

## Panthers Basketball 2021-22

Hello Basketball Parents!

**Start Up:** We are gearing up to start the basketball season next week (Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, and Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>). The basketball season runs from the beginning of December to typically the first week of March.

**Numbers:** We have about 15 girls and 11 boys interested in basketball. With those numbers, we have decided to have a Jr. Girls and a Sr. Girls team. For the boys, we will go with one team that will play in the Jr. League.

**Coaches:** We are lucky enough to have three volunteer coaches for basketball! Rod Carlyon, who coached many years of high school basketball at RF Staples, has offered to coach the Sr. Girls this season. His daughter, Andria, who played college basketball for Grande Prairie and university basketball for the University of Alberta Pandas, will also be working with the Sr. Girls. Carmen Ewasiw, who just finished coaching the Jr. Girls volleyball team to a very successful season, will be behind the bench for the Jr. Girls basketball team. I will coach the 7, 8, 9 Boys basketball team, which will participate in the Jr. League.

**Jr. Boys Practices:** For the boys, first practice will be **Thursday December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00-5:30**. The boys team will then do **Wednesday night practices** for the rest of the year (starting the following week- Wednesday Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>). We will only do one practice a week, so please try not to miss any practices (if possible). They will also be getting lots of practice time in PE classes when we cover basketball in January and February.

**ALL GIRLS:** We will have all of the girls practice together on **Tuesday November 30<sup>th</sup>** (with both coaches) as a chance to shake off the rust before tryouts. **Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup>** will then be a tryout. Carmen will run the tryout practice and Rod will evaluate players to place the girls on the teams he believes will be best for them. We need to have a tryout this year due to our larger number in the girls category. Splitting into two teams, based on skill/attitude/thinking the game, will allow us to have two competitive teams and will allow athletes to push themselves in a division appropriate for them. The split squads will also allow for much more playing time for every player. Lastly, these two teams will allow for much more skill development as players will get to improve their talents against players of their caliber. Players will be notified of which team they are on prior to the following week's practices.

\*\*It is very likely that we will have some girls that play for both the Jr. and Sr. teams due to numbers (being sure we have enough subs on both teams). They will get practice time with both the Jr. and Sr. teams.

**Jr. Girls Practices:** After the first week, Jr. Girls practices will be **every Tuesday from 4:00-5:30** (until Christmas Break). After Christmas Break, the Jr. Girls will practice twice a week (days to be determined)

**Sr. Girls Practices:** After the first week, Sr. Girls practices will be **every Tuesday from 4:00-5:30** (until Christmas Break). After Christmas Break, the Sr. Girls will practice twice a week (days to be determined)

**League Games:** League games are played during the week on either Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Typically, our teams will be bussed to the location (if we have a road game), and bussed back to Pembina North for pickup after. (But please be aware that our school division currently has a critical shortage of bus drivers available for field trips, so there may be instances when we are unable to book a bus driver and it may be necessary to use parent drivers for these games). The league schedules will be sent out to you as soon as we get them.

**Tournaments:** Tournaments are typically parent drivers. We have only one tournament booked so far, but we will have more figured out in the next month. The only tournament confirmed so far is SR. GIRLS in Barrhead Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Fees:** The fee for the season is \$100 per player and can be paid online through the Powerschool Parent Account. Payment can also be made by cash or by cheque (payable to Pembina North Community School). If paying by cash or cheque, give the fee to the school office, not to your coach. If the fee poses a financial hardship that will prevent a student from playing, please email Mrs. Drake ([raime.drake@pembinahills.ca](mailto:raime.drake@pembinahills.ca)) so alternate fee arrangements can be made.

**Consent Forms:** All players must complete **three** consent forms. They are available on through the Powerschool Parent Account:

- Jr High Basketball 2021-22 - Consent Form (needed so players can ride the bus to away games)
- Jr High Basketball 2021-22 - Interschool Athletics Form (a form required by Pembina Hills School Div)
- Jr High Basketball 2021-22 - Uniform Replacement Fee Acknowledgement (parent acknowledges to pay a \$100 uniform replacement fee in the event that a player loses or damages his/her uniform)

**Commitment:** Players should do their best to make as many practices as possible. If they are unable to make a practice or game, please make sure they tell their coach- not minutes before it begins. We understand many are involved in other sports activities (hockey, ringette, club volleyball, club basketball, etc.) and that full commitment to our teams will be tough. We still want everyone to play that wants to play, so even if they have to miss some of the practices/games for other things, we are fine with that, but just want there to be communication.

**Gear:** We have team jerseys and shorts for basketball (different from our volleyball jerseys) that the boys and girls will eventually try on, and wear, for the season. This is of no cost to you, but if they are lost or damaged there is a \$100 uniform replacement fee. Please try to keep them regularly washed. For practices, please make sure players have shorts, tshirt/basketball shirt, shoes with good grip, and a water bottle.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me or give me a call.  
I am looking forward to a great season!

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