



MADISON AREA YMCA GATORS



**2023/2024
Travel Basketball Program
Handbook**



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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

WELCOME TO THE MADISON AREA YMCA GATORS TRAVEL BASKETBALL PROGRAM

The Madison Area YMCA has a rich history of producing talented basketball teams over the past 25 years. Our Gators are a competitive travel basketball program that takes pride in developing players on and off the court through hard-work, dedication, and commitment.

As we enter a new season of travel basketball at the Madison Area YMCA, we are excited to work with our new set of players to continue the rich tradition that has led to very successful seasons in our NJYMCA Basketball League.

Please help us to maintain the high level of excellence we have grown to expect from our coaches, our parents, and our players.

We look forward to having your family with us this season for exciting Gators basketball!



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OUR PHILOSOPHY

The mission of our coaches is to provide the best possible overall basketball experience and training environment for the players in our program. With a strong emphasis on technical skills, we help players understand the strategic side of the game. This enables them to be comfortable on the court during practices and games. In addition to teaching the game of basketball, the intention, as with all Madison Area YMCA programs, is to build a strong culture of togetherness that encourages the players to reach their goals as a team.

Central to our mission is a focus on the four Core Values of the YMCA:

- Honesty**
- Caring**
- Respect**
- Responsibility**

We believe that the Y's Core Values are integral to the development of our youth and set the Madison Area YMCA apart from typical recreation/club programs.



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Madison Area YMCA Gators U11

Birth Year: Birthdate on or after September 1, 2010

Co-Coach: Shaun Hawkins

Co-Coach: Elizabeth Cabrera

League: TBD

Madison Area YMCA Gators U12 A & B

Birth Year: Birthdate on or after September 1, 2009

Head Coach: Phil Perone

Assistant Coach: Dan McHale

League: NJYMCA Basketball League

Madison Area YMCA Gators U14 Red & Black

Birth Year: Birthdate on or after September 1, 2007

Head Coach: Phil Perone

Assistant Coach: Dan McHale

League: NJYMCA Basketball League

WHAT TO EXPECT

WINTER SEASON

November 7 - March 12

U11 Gators practice twice per week at the Madison Area YMCA Gymnasium (Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:00- 6:15 PM)

November 7 - March 12

U12 Gators practice twice per week at the Madison Area YMCA Gymnasium (Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:30-8:00 PM)

November 7 - March 12

U14 Gators practice two times per week at the Madison Area YMCA Gymnasium (Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00-9:30 PM &

End of Season Tournaments

March 3 -5(B Tournament) and March 10 -12 (A Tournament)

Locations for End of Season Tournaments are TBD



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COMMUNICATION

The majority of communication with team families is through **TeamSnap** or email. TeamSnap is a user-friendly app which sends and receives text alerts and emails. TeamSnap is where all information regarding schedules are posted. TeamSnap is updated regularly. Please check TeamSnap daily to see any changes.

It is extremely important that all families mark attendance in TeamSnap for both practices and games. Knowing the availability of players helps the head coach plan and optimize practices and games because they can take into consideration the number of participants. The games schedule should be posted on TeamSnap prior to the start of the season. This allows our families to have ample time to plan any events accordingly. **Availability for games must be marked no later than Wednesday on the week of the game.** This enables us to make any updates with opponents, referees and our facility team.

Please contact either Shaun Hawkins at shawkins@madisonymca.org or Elizabeth Cabrera at ecabrera@madisonymca.org with any TeamSnap questions or concerns.



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CONTACT INFORMATION FOR COACHES

The best method for parents and players to communicate with the coaches is through TeamSnap or email. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Please copy Shaun Hawkins and/or Elizabeth Cabrera on any emails sent to a head coach. All emails will be answered during that coach's office hours.

Shaun Hawkins* Sports Director	shawkins@madisonymca.org
Dan Bennett Associate Sports Director	dbennett@madisonymca.org
Elizabeth Cabrera Sports Associate	ecabrera@madisonymca.org
Phil Perone Head Coach	pperone@madisonymca.org

*Please send all administrative emails to Shaun Hawkins at shawkins@madisonymca.org and NOT a head coach. If there are any questions or concerns after a game, please contact Shaun Hawkins 24 hours after the game has finished.



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PRACTICE AND GAME PROCEDURES

All Madison Area YMCA Gators players are expected to attend all scheduled practices. Practices begin promptly at the scheduled start time and all players are expected to be on time and ready to go. Players should arrive at practice 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Consistent with Madison Area YMCA Family Center policies, all children ages 11 years and younger must be physically dropped off with their respective coach. The coach must be able to see the parent or guardian that the player arrives with; parking the car and watching your child walk inside the building is NOT acceptable. Consistent with the policy at all Madison Area YMCA sports classes, spectators are not permitted at practice.

Players are required to arrive at a scheduled game at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time. This allows for ample time for a thorough warm up before game participation. Remember, **all children ages 11 years and younger must be physically dropped off with their respective coach.**

All families must have an adult volunteer assist for one game and/or our end of season tournament this season.

PRACTICE CHECKLIST

- Sneakers
- Water Bottle

GAME DAY CHECKLIST

- Sneakers
- Jersey
- Water Bottle



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MEMBERSHIP

A Madison Area YMCA Youth or Family Membership must be active in order for the player to be eligible for team participation. Please contact the Member Services Welcome Center team in person or membership@madisonymca.org for assistance with membership questions.

Team Parents and anyone else bringing players to the Family Center who are not members of the Madison Area YMCA must present a valid government-issued photo ID at each visit to gain access past the Welcome Center in our main lobby. Adults regularly accessing the facility to accompany a player may obtain a special orange Madison Area YMCA ID from the Welcome Center in lieu of having to present a government-issued photo ID at each visit. This card allows entrance to the facility, but does not include membership privileges. Adults wishing to utilize the Madison Area YMCA's facility and services may join the Madison Area YMCA as a member to gain full access to all we have to offer.

TUITION FEES

Madison Area YMCA Gators tuition fees are listed below. Tuition fees cover the cost of uniforms, league registration, referees, TeamSnap account, practice, games, and end of season tournament. The tuition fee balance is paid in full prior to the start of our first team practice.

AGE GROUPS	TUITION FEE
Grade 4 U11	\$575
Grades 5 & 6 U12	\$625
Grades 7 & 8 U14	\$625



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INJURIES

While playing a sport or a physical activity, unfortunately injuries can occur. Parents are notified if any injury needs further parental or medical attention. Injured athletes are encouraged to attend practice and games to support their teammates as long as they have been medically cleared. Players and parents should always inform coaches about any ongoing problems or limitations that may interfere with the ability to practice. Players are never forced to practice if they are experiencing any type of injury that limits their ability to practice or play in a game.

Concussion protocols are followed if a player experiences any type of head trauma. All coaches are trained to follow CDC and U.S.A. Basketball Guidelines. Players are removed from practice or a game immediately if a player is experiencing any concussion symptom, and parents are notified and advised to seek medical attention for their child. Only when a player has medical clearance to return to play are they allowed to do so.



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IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PARENT(S) AND FAMILIES

- Please remain in designated spectator areas during games and tournaments. Spectators are not permitted to walk on the court at any time to ensure the safety of players, referees and coaches.
- If spectators are coaching from the sidelines, they are given a friendly reminder to stop. Continued coaching from the sidelines may result in suspension of spectator's attendance.
- The officials, coaches, and director have the right to remove spectators from the game if deemed necessary. Be respectful and supportive to everyone in attendance at games including opponents and opposing spectators.
- There will be zero tolerance towards any negative interaction with opposing coaches, players and officials. The officials have the right to remove spectators from the game if deemed necessary.

You are the ones that the children look up to the most. As the most influential people in their lives, the children will always deem your actions as the correct way to do things. If you have a positive outlook and attitude towards all aspects of the game, more than likely the children will also.

Before the start of the year, a **Parent Code of Conduct** must be signed before attending any games. The Parent Code of Conduct must be followed or the privilege of attending your child's game will be removed.



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FOR ALL RETURNING PLAYERS AND FAMILIES, WELCOME BACK! TO THE NEXT GENERATION, LETS ENJOY THE JOURNEY!

We look forward to working with each player, and their family as a member of the Madison Area YMCA Gators. We all play a vital role in the success of this program, and if we work together, we will continue to create a positive, supportive and fun environment for our children to excel.

Providing a safe place for all players to learn and grow will always be our priority and we are grateful for the opportunity to work with your children.

“Once a Gator, always a Gator.”