

Coaches Information Sheet
2023 Lakota March Madness Basketball Tournament

The tournament will begin on Monday, March 27 and run through Thursday, April 6.

Work with school coordinator and other coaches in your grade to form teams.

- Decide division
 - **GIRLS** teams will have 1 division per grade. Schools with multiple girls' teams in a grade should have talent split evenly.
 - **BOYS Grade 2** teams should have the talent split equally when there are multiple boys' teams in a school.
 - **BOYS Grades 3–6** teams will have 1 team per grade in the RED (competitive) division. Hold evaluations to determine players for this team. Then divide the talent into even teams for the BLACK division for the remainder of the students signed up in that grade.
 - Recommended number of players on a team is 7-10. If you have 12 kids from a certain grade sign up, ask the kids to find friends to make it 14. Then you can have two teams. The unfriendly numbers for signups are 11, 12, 13. Put the onus on the kids to recruit.
 - **This format is designed to create a fair and competitive tournament for all of the players and teams involved.** Should a team be entered into the Black division that could be competitive in the RED division, that team is subject to disqualification from the tournament (place your teams accordingly). We will also try to seed BLACK division teams from the same school and grade in opposite ends of the brackets.
- Collect \$25 fee from each player.
 - Cash or check made out to **Lakota March Madness**. Do NOT take Venmo or similar.
 - Turn in fees to school coordinator by Wednesday, March 15.
- Coordinate t-shirt orders for your team.
 - Complete t-shirt order form/link and return to school coordinator.
 - You will need to verify player LAST NAME and SHIRT SIZE.

Practices

- Work with school coordinator to get assigned practice time slots.
- Note that during Lakota Spring Break, no practices at Lakota schools are allowed.
- Use common sense and do not hold it against a player if they miss practice.
- Many schools will have to “double up” and have two teams practice at the same time.
- Keep completed emergency waiver forms on hand for each player. Have these available at all games and practices.
- If coach is a minor age coach (under 18), be sure there is an adult present.

Games

- The March Madness Committee will conduct draws, with team names drawn at random and placed in the tournament brackets.
- Any scheduling change requests must be addressed prior to the beginning of the tournament and will only be entertained if accompanied by a valid reason. Your “stud” player not being available for a scheduled game is not a valid reason.
- Games will *tentatively* be scheduled at Wyandot Early Childhood School, Hopewell Early Childhood School, Endeavor Elementary, Union Elementary, VanGorden Elementary, Hopewell Junior School, Liberty Junior School, Plains Junior School, and Ridge Junior School.
- Each team will be responsible for providing an individual to handle either the scorebook or the clock during all games.
- Read and understand the tournament rules (handed out at coaches’ meeting and posted online). Make sure players get as close to equal playing time as possible.
- Please promote the integrity of the tournament. Many of our players have never played in an organized sporting event. If your team has a big lead, back off. Note that in some cases of a big lead, the scoreboard operator will stop putting the points on the board. Help us by controlling that one person in the stands who continually yells “they scored....”, etc, etc.
- This is your chance to be a role model in these young kids’ lives.
- The winning coach of each game should report the win to the gym ambassador. The gym ambassador will make sure the score sheet is updated.

Gate admission for 2023 will be a \$3 donation per adult...***this includes all coaches and parents.*** Please communicate this to your team parents. All net proceeds will go to local charities. In 2022, charitable donations in the amount of \$14,000 were made to local charities.

ELEMENTARY Uniform Colors:

Adena	Royal Blue
Cherokee	Purple
Endeavor	Black
Freedom	Orange
Independence	Maroon
Union	Kelly Green
VanGorden	White
Woodland	Carolina Blue

EARLY CHILDHOOD Uniform Colors:

Creekside	Kelly Green
Heritage	Red
Hopewell	Oxford Grey
Liberty	White
Shawnee	Orange
Wyandot	Royal Blue

**Remember that Sportsmanship is paramount to the success of the
2023 March Madness Basketball Tournament.**

Practice It, Expect It, Respect It

Note: Throughout the tournament, coaches and parents can follow the tournament on the Lakota Local School System website. Just visit www.lakotaonline.com.