a wide variety of teams, as well as exciting experiences to compete, grow, and improve skills! Athletes will have games and practices at the branches within their region, throughout the season. As well as the opportunity to compete against other YMCAs within our association footprint.
- **What are the different regions?**
  - When registering, double check what region you are registering for using the list below:
    - **North Region:** Lake Norman & Lowes
    - **Central North Region:** Keith, McCrorey, Simmons, & Stratford Richardson
    - **Central South Region:** Dowd, Harris, & Johnston
    - **South Region:** Brace, Morrison & Steele Creek
- **Can I sign up in any region?**
  - Yes, you are welcome to register for any region but please note that our regions are set up to host branches that are geographically close to one another.
- **When will registration open?**
  - Registration for Winter 2024-25 opens 10/1/24 for YMCA Members and 10/15/24 for Non-Members.
- **What are the YMCA Basketball league prices?**
  - Pricing may vary depending on the location you register at. Please check online or with the location sales and service for exact prices.
  - Financial Scholarships may be available check with your closest YMCA branch to see if you and your family qualify.
- **What divisions are being offered?**
  - Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Co-ed & Girls, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Co-ed & Girls, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Co-ed & Girls, High School Co-ed.
- **Does the YMCA have basketball for athletes 4-5 years old?**

Yes - Our Kindergarten age division is for our youngest athletes ranging from 4-5 years old. Athletes in this age group will learn the best parts of basketball through our Practice-Play model. Kindergarten teams will meet with their volunteer coaches and team one day a week on Saturday throughout the season. Teams will spend their time together practicing skills, working as team, and having fun, followed by elements of playing real games! There are no weekday meets for our Kindergarten players unless communicated out specifically from the league. Making your family's experience easy and fun!



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- **What are the meeting days and times for each age group?**
  - Kindergarten divisions will only meet on Saturdays for their weekly Practice/Play session.
  - 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade thru High School Practices may take place Monday-Friday between 5:00-9:00pm for 55 minutes
  - 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade thru High School Games will take place on Saturdays between 8:00am-7:00pm.
  
- **Will practices and games be held at the YMCA location I register at?**
  - Practices and games will be held at YMCA facilities where gym space is available or at CMS facilities where agreements currently exist within your region. Please note: If there are not enough teams in certain age divisions, teams may be scheduled to interleague with teams within the association and play at other YMCA branches that are not in your region.
  - We will do our best to create a consistent practice and game schedule for each team.
  - Practice and game schedules will be released in advance of the start of the season via our YMCA's league platform Playerspace.
  
- **How will practice and game locations be determined?**
  - Practice locations will be determined by the region you sign up for. Practices can be held at any of the branches within the region, but will be consistent throughout the season.
  - Game locations will also be determined by the region you sign up for. Some branches may only hold a certain age group on game day due to gym sizes, others may offer multiple age groups.
  - Although we do our best to accommodate all teams, it is possible that teams within our older age and female divisions may interleague with neighboring regions, requiring travel between surrounding branches for games throughout the season.
  - Team practice times are primarily dependent on the volunteer coaches' availability and preference. In order to guarantee your practice day and time we encourage you to sign up to COACH!
  
- **I have a special request of what team I would like my child to be on:**
  - At the time of registration families are able to indicate ONE special request.
  - All special requests for our season must be submitted by **Friday, November 29th**
  - Requests can be in the form of preferences for *one friend requests, one coach requests, or one day of the week you CANNOT practice.*
  - In order to have the best chance to get your request please make sure you and any friends or requested coaches are registered before the request deadline. We encourage families to put enter request preferences in at the time of registration.
  - Although we do our best please understand that not all requests may be honored for a variety of reasons, but we make every effort to accommodate as many as possible.
  
- **How does my athlete receive a team uniform?**
  - The YMCA will provide your jersey as part of your registration fee. Jerseys will be distributed the second week of practice. Teams will get a variety of sizes. Players are required to wear appropriate gym footwear and black shorts with their jersey.
  - Teams will be assigned Home Team or Away Team for each game. Please make sure your athlete wears the appropriate jersey color that corresponds with the team assignment.
    - Home Team: Lighter Color
    - Away Team: Darker Color



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- **Do I need to purchase any gear or equipment for my athlete?**
  - YMCA jerseys are included in registration fee, however **appropriate footwear** will need to be purchased and should be worn for each practice and game. The YMCA will also provide all balls and cones for the season but you are welcome to bring one –just remember to label it.
    - **Basketball Sizes Per Division:**
      - Junior 27.5" : Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
      - Woman's 28.5" : 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Co-ed & Girls, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Co-ed & Girls, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls
      - Official 29.5" : 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Co-ed, High School
- **What are the season dates?**
  - Participant Special Request Deadline: Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Team assignments released by: Week of December 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Game schedules posted by: Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Practices start: Week Dec 16<sup>th</sup>
    - Kindergarten Team Meet & Greet: Saturday Dec 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Winter Break No Practices or Games: Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – Jan 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Game Day 1: Jan 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Game Day 2: Jan 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Game Day 3: Jan 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Game Day 4: Feb 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Game Day 5: Feb 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Game Day 6: Feb 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Game Day 7: Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Make up/Post-Season: Week of Feb 24<sup>th</sup>
- **PLAYERSPACE: How will I see league and schedule details for my athlete's team?**
  - Our YMCA partners with PlayerSpace, a sports league management and communication platform that connects players, parents, coaches and sports directors.

We will use PlayerSpace as our primary communication platform for sharing game schedules, team rosters, cancelations and all other important information. Prior to the start of the season, parents will receive account login information from the Sports Director within your respective region. When you receive your family account login information email, be sure to activate your account to receive communication about the upcoming season.



**PlayerSpace, allows athletes and families:**

- Convenient 24/7 online access to league information such as schedules, practice times and team information
- Emails and texts with updates on important information including schedule changes and cancellations
- The ability to post and share pictures and videos on your team's page!

**PlayerSpace**

**For the best experience we encourage you to download the PlayerSpace app for Apple or Android. Use the QR Code to the left to download now!**

- **I am interested in becoming a volunteer coach – who do I contact?**
  - Our youth sports programs rely 100% on the dedication and efforts of our volunteer head coaches, assistant coaches, and team parents. Passionate volunteers help the YMCA expand our impact and positive reach in the community.



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- Please visit the following link, and send your regional representative an email. Contacts can be found below. <https://www.ymcacharlotte.org/mission/join-the-mission/become-a-volunteer/coach-youth-sports>
  
- **I am a returning coach, how can I secure my spot to coach?**
  - The same process for returning coaches, please visit the following link and send your regional representative an email. <https://www.ymcacharlotte.org/mission/join-the-mission/become-a-volunteer/coach-youth-sports>
  
- **Who do I contact if I have questions?**
  - Individual branch front desks can answer basic information as well as register you for the program.
  - Specific program questions can be sent to the following:
    - North: [NorthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org](mailto:NorthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org)
    - Central North: [CentralNorthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org](mailto:CentralNorthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org)
    - Central South: [CentralSouthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org](mailto:CentralSouthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org)
    - South: [SouthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org](mailto:SouthSportsRegion@YMCACharlotte.org)
  
- **Youth Sports Refund Policy**
  - Participants can receive a refund if requested in writing prior to the first day of practice.
  - Refunds will not be given after the first day of practice.