



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, trainings, the best trainers and coaches possible, administrative fees to manage teams and staff, sports equipment, 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 or deposit half of program fee and pay the rest in equal monthly installments. 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?

The volleyball season runs November through March with National teams competing into early July. The basketball season runs April through June; high school basketball teams will continue through July. We expect our high school basketball athletes to commit to one focused sport during the competitive summer season.

We have committed to a shorter, yet intense and competitive, season for the following reasons:

- **Logistics.** We know there are athletes who compete in multiple sports and we encourage it. We also know that families can only handle so much at a time. Time is a major hindrance to participation in competitive club sports. We strive to provide another option for families and athletes who are committed to excelling in their sport.
- **Physical Endurance.** We don't want the program (for young age groups) to be too long. As athletes get older, playing time can be extended, but only with experience and proper training. We know that at younger ages kids are still growing and their bodies need rest. Too much of the same exercise (overuse) can be very hard on joints and muscles as young athletes are going through puberty and grow at different speeds. This does not benefit them in the long run.
- **Mental Strength.** We've seen kids pushed to unhealthy levels of exhaustion through outside influences and personal pressures. Often times this leads to burnout, inappropriate behavior, and dislike of the very game they used to love. Everyone, especially kids, needs time for mental and 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, or another school or church in the Fox Valley Area. 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 want committed athletes! We will work with your team in advance to make sure that any conflicts are avoided to the best of our ability. 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 tournament 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 strive for this to be a family friendly program. We understand it can become quite costly 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.

For basketball teams 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 is a 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 i competitive, aggressive, dedicated to the sport, have some offensive and defensive skills in place to share with the team, and willing to spend time working on improving 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 logistically 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. 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.

All parents must pay \$35 for one training/tryout every year. This 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. 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

	Basketball	Volleyball
September	Trainings	
October	Trainings Fall Boys and Girls Tryouts	14 and under Girls Tryouts
November		15 and Older Girls Tryouts Uniform Sizing Tournament Scheduling Practices and Trainings begin
December		Practices and trainings
January		Tournaments begin Practices and trainings
February	First Round Schedule Released	Tournaments, Practice and Trainings
March	Second Round Schedule Released High School Practices Begin	Tournaments, Practice and Trainings Badger Region Tournament
April	High School Practices Begin Blaze Tournament High School Exposure Tournaments	High School Volleyball Tourneys
May	Tournaments, Practice and Trainings	High School Volleyball Tourneys
June	Blaze's own Hardwood Hustle, Tournaments, Practices and Trainings, Collegiate Exposure Camps	Trainings Nationals
July	High School Exposure Tournaments	Trainings
August	King/Queen of the Court 3v3v3 Tournament	Trainings

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,

Coach Lisa Van Wyk

920-750-5180

lisa@enspire365.com

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#BeTheFlame