

UNIFIED MEET HOSTING PREFERENCE FORM

2009-2010 GREAT NORTHWEST BASKETBALL LEAGUE

ALL GRADES: 8th, 7th, 6th, 5th and 4th -- Girls and Boys

Registration Deadline: August 1, 2009

Note: August 1 is the registration deadline for 2009-2010 hosting forms (same as the last four seasons). Please read the discussion in the accompanying “League Enrollment Explanatory Posting.” Play date schedules will be prepared by the League in the following order: 8th girls, 7th girls, 6th girls, 6th boys, 8th boys, 7th boys, 5th and 4th girls and, finally, 5th and 4th boys. As a result, the deadlines for submitting Team Playing Date Preference Forms are staggered this season similar to past years, but with eight (rather than four) separate deadlines: August 1 for 8th girls; August 8th for 7th grade girls; August 15th for 6th grade girls; August 22 for 6th grade boys; August 29 for 8th grade boys; September 5th for 7th grade boys; September 12th for 5th and 4th grade girls; and September 19th for 5th and 4th grade boys. If your community wants to host a boys meet, or one for 7th, 6th, 5th or 4th grade girls, and you missed the August 1 deadline, we might (i.e., there are no guarantees) be able to accommodate your desire to host if we need the space and if you’re able to host on a date that works for the League. However, if you’re involved with an 8th grade girls team, we will actually begin scheduling for those grades on or about August 10 – making a late request to host very difficult, if not impossible, to accommodate.

It is important that you thoroughly read the League Enrollment Explanatory Posting on this website that introduces this form. If you have not read it, do so before completing this form. If you haven’t done so before, you should also read the League’s Rules (draft Rules for the 2009-2010 season will be posted on this website by June 18, 2009; 2008-2009 Rules can be viewed in the interim). While you need to understand the full content of the League Enrollment Explanatory Posting on this website before registering, the following issues are of particular importance:

- **Unified Meet Hosting Preference Form.** All communities or school districts are strongly encouraged – although not absolutely required – to submit a “Unified” Meet Hosting Preference Form for all teams from their community or school district. By a “Unified” Meet Hosting Preference Form, we mean that all teams in a given community/school district submit one of these forms for all the boys and girls teams playing in the League. We realize that in some communities the boys and girls operate under very different organizational umbrellas and prefer to submit separate forms. Nevertheless, it’s easier for two programs in the same community to talk to each other, than to force the League to do so for you. For each of you, that’s one extra conversation – for us, it’s more than 100 additional phone calls.
- **Hosting Flexibility.** One of the things we strive to accomplish with this approach is more flexibility on host dates. For instance, if a community would ideally like its 5th grade girls team to host on December 5 and its 6th grade boys team to host on December 12, provided

that both teams are available to play on both dates, we expect that the host dates could be reversed if it works out best for purposes of League scheduling.

- **Disadvantages of Not Hosting.** Teams that do not host run the risk of having the number of meets in which they want to play reduced if the League has a shortage of hosting sites. For communities that have some teams host and others not, one way to have teams that don't host avoid losing play dates, is to submit a "unified" community form. In so doing, the non-hosting teams get credit for the fact that other teams in their community are hosting. For more on how this works, see the League Enrollment Explanatory Posting that introduces this form.

* * * * *

Name of Person Completing This Form: _____

Name of Community/School District (or Team Name): _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Phone Number: _____

Is the person filling out this form actually coaching one or more teams? (Check one) ___yes ___no

If "yes", specify the grade and gender of the team(s) he/she is coaching: _____

1) This form is being filled out for (check one):

_____ All the **boys and girls** teams in my community/school district/program entering the League next season.

_____ All the **boys** teams in my community/school district/program entering the League next season.

_____ All the **girls** teams in my community/school district/program entering the League next season.

_____ One or more team(s), but not all the boys and/or girls teams in my community/school district/program (if you check this blank, indicate below the gender and grade of meet addressed by this form).

_____ Boys

_____ 8th Grade

_____ Girls

_____ 7th Grade

_____ 6th Grade

_____ 5th Grade

_____ 4th Grade

} If you checked either of these lines, please read carefully the section in the League Enrollment Explanatory Posting regarding 4th and 5th grade meets.

- 2) To host a regular meet, you need two playing surfaces per grade, so unless you have access to four or six courts on a given date (they don't have to be in the same building), you won't be able to host regularly-formatted meets for two or more grades on the same day. If you have access to only one playing surface on a given day, you can still host, but it will be for a five-team round robin format (a "mini-meet"). If you have access to three (or five) playing surfaces, you can host two six-team meets (if you have three playing surfaces) or two six-team meets and one eight-team meet (if you have five playing surfaces) on the same day. Because mini-meets (five-team-meets) are significantly less popular with visiting teams than standard eight-team meets (or six team meets), communities are no longer allowed to host more than one mini-meet on any given date. In other words, the only time we will schedule a mini-meet is in small communities that truly have only one court available to host a meet. Also note: if you plan to host a meet in the 5th/4th grade Pioneer Division, as described in the League Enrollment Explanatory Posting, you will host over only six time slots (instead of eight for a regular meet).

Please indicate the number of playing surfaces you'll have available for the meet(s) you host:

_____ One playing surface to host a five-team, round robin mini-meet (see discussion above – this format will be limited to communities that truly have only one available playing surface).

_____ Two playing surfaces per grade – this is the norm and what is needed for the typical eight-team League meet, regularly-formatted.

_____ Three playing surfaces – two six-team meets as described in the League Enrollment Explanatory Posting and League Rules.

_____ Four playing surfaces so that you can host for two grades on the same day using the regular eight-team format for both. (Note: The League reserves the right to format two eight-team meets in one of two ways: 1) all eight teams of one grade playing their first game at 9:00 a.m. and all eight of the other grade playing their first game at 10:10 a.m. or 2) each grade using two courts in each time slot. In most cases, the League will use option #1. Hosts who prefer Option #2 should indicate why they feel that way in the "comments" section below.)

_____ Five playing surfaces – one regularly-formatted meet (eight teams) and two six-team meets.

_____ Six playing surfaces so that you can host three regularly formatted eight-team meets or four six-team meets on the same day (again, see the League Enrollment Explanatory Posting and League Rules for how the six-team meets will be structured).

Comments: _____

3) How many meets is your Community/Association willing to host?

My Community/Association is willing to host this many **BOYS** meets:

| <u>8th Grade</u> | <u>7th Grade</u> | <u>6th Grade</u> | <u>5th Grade (Regular)</u> | <u>5th/4th Grade Pioneer</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| _____ 0 | _____ 0 | _____ 0 | _____ 0 | _____ 0 |
| _____ 1 | _____ 1 | _____ 1 | _____ 1 | _____ 1 |
| _____ 2 | _____ 2 | _____ 2 | _____ 2 | _____ 2 |
| _____ 3 | _____ 3 | _____ 3 | _____ 3 | _____ 3 |

My Community/Association is willing to host this many **GIRLS** meets:

| <u>8th Grade</u> | <u>7th Grade</u> | <u>6th Grade</u> | <u>5th Grade (Regular)</u> | <u>5th/4th Grade Pioneer</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| _____ 0 | _____ 0 | _____ 0 | _____ 0 | _____ 0 |
| _____ 1 | _____ 1 | _____ 1 | _____ 1 | _____ 1 |
| _____ 2 | _____ 2 | _____ 2 | _____ 2 | _____ 2 |
| _____ 3 | _____ 3 | _____ 3 | _____ 3 | _____ 3 |

4) **PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY AND CAREFULLY.**

Listed below are the dates on which meets may be held. Write “No” in front of dates on which you absolutely **can’t** host a meet because of known conflicts. Of the remaining dates, write “A” in front of your top choice for hosting, “B” in front of your second choice for hosting, etc., until all blanks are filled. Be liberal in designating dates you can host -- don’t put down “No” unless your community’s gyms are absolutely unavailable.

If you prefer to host a meet for a particular grade and gender on a particular date, write that grade number in front of each such date (8th, 7th, 6th, 5th or Pioneer) as well as the gender (girls, boys). While we will attempt to honor preferences as to which grades and gender you host on which dates, the League needs the flexibility to select among those dates in which your community has gyms available to best accommodate our voluminous meet schedule. As noted in the League Enrollment Explanatory posting, the best way to assure your ability to host for a given grade on a given date is to submit this form as soon as possible.

If your community is in Wisconsin and has one or more strong teams that may qualify for the Wisconsin State Invitational Championship Tournament (WSICT), consider hosting a meet in March that could be used as a warm-up for your team (and others) for the WSICT. Every year WSICT participants complain that there are few places to play in March to keep their teams sharp. While, as of this writing, the WSICT schedule is not yet set, these eight tournaments will be played between mid-March and mid-April (the WSICT schedule should be set by late July or early August). As a result, depending at which grade(s) your community has strong teams, all Saturdays in March are definite options. Hosting a meet in this time frame will provide a strong team from your community with a place to play a WSICT warm-up event.

Before you send in this form, please block out your top preferred dates with your school administration so that these dates are yours. In that way, if we need to try to switch a date later, you have something to trade. If you don't reserve any of these days, you may have nothing firmly available when we finalize the schedule. Write "BLOCKED" in front of your top listed choices that you've actually firmly reserved with your school administration.

If your school administration will only tentatively commit to dates pending the scheduling of WIAA, Minnesota State High School League or other related school events, reserve whatever dates you can on a tentative basis. We will, however, need to finalize your hosting dates as soon thereafter as possible. If you can't finalize dates until your school is back in session in late August or early September, you must still file this form by August 1, and we'll work with you after August 1 to finalize your host date(s). As explained above, and in the League Enrollment Explanatory Posting, it's much easier for us to be flexible when dealing with 5th and 4th grade boys and girls meets, than it is for 7th and 8th grade girls meets (the latter being the first meets that we schedule). If you want to host a Pioneer Division meet, as explained in the League Enrollment Explanatory Posting, these will be scheduled exclusively on the nine Saturdays in the months of January and February.

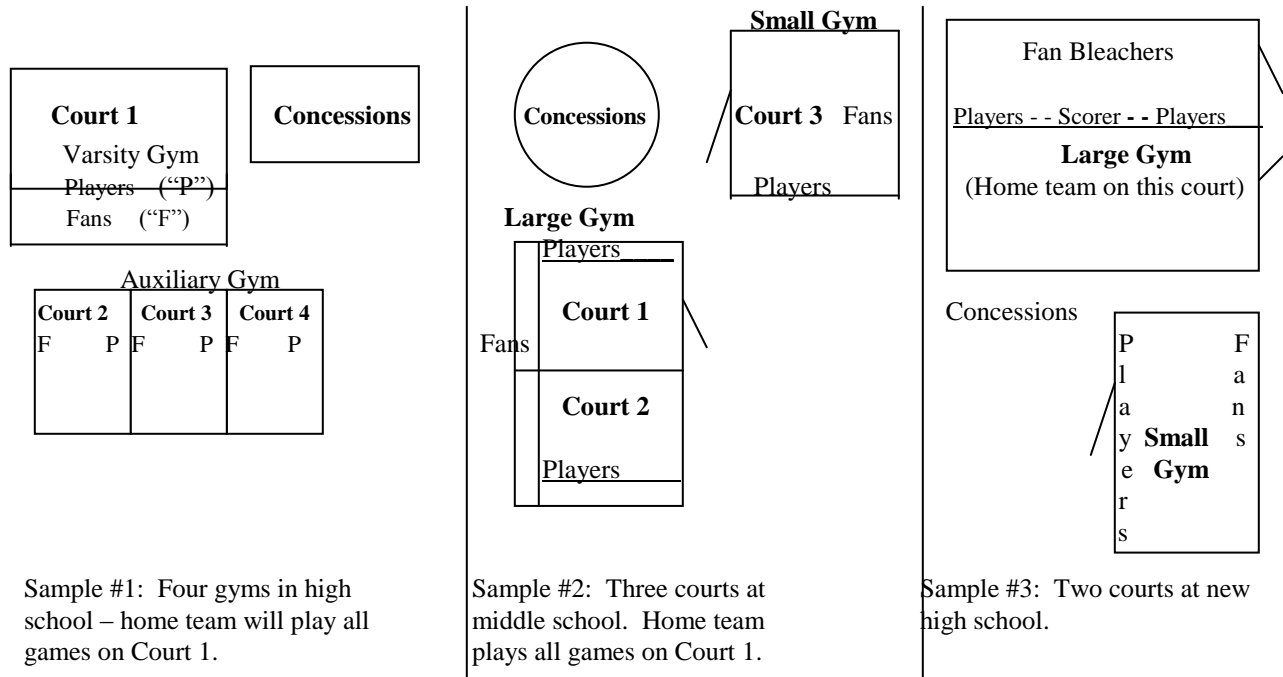
| | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| _____ | October 24 | _____ | January 16 |
| _____ | October 31 | _____ | January 23 |
| _____ | November 7 | _____ | January 30 |
| _____ | November 14 | _____ | February 6 |
| _____ | November 21 | _____ | February 13 |
| _____ | November 28 | _____ | February 20 |
| _____ | December 5 | _____ | February 27 |
| _____ | December 12 | _____ | March 6 |
| _____ | December 19 | _____ | March 13 |
| _____ | January 2 | _____ | March 20 |
| _____ | January 9 | _____ | March 27 |

5) **Skip this question if you have only one team playing at each grade level.** If your community/association is fielding two or more girls or two or more boys teams at the same grade level, do you want them to play at the same home meet in opposite groups? If they are at the same eight team meet, there is the possibility that they will play each other in game four. Also, if one is an "A" team, and the other a "B-" or "C" team, it will not be possible to construct a field that will accommodate the ability levels of both teams. The net result will almost always be that your weaker team will be over-matched at their home meet.

_____ We want both teams to play at our home meet.

_____ One team only should play at our home meet (if you check this option, indicate which team will be the host): _____

6) Due to the large number of teams in the League, and because we'd like to plan the best meet experience possible, we are asking for detailed information on the courts each host team is using for their meet. If you have not done so in the past, please supply us with a simple drawing of your gym lay-out on a separate sheet of paper. Include as much detail as possible. Vital points of information are gym names or numbers, location at which the home team wants to play its scheduled games (or indicate that it doesn't matter) and location of entrances. It would also be helpful to know locations of players' benches, scorer's table, fan seating and location of concessions. If you are using more than one building, we must know if there are concessions (full or minimal) at all venues. Here are some samples of what we're looking for:



At a minimum, please briefly describe which gyms/playing surfaces you will be using when you host and on which court you want the home team playing to facilitate concession sales, etc.

- Sample Answer #1: For our double meet, we will use the varsity gym (#1) and three auxiliary courts (#2, #3 and #4), all at the high school – the home team plays all its games in Gym #1.
- Sample Answer #2: Three courts at middle school. Home team should play all games on Court 1 of the large gym.
- Sample Answer #3: Two courts at the high school (large and small gym). Home team plays all games in large gym.

- Sample Answer #4 (not shown above): For our double meet, the 6th graders will use Courts 1 and 2 at the high school. The 5th graders will use Court 3 at the high school and one court at the elementary school. The 5th grade home team should play all games at the elementary school.

7) **Detailed Narrative Directions to Gyms.** As in the past, for the 2009-2010 season, all directions to gyms must be in a detailed narrative form. Since directions are posted on the Internet, we no longer use street maps. These directions must be submitted with your Unified Meet Hosting Preference Form. We will not lock in your preferred hosting dates, even if you submit this form in June, unless we have your directions in an acceptable, detailed form. If you submitted directions last year, it is still important that you review them on the website to ensure their accuracy and send us any changes. If you feel there are no changes, make a note of that below in the “Comments” section. Even if there are no new schools in your community to dictate a change in directions, use this opportunity to improve on what you submitted last season. If you didn’t host last year, take a look at our website (*gnbl.org*) for directions from other communities to see what level of detail we’re expecting (some good examples to look at are Amherst, Mauston and Rhinelander). When preparing your directions, note specifically the following points of emphasis:

- With the increased use of GPS devices, it is very helpful to have the street address of the schools you will be using.
- List mileage to the closest 1/10 of one mile. Don’t say “three or four” miles. You should drive all of these roads to get mileage exactly to the 1/10 of one mile.
- Be specific about landmarks. Don’t say: “take a left at the gas station” (refer to the specific type, e.g., Kwik-Stop, Holiday, Amoco, etc.) or “turn right at the big church” (say specifically “St. John’s Lutheran Church”). Teams who have hosted in the past need to double check landmarks in case there has been a name change.
- Provide a narrative from all four directions or, if there are more than two major roads leading into your town, all of the major options.
- If you use more than one school when you host, and they are not adjacent to each other, be clear on how to get to each, and how to get from one to the other.
- Be careful to take into account any road construction or detours that would change your directions.

Comments: _____

8) **Host Feedback Survey.** In the Team Playing Date Preference Form, we ask teams to provide feedback on the quality of the experience they had in attending Great Northwest meets the last several seasons. With over 80 meets on some Saturdays, Great Northwest staff can't attend most meets so we need to get objective feedback from coaches about the quality of their experience. We plan to get back to those hosts that receive particularly high or low marks so they know where they're seen as doing a good job and where they aren't.

We realize that hosts have a different perspective on a meet's quality. While visiting teams focus on the quality of officials, scorekeepers, clock operators and concessions, there are visiting teams that can make life miserable for hosts and other teams. Please provide us feedback about any visiting teams that created specific problems for you at meets you hosted last season. Please tell us the name, grade and gender of the team involved (e.g., Arlington, 7th grade boys "Red" team; or Washington 6th grade girls). If we get multiple complaints about a particular team bringing in coolers, or specific discipline issues, that team (and/or program) will be put on notice that such continued conduct will jeopardize their participation in this League going forward.

Have you had problems with any teams bringing coolers of food, drinks and/or fast food into your facility (League Rules provide that the only items that can be carried in are drinks consumed by players during the game)?

Have you had problems with a team's coaches or fans who have stepped over the line of what is appropriate? What we want to know about is over-the-top belligerence, berating or combativeness directed at the other team, the referees, clock operators or scorekeepers. Please do not complain to us about coaches or fans if your officials failed to issue a warning and at least one technical foul against the team in question (i.e. if no technicals were issued, then obviously the conduct wasn't too serious). Please describe:

Have you had any issues with player conduct outside the game, such as vandalism, trashing bathrooms, trespassing into secured areas, etc.? _____

Have you seen instances where coaches have intentionally ignored or violated League Rules? What we're interested in here is not the violation of game rules (such as prohibitions on zones or presses), but the use of a player from another community, having a player play "down" a grade in violation of League Rules, etc. _____

*Return this form **ABSOLUTELY** no later than August 1, 2009 to:*

**The Great Northwest
PO Box 506
Hudson WI 54016**

Note: The earlier you submit this form, the greater the likelihood that you will be able to host on your preferred date(s).