

## GCYB 2025-2026 Winter/Travel Season Information

### Winter Travel League

- **Program Overview:** We offer an extended season to provide players from our recreation league with a higher level of competition and development. This option is typically offered for our players in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, but we oftentimes can select to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team considering we have a.) enough player participants and b.) someone interested in coaching. We currently are not planning on player evaluations or tryouts as we plan to use our skills camp and recreation league to determine which players have a desire and ability for a higher level of competition. However, this may change based on number of participants and program director's discretion.

This season runs from mid November – late February. Games will not begin until after Winter Break. Games are all dependent on what league we will join for the 2025-2026 season. Games will be played against other Central Indiana Schools. Travel is usually 1 hour or less. Games can be held on either Saturday or Sunday and oftentimes we play 2 or more games per gameday. There will be a league tournament at the end of the season.

The focus of our travel league is to teach our young athletes fundamental basketball skills and expose them to higher-level competition, which is emphasized during practice.

- **Registration Fees:** Registration will open early November and will close once teams and coaches have been selected. Registration will be accepted online at <https://leagues.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1866770>.
  - **Program Fee:** TBD once a league has been selected. Fees are generally between \$75-\$200 per player. Fees will go towards jersey costs and league registration.
- **Refund Policy:** For the 2025-2026 season, the refund policy will be as follows:
  - November 1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> : full refund
  - After December 1st: no refund
- **Time Commitment:** For players that play in our extended winter season, they will have an additional 2 hr. practice added to their weekly commitment beginning the week of November 17, 2025. Once our Fall Cougars Rec League ends, our winter players should expect two 2-hour practices per week. Practices will be held at one of our area Elementary or Intermediate Schools. Games begin early January and usually end early-mid February. Games are typically a 1 hour or less commute and oftentimes multiple games will be played per game day.
- **Equipment Needed:** Basketball shoes and a basketball. Size 28.5 ball will be used for all divisions. Each player should also bring their own water bottle.
- **Rim Height:** All grades will utilize a 10 foot rim height.

- **Team Selection:** Players will be chosen from our Fall Cougars Recreation League. PLAYERS MUST PLAY IN OUR FALL COUGARS REGREATION LEAGUE TO BE CONSIDERED. PLAYERS WILL BE HAND SELECTED BY THE GCYB COMMITTEE AND COACHES. COACHES WILL EITHER REACH OUT TO THE FAMILIES OF THE PLAYERS WE FEEL WILL BENEFIT FROM A HIGHER LEVEL OF COMPETITION OR CHOOSE TO HOST AN EVALUATION OF THOSE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING.
- **Playing Time:** Playing time is at the coach's discretion based on the commitment of time, energy of the players and the game situation. There is no guarantee of equal playing time. However, our program encourages playing time for all players, especially those that attend practice with a good attitude.
- **Coach Selection:** All head and assistant coaches are volunteers. The program will select the coaches from those who express interest on their participants' registration form or from other adults who express interest in volunteering with the program.

All coaches are required to complete a volunteer application/background check per GC requirements. Once an approval is emailed to you, that then needs to be forwarded to [gcgirlshoops@gmail.com](mailto:gcgirlshoops@gmail.com) so we can ensure proper steps have been taken.

In addition, all volunteer coaches are strongly encouraged to attend 1 of our 2 coaches meetings where we will hand out coaches gear, discuss expectations, and provide helpful resources to effectively run a practice. In addition, coaches are strongly encouraged to attend one of our coaches clinics and/or open practices run by head varsity coaches, Coach Key or Coach Wayer.

Volunteer application link found here:

<https://www.applitrack.com/gcsc/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Volunteers>

- **Sportsmanship:** Unsportsmanlike conduct, including "trash talking" or any unsportsmanlike physical contact by players, coaches, or parents will not be tolerated. Please report any offensive conduct to the league director as soon as possible. Actions by any player, coach, or spectator demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after a game or practice will be subject to expulsion from the league. All parents/guardians will be required to review and sign the "Code of Conduct" in order for your player participant to be eligible to play. Sportsmanship will be an encouraged topic for all volunteer coaches during practices to ensure all player participants know the expectation.

If you (as the parent/guardian) have a question about a coaching decision, please wait 24 hours and then send the coach a private message or discuss it privately. Questioning a coach's decision during the game, including a child's playing time, is prohibited.

- **Facility Usage:** We need to show the utmost care and respect for the school facilities that our league utilizes. Players, coaches, parents, siblings, and other spectators need to be

careful not to damage anything on school property. Please remember the gym space we are utilizing during practice time and game time is a teacher's classroom. Materials that are not ours are not intended to be played with if left out, whiteboards and other materials are not to be tampered with. Doors are not meant to be open that are closed or propped open. Anywhere outside of the gym or the nearest restroom is not to be explored. Please help clean up after yourselves and your children following each game and/or practice. The gym space after school hours is a privilege we do not want to lose so please help by showing the utmost respect.