



Frequently Asked Questions

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 and nation. 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 competitive, aggressive, dedicated to the sport, have offensive and defensive skills in place to share with the team, and willing to spend more 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.

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. It gives us the opportunity to create teams based on an individual athlete's current skill, competitiveness, and commitment level. **All families must pay \$35 for one training/tryout every year.**

Who and how many players on each team? Are there multiple teams per age level?

We typically take 10 athletes per team. There will be cuts at tryouts. Keeping control of the team numbers gives each player the time to develop and get the best amount of exposure. Teams are made up of athletes committed to competing at the highest level in high school and college. 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 or even three 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.

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

For the Spring/Summer season, we typically run two team practices per week and one optional training per week. Practices will be hosted in one of a few locations, our home gym of Blaze Sports & Fitness, Community First Champion Center, 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 by early March once tournament dates are finalized. Tournament dates are finalized between late January and late February.

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 or within a reasonable driving distance 3-5 hours from our facility. 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 the state for the athletes 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 our state and Midwest, then the program will provide that exposure 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 elite 8th grade to high school level, teams are expected to attend exposure tournaments outside the state to provide athletes collegiate recruiting options and national level high school play. If numbers allow, we will provide a three to four tournament season for in-state high school regional teams.

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

Please review the Blaze Membership page to see the cost for each team. Program fees pay for competitive and exposure tournaments, practices, training, 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 the program fee. *Price subject to change

What if I have a high school sport conflict?

We are here to support high school coaches and their programs. We will work WITH high school and school club coaches not against them. There will be in-season school sport conflicts; they may take priority over Blaze, and we will do our best to support our athletes during these conflicts even if that means scheduling additional practices to get more players present. Once the school sport season is over for athletes, we do expect there to be 100% commitment to Blaze.