

Hey Upward Families!

Registration for our 4-6th grade basketball league is now open! Last season was our test run for a separate 4-6th grade league and it was a huge success. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us this season! We tried to start the league towards the tail end of the elementary travel basketball season but try to finish up before Easter (and outdoor sports...soccer, baseball, lacrosse, etc.). We are allowing 3rd graders who played for their school teams to play in our 4th grade division. Besides the 3rd graders, we are not going to allow any players to play up this season.

League details

The registration link is: <https://registration.upward.org/UPW81568>

Games in this league will be played full court with the presence of a PIAA referee (or two volunteer referees). Tournament games will have two referees per game.

Mandatory Evaluations

Instead of an evaluation day like we've done in our K-3rd grade league, we will be having **MANDATORY** evaluation nights which will be an open gym/scrimmaging concept on the following nights:

- 6th Grade- Monday January 24th and 31st (6-7:30)
- 5th Grade – Tuesday January 25th and February 1st (6-7:30)
- 4th Grade – Wednesday January 26th and February 2nd (6-7:30)

You **must make one** but preferably both of the evaluation nights in order to play. After the second evaluation for each group, the coaches will be drafting teams. This is a concept that has proved successful in other Upward leagues to try to make the teams more competitive and balanced for older age groups. To accomplish this, we **will not be** allowing carpool links (except for siblings) or practice night exclusions. (If your child has a crazy schedule, please sign up to be a coach so you can pick your practice day and time). There will also be an initial coach's meeting Sunday, January 23rd from 6-7:30 PM (coaches only).

Other Important Dates and Information

First week of practice will be the week of February 7th.

Teams will have an optional practice Saturday, February 12th.

First game will be Saturday, February 19th. We will try to start the games late morning and run into the evening depending on the number of teams to limit competing with other spring sports.

Tournament Day will be April 9th with possible games April 8th or 11th depending on the number of teams and scheduling

This will give each team 7 games plus a tournament; therefore, guaranteeing at least 8 games for the season.

Unfortunately, there will be no snow make up games.

The Snack Shack will be open this season!

There will not be cheerleaders for this league.

Cost will be \$85 (the extra \$10 is for referees) plus an optional \$14 for shorts and/or socks. There is also a sibling discount of \$15 per child if the sibling participated in the k-3rd grade basketball and cheerleading league. When you register, please enter the sibling discount code **SIBLING**.

I tried to register and it tried to put me on a waiting list

Due to space capacities and to give us some flexibility, we are initially limiting each grade to 45 players. If you register and it is full, PLEASE sign up for the waiting list. This will allow us to add extra players and teams depending on gym availability. Registration closes January 17th so don't delay!

Volunteers

We need coaches!! Please let me know asap if you are willing to coach or be an assistant coach. We also know many of you have someone at your church (or maybe yourself!) who would be great at giving halftime devotions. Please feel free to pass along their name and contact information.

Attachments

Attached you will find a sizing chart as you will be asked to give your child's size while registering. The vendor for the uniforms is new this year so you can't use last season's uniform as a guide.

With all the uncertainties in the world right now, one thing is certain ... God's love and His eternal glory. I pray that we will have a successful Upward season. It is important to let these little athletes grow in their skills as well as their faith; however, we need to do so in a healthy and safe environment. This will take a lot of effort, flexibility, and grace from us all. If we can keep our focus on God and His children, we will have an amazing season!

Please feel free to share this email with anyone who may be interested in our league especially since there are some leagues that may not be having a season this year.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me with additional questions.

God Bless and GO UPWARD!!

Justin Miller

jtmiller98@hotmail.com

(724) 679-1755