



FAQ's

What is the cost to be a Wisconsin Blaze team member and what do they pay for?

Please review Blaze Membership page to see the cost for each team. Program fees pay for competitive and exposure tournaments, practices, a camp, a set of free open gyms, training, the best trainers and coaches possible, administrative fees to manage teams and staff, basketballs, medical kits, training equipment, full software system and more. A custom sublimated uniform is included in program fee. *Price subject to change

Can I pay in multiple installments?

Yes, we provide multiple payment options to pay the fee in full. You can pay in full, deposit \$250 and pay two more equal payments, or deposit \$250 and pay equal monthly installments through. All payments are due by the 15th of each month. Team payments are due in full by January 15th for Volleyball and March 15th for Basketball. All credit card payments will be assessed a 3.2% and \$1.25 fee from the associated transactor.

What is the length of the season?

Teams will run from April and into June for Basketball, and November through March for Volleyball. All high school teams will run through the summer. We expect our high school athletes to commit to one focused sport during the competitive summer season. For younger athletes, we will run a shorter, yet intense, season for the following reason:

- Logistics. We know there are girls play multiple sports and we encourage it. We encourage multi-sport athletes as well, but know that families can only handle so much at a time (which tends to be the issue with participating in an AAU program of some sort). Being part of an AAU team always falls in another season but we are committed to providing the best program for athletes who want to excel in their sport.
- Physical Endurance. We don't want the program (for young age groups) to be too long and extend past their regular season. As athletes get older, playing time can be extended, but only with experience and proper education. We know that at this age level, the kids are still growing and their bodies need rest from doing too much of the same exercise. It can be very hard on joints and muscles as young athletes are going through puberty and grow at different speeds.
- Mental Strength. We've seen kids pushed to unhealthy levels of exhaustion through outside influences as well as personal pressures. Often times this leads to burn out, inappropriate behavior, and dislike of the very game they used to love. Everyone, especially kids, need to be educated on the importance of mental rest as well as physical rest.

Where are practices? How many days per week will my athlete practice?

We typically run two team practices per week and one optional training per week. We will be implementing a new training formula in our program that allows for more focused training sessions across multiple grade levels.

Practices will be hosted in one of a few locations, our home gym, Enspire365 in Appleton by the Fox River Mall, Saint Matthew Lutheran in downtown Appleton, and Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran in Greenville, WI, and any other schools in the Fox Valley Area and outlying areas depending on how far athletes travel. When necessary, we will select different locations that make sense for all athletes so that the full travel practice schedule doesn't burden one family the entire season more than others.

Practice dates will be set once tournament dates are finalized.

What if I can't make a scheduled tournament or practice?

We need and you want committed athletes! We will work with your team in advance to make sure that any conflicts are avoided. Once the schedule is set, we expect all athletes to attend. It is unacceptable for athletes to miss practices and tournaments! It negatively impacts the team, how we train our athletes, and how we perform in tournaments. Your attendance will impact your level of play and play time. High school athletes must place Blaze above other summer school sports. We will not reschedule practice sessions. We expect a high level of commitment from our families in order for us to be successful and have a great experience!

If a tourney director cancels a tournament on the Blaze and the team or members cannot compromise on a date to reschedule, a reimbursement will not be made. Please, understand that it takes more administrative time and manpower in order to make changes once the season begins. This is a rare occurrence.

Are the games/tournaments local or within WI? Do you travel outside the state?

At the elementary and middle school level, we will work hard to enter tournaments that are only within the state of WI. We aspire for this to be a family friendly program. We understand it can become quite costly in terms of money and time to travel outside of the state. We have enough high level competition in state for the girls to get the experience and competition they need.

As they get older, if they are playing at a high enough level and it is the family's desire to expose them to competition outside the state, then the program will provide that to those players. As the program grows, we will work with the families to offer both options, so you get what you need.

At the high school level teams are expected to attend exposure tournaments outside the state to provide athletes collegiate recruiting options and elite level High School play. If numbers allow, we will provide a three-tournament season for in state regional teams.

What kind of skill level does Blaze try to recruit?

The Wisconsin Blaze Basketball is a highly competitive tournament club. We aspire to attract and develop elite athletes who desire to compete at the highest high school and college levels possible. **We are NOT a recreational league.**

If your athlete makes the team, he/she will be playing against some of the very best athletes in the state. Therefore, it is imperative that as parents and coaches we don't field athletes who view this as just a recreational sport. Players must be in their nature, competitive, aggressive, dedicated to the sport, have some offensive and defensive skills in place to share with the team, and who are also the type of athlete who spends time working on improving and adding to their skills at home.

We will not field athletes who we can't play in games. It is not fair to the families or team.

We are also here to create a learning atmosphere that helps athletes get to their next level of play. ***We are here to help you Maximize Your Potential.*** As long as we have the resources and coaching staff we will do our very best to formulate an opportunity for your child to train whether in a team setting, camp, clinic, or small group training environment.

Do you have more than one team at a grade level?

Please check website for tryout dates, times, and location.

We typically take 10 athletes per team. There will be cuts at tryouts. When needed, we will take up to 12 athletes if possible and add an extra tournament, and schedule athletes to sit out one tournament so we have no more than 10 at a tournament at any one time. If a high number of athletes make tryouts, we may have enough for two teams. We would rather suit up multiple smaller teams, than one extra-large team, and hire other reliable and experienced coaches who share the same value as the program. We want your son/daughter to have the best experience and most playing time as possible.

Do I need to attend a tryout if I was on the team last year?

Yes! Tryouts provide new parents with an opportunity to see if the Wisconsin Blaze program is the right fit for them, and allows us to test your athlete's skill level. In order to assess athletes individually and our teams as a whole, we need all athletes to attend at least one tryout and be reassessed. This allows us to determine who is committed to returning to the Blaze each season. It gives us the opportunity to create teams based on skill, competitiveness, and commitment level, as an exposure or regional athlete.

All parents must pay \$35 for one training/tryout every year and covers training and admin costs for the upcoming season. Attendance at second or third training/tryouts can be seen as another training day with your team, and potential new athletes – who should have an opportunity to see what the strength of their team will be to allow us to recruit well. The cost of a second training/tryout date is free, with additional training sessions being \$15, our typical training price per hour.

Are there volunteer opportunities?

All our costs are primarily wrapped up in doing everything to train up your athlete, provide exposure opportunities at tournaments. Everything else is a benefit. But in order to keep this consistent across multiple teams, we ask that families volunteer their time in the following areas, Assistant Coach, Team Liaison, Recruiter, Photographer, Videographer, Statistician, Scheduler, Computer Geek, and Party Planner.

TIMELINE

September/October – Back to Basketball Trainings
September/October - Fall Boys and Girls Basketball Tryouts
October – 14 and Under Girls Volleyball Tryouts
November – 15s and Older Girls and All Boys Volleyball Tryouts
November – Volleyball Uniform Sizing and Tournament Dates
November - Volleyball practices and trainings begin
December - Volleyball Trainings
January – Volleyball Tournaments Kick off
January – Basketball Tryouts
February - Volleyball Tournaments Continue
February – Blaze Volleyball Tournament
February – First Round of Basketball Schedule Released
March – Second Round of Basketball Schedule Released
March - Blaze Level “B” Club Basketball Tournament
March – Badger Region
March/April – High School Basketball Practices Kickoff
April – Blaze Basketball Tournament
April – High School Exposure Basketball Tournaments
May – June – Basketball Tournaments
June – Collegiate Basketball Exposure Camps
July – High School Exposure Basketball Tournaments
July/August – Volleyball Trainings
August – King/Queen of the Court 3v3v3 Tournament

A Note from Lisa

Families, I've had the opportunity to work in a few different high caliber programs locally and with some excellent coaches. I played in middle school, high school, and college sports at very competitive levels and all over the country as well. For me, it's not just about the sport. How these athletes handle life off the court is just as important as what they accomplish on the court. They are siblings and friends, and will one day grow up to be spouses, parents, business leaders, doctors, lawyers, and managers. How we help them develop their character, physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, as well as life skills in dealing with different types of people and difficult situations should be part of any well rounded program. Every college scout and coach would agree. The Wisconsin Blaze is here to support and reinforce *who* you want your children to become. We are family.

Respectfully,
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