

## **2023-24 Ayer-Shirley Youth Basketball FAQs**

- **What is ASYB? What are the different divisions that are available?**

Ayer-Shirley Youth Basketball is open to anyone from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There are four divisions: Boys 5th-6th Grade, Girls 5th-6th Grade, Boys 7th-8th Grade, Girls 7th-8th grade.

- **Why is there a cutoff date for registration (November 1)?**

Uniforms and equipment need to be ordered at least a month prior to the season's start in order to assure on time arrival and distribution. Teams must also be formed early enough to allow a game and practice schedule to be drawn up.

- **Is financial aid available?**

Financial aid is available to anyone who needs assistance. Please note that funding for ASYB is based on registration fees and excessive F/A requests can lead to a reduction in the quality of the program. For more information on how to acquire F/A, contact Jeff Thomas at 978-796-5915.

- **How are coaches selected? How are teams formed?**

Coaches and assistants are chosen by the Ayer Shirley Youth Basketball Board in mid October from a pool of those who have shown interest. Selection is based on experience and basketball knowledge. Those who have coached in the previous year get priority.

In the first few weeks, coaches at each level have a player evaluation session to get a look at the players in their division and an idea of the best way to balance teams. Teams are then selected for the upcoming season with an emphasis on forming teams that are equally competitive. There will be a mixture of players from both towns on each team, utilizing gyms from Ayer and Shirley for games and practices.

- **When are practices and games?**

Starting in early November, players will have an opportunity for preseason workouts prior to team selections. Practices for the 2023-24 season are still being worked out and may be limited. Games are played on Saturdays, and game times vary between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Most teams are from Ayer/Shirley, Townsend, Ashby and Pepperell.

- **What if a player wants to be on another team after being selected?**

Because the goal is to balance the teams when they are being formed, it is difficult to move a player after they have been placed. It is suggested that you make any requests regarding team placement before teams are made. If there is a clear reason for moving a player (conflict with the coach/other players, etc.) every effort will be made to make a switch. Please call the Ayer Parks Department office at 978-796-5915 if there is an issue. Any changes in the travel divisions **must** be made prior to the season's first game. If you foresee any potential conflicts or schedule issues, please include them in the provided space of the registration form.

- **How can a player move up to a higher division?**

The ASYB program does not generally allow players to compete at levels beyond their current grade, but there are some exceptions. Please review the ASYB policy for changing divisions for further information.