

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS About The YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

- **What are the sports office hours of operation and is it open during lunchtimes?** BernCo's Sports Office is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Office doors automatically lock at 5:00 p.m. We are closed on weekends and all major holidays. Someone is always available to assist you throughout the day; we do not close for staff lunchtimes.
- **Is there online registration or will I have to go to the Sports Office?** We do not have "online registration" at present. We require the parent/legal guardian's original signature on the registration form. You may access the registration form on this website in order to download, print, and fill it out in advance of bringing (or having it brought) in to our office. All forms are also available at our office: **111 Union Square St. SE, Alb., NM 87102.** (See link to Map, above) Walk-in registration processing is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **What is the total cost of the program?** The program costs \$115.00 plus a \$15.00 registration fee, totaling \$130.00 per child for Early Bird Registration. Post-deadline registrations cost \$155.00.
- **What forms of payment are accepted by the BernCo Sports office?** We accept debit/credit cards, and checks or money orders. **WE CANNOT ACCEPT CASH.** (Please be advised that a NSF fee will be assessed for any returned checks.)
- **Does your office accept partial payments?** The sports office cannot accept partial payments. Payment is due in full at the time of registration. A receipt must be issued to the payee.
- **Do you have a Refund Policy?** Yes, the Refund Policy is listed on the back of the registration form. Please read the back of the form in full before signing. (See link to form above)
- **What is the registration period for the Summer 2020 season?** Early Bird Registration is from January 27, 2020, and will continue until March 11th, 2020. The season starts Saturday, May 9th, 2020. Please bear in mind that the last days of registration tend to be hectic. To avoid the rush (and the lines), we recommend that you register as early as you can. **Please note that registrations taken after the deadline are assessed an additional (non-refundable) fee of \$25.00.**
- **What ages are allowed in the YBL?** The YBL has five age divisions: 5/6; 7/8; 9/10; 11/12, and 13/14 [and in summers, 15-17]. A child's division placement is determined by the age he/she reaches by May 1st for the Summer season and November 1st for the Winter season. In cases where the birthdate is extremely close either way of the cut-off date, the coordinator can be asked to decide division placement with the parents.
- **Is it possible for a child to play up or down a division?** A child may play up one division, provided the parent (s) and coach have read and signed the Playing Up form available at the sports office. Children may never play down to a lower division.
- **What is the time frame for the Summer 2020 YBL Season?** The season begins May 9, 2020, and ends in mid-to-late September 2020, though the season can extend longer than projected. (See next bullet point.)
- **How many games are there per season, and are there make up games due to Winter holidays?** The YBL always has a ten-game season, and games are always held on Saturdays throughout the city. Any games cancelled for any reason (including holidays) will always be made up at the end of the playing schedule.

- **Are there end-of-season play-off tournaments for the YBL?** No, the YBL does not have play-offs, only the ABL (Adult Basketball League) does.
- **How many children can I place on one YBL registration form?** One YBL registration form per child must be completed in full. (Note: For Reduced Rate Registration Program applications, up to five children can be listed on the RRRP application per family - but each child who will be playing in the league must have one YBL registration form completed as well.)
- **Are the uniforms included in the total cost?** Yes, the sports jersey (top and bottom) is included in the \$130.00. Sample jerseys are available in our office and children are welcome to try any on for sizing. Jerseys are not ordered singly (top one size, bottoms another); they are only ordered as a set. "If in doubt, order larger."
- **Do uniform colors change from season to season?** Yes. Each season's colors will be different from the previous season's. All BernCo teams will have the same colors at any one season and all jerseys are reversible. The league coordinator determines the jersey colors for any given year.
- **I have a coach in mind, how do I let you know who that is?** There is a space on the bottom of the registration form where the parent would list their "Preferred Coach". Placement is not 100% guaranteed (in case of logistical concerns beyond our control) however, the coordinator will do her utmost to meet parental requests for preferred coaches.
- **Is there a list of coaches available for me to choose from?** Not necessarily. We are always looking for good, volunteer coaches, and we maintain a flexible pool which can change from season to season. You may enquire for a particular coach, but he/she may not be coaching the age level or in the season you need. If *you* are interested in coaching, please come into our office with your driver's license. Coaches must submit to a background check (cost is free to you), sign a liability waiver, and fill out a contact information sheet. Results of background checks usually take 24-48 hours. Head coaches only (not assistant coaches) do receive "one free program entry" (Valued at \$115.00) per team they coach, but will still have to pay the remaining registration fee of \$15.00 for any such entry. One coach may have multiple teams, at the coordinator's discretion.
- **How will a coach be determined for my child?** If you did not select an available preferred coach, the YBL coordinator will try to find a coach that is practicing within your listed zip code, or as close to it as possible. That coach will be given a roster of names and contact information. The coach who receives your information will contact you regarding practices.
- **When are practices held?** Practices are *typically* held in the evenings, beginning around one month before the season begins, and once or twice per week (depending on the coach as well as gym availability). Please bear in mind that some coaches may begin practices earlier than others, depending on when they sign up to coach and complete their background check.
- **If I have more questions not answered here, who can I contact?** You may call the Sports Front Desk at 505-314-0410 if you have further questions.