



Dan Dickau Basketball Academy F.A.Q.s

This FAQ sheet is meant to help answer any questions that you may have about getting involved with teams, training or hopefully both with the *Dan Dickau Basketball Academy*. We strive to form highly competitive teams throughout the Fall, Winter and Spring seasons. In the event that we have enough players to form two separate teams, we will use our best judgment to as to whether we have enough committed and available players to form two competitive teams. Many times due to inexperience or lack of earlier training, players are not quite up to playing at the select level. In these instances, we still want to accommodate the players who have shown interest and will do our best to form a “recreational” team. These teams may only practice once a week, but they shall pay less and we also hope that they would join in our additional skills sessions and clinics to further their skills. If your particular concern is not addressed below, please email us and we will do our best to answer your questions.

1 *When does each season start and how long do they last?*

The Fall season starts early September, Winter in mid November and Spring in mid-March. These seasons will typically last 10-12 weeks depending on school and tournament calendars.

2 *How much does playing on a team cost? What does the cost include?*

The cost of a season is \$500 and covers uniform and all team related fees including gym rental fees, tournament fees, coaches stipend (some are volunteers), as well as some administrative costs for staff. The only extra cost will be in the Spring season where some out of area travel occurs. These out of area tournaments are typically in Eugene, Seattle and Yakima. The team fee does not cover lodging costs for the player.

3 *What grade levels do you have available for teams?*

We currently have teams in grades 4-8 for boys and girls 5-8. In the Spring and Fall, we will also offer high school teams. We strive to create a positive playing opportunity for as many as possible, so when there is a need we will try to offer more than one competitive team per grade.

4 *How are teams selected?*

We currently hold tryouts for each team where the coach is able to put the players through drills as well as competitive scrimmages. It is important to come both nights so that the coach can get a good feel for their skills and their ability to fit into the personality of the team. Many times combining the best players doesn't make the best teams. We strive to find a good balance of creating competitive teams and developing the players individually. We strive to maintain consistency of players on our teams from season to season, but that will not always be the case. We will always provide the opportunity for new kids to come into our academy and make the team. Competition for these spots can be very helpful in teaching life lessons to kids.

5 *How many games will each team play per season?*

In the Fall of 2010 our teams played 12 total games. In the Winter our teams typically played in five or six tournaments for a total of around 25 games apiece. In the Spring of 2011 our high level teams will play in four or five large high-level tournaments and expect to play in 20-25 games against some of the best competition in the Northwest.

6 *How many nights/hours will each team practice?*

Teams typically practice two nights a week for two hours at a time. There will be occasions that there is only one practice in a week, but that is rare. These practices will be structured individually by the coach but is instructed by the Academy that individual skill development must be a key component of each practice.

7 What options do we have if our child does not make a select team?

This is our most frequently asked question. We want to provide every kid a chance to play basketball even if their skills aren't up to them playing on a select team. If we are not able to offer a recreational team, then we encourage joining a skills session or getting a group together for group training. Skill Sessions are a great way to continue to improve your individual skills and learn team concepts. Individual training as well as group training is available. An occasional individual session can be a great opportunity for our coaches to get a closer look at things such as footwork, ball handling and shooting form and give you more in depth feedback on ways to improve. Group training is more cost-effective than an individual session and gives the added opportunity to be placed in competitive situations. Contact Shahla at shahla@dickauacademy.com to schedule training.

8 Where will the games be and will we have to travel?

In the Fall, we typically stay in the Portland/Vancouver area. In the Winter the tournaments can expand a little further away to Salem and Kelso/Longview. In the Spring there will be potential to travel to Seattle, Yakima, Salem, Eugene and other places throughout the Northwest. The team fee does not include lodging.

9 What does a skills session cover?

A skill session is a one hour one night a week workout that runs for a set amount of weeks (typically 8 or more). These sessions have an itinerary created by Dan Dickau so that all groups will cover the same concepts and similar drills. Each workout will have individual skills and drills that will be taught as well as a basketball concept that will be taught that week. These concepts can range from pick and roll, elbow action, or screening and reacting. The scheduled itinerary creates structure in how and what will be taught over the length of the session.

10 Should I consider an individual workout or small group training?

Individual workouts are great and we have plenty of capable coaches to put you through a challenging workout to develop your skills. Small groups of 2-6 are going to be just as effective in developing your skills plus you get the added bonus of competition. Many concepts can be talked through in an individual setting yet can't be worked on or demonstrated properly unless in a larger group. You will get a similar amount of shots and instruction in a small group as you would in an individual, but at times it can be nice to be in a one-on-one setting.

11 What about some of your clinics?

We strive to hold at least one shooting clinic a month. These shooting clinics are directed by Dan Dickau or our head trainer Daven Harmeling. We occasionally hold ball handling, one-on-one moves clinics as well as SAQ (speed, agility, quickness) clinics.

12 Is the training important if I am on a team?

If you are on a team, you will be getting great coaching, but we encourage you to get involved in training as well. Even something as simple as getting into a skill session or adding one or two individuals or small group training a month will help a lot.

13 How many kids are on a team?

There are generally between 8-12 kids on each team. The final decision comes down to the coach and the level of commitment he can get from the families. It is optimal to have at least 10 for scrimmage purposes in practice. With a larger number of players it can slightly reduce the playing time in games yet it is made up in the quality of practices. As with all activities there are many times players can't make all practices and games, which is one reason we don't discourage a coach from keeping more than ten players.

14 What if I have a team already and want to bring it under your academy name?

We are open to helping teams join our Academy and have better access to our coaching and support staff. We have great contacts throughout the Portland/Vancouver area for leagues and tournaments. Contact Luke LeCount luke@dickauacademy.com for more information.

15 *When is payment due?*

We would like payment in full within a week of being selected to a team. We understand there are circumstances where it needs to be split up over time. Please communicate with our staff and we will get something figured out. Team payments will need to be made in full, or payment arrangements made, before a player will be allowed to play in a tournament.

16 *Do you scholarship players or give financial aid?*

We have provided scholarships to players in the past. If you need financial assistance, know of someone who would like to join our Academy but can't because of financial reasons or would like to help fund a scholarship for a kid please contact us. We don't want to turn away any kids due to financial reasons.

17 *How do I get involved and volunteer to coach a team?*

If you are interested in coaching please send us a little bit about yourself. We want to provide the highest level of knowledge and character for our kids to see as examples.