



Parent/Player Handbook

North Iowa Fire (NIF) Boys

Mission

The North Iowa Fire is an AAU basketball organization whose mission is to educate and empower today's youth with leadership skills, confidence, commitment, and integrity, so they can live a productive and successful tomorrow.

Our goal is to teach young athletes respect for themselves, their peers, and their community by instilling the code of ethics built on honesty, responsibility, and team work through the game of basketball. Our desire is to return these players to their school teams and coaches as an improved basketball player and person.

We strive to provide our teams with high quality coaches who are dedicated to helping players to reach their highest potential on and off the court.

Overview

The North Iowa Fire Boys organization was established in 2013. In just a year, the Fire has grown from three teams (teams were formerly known as North Iowa Raptors) to ten teams today. Our winter season runs from November to March and our spring/summer season runs from April-July.

How to become a North Iowa Fire player

Winter program (November to March) tryouts for each grade level are conducted each year in August. Spring tryouts may also be announced for the spring/summer season. A non-refundable tryout fee of \$10 will be collected at tryouts.

To be notified of tryout dates, or to discuss your interest in joining the Fire, please email Fire Boys Director Jareese Williams at jareesewilliams@yahoo.com.

Returning as a North Iowa Fire player

Players returning to the Fire do not need to attend tryouts; however a \$200 deposit is due to the organization by August 1 to be guaranteed a spot on the roster for the winter session. If a spring/summer tryout date is announced, a deposit may also be requested from existing players. This deposit will be applied to the player fees and is non-refundable; unless at the discretion of the Boys Director. This deposit is collected as it is challenging to determine teams without understanding which players intend to return to their teams.

Team Selection

The number of returning NIF players, number of prospective players and availability of coaches all play a factor in determining teams after tryouts take place. There are generally 10 or less players on a roster. In some cases, a team may only have a few spots available. A new team or an additional team in an age group may be formed. In the event there is

more than one team in an age group, an "A" team and "B" team will be selected. Additional practices may be called to further evaluate players to finalize team selections. Parents and players will be notified as soon as possible after tryouts take place, typically within one week of the tryout date.

Generally, players will remain on the team they are selected for. Our staff may move players, after initial formations, to maximize the opportunity for the player and the team. In these instances, a meeting will take place with the player and parent. Players may also be asked to fill in for another teammate in the event of illness or roster shortage.

North Iowa Fire strongly believes in the development of all players who want to improve their game. If your child is not selected to be on a team, or is just interested in skill development at this time, we welcome all children to attend skill development practice. Email jareesewilliams@yahoo.com to be notified of the practice schedule. There is a fee per practice.

Team Communication

A web-based application called *Team Snap*, www.teamsnap.com, is used to notify parents and players of the practice schedule and tournament schedule. The application also includes roster information, contact information and team announcements. Once you are selected to be on a team, you will be invited to join *Team Snap* via email to view the information for that team. It is expected that parents and/or players mark their availability for practice and tournaments using his application. With a large group to keep in contact with, the Fire expects that you read your emails and monitor the *Team Snap* application to stay in touch with important information.

Practice Schedule

Practices are generally two hours and held twice weekly during the season. One practice is dedicated to conditioning and skill development. The other practice focuses on conditioning and preparing teams for tournaments. Practice times and locations are announced using *Team Snap*.

Tournaments

Teams compete in tournaments throughout the Midwest. Tournament schedules vary by team. The tournament schedule will be added to the *Team Snap* application at the start of the season. Parents or players should mark their availability for each tournament as soon as possible. Teams generally play in 8-10 tournaments. The expectation is that athletes should commit to at least 80 % of the team's events.

Player Fees

NIF is committed to providing the most cost effective situation for its families and their AAU club experience. Charges to players will cover uniforms, insurance, tournament fees, AAU registration, supplies, practices, facility rental and administrative costs. Transportation to tournaments, hotel costs, and meals are the responsibility of the athlete and their family. Program fees are determined by the schedule of each individual team and are announced by the tryout dates. If you are interested in discussing a payment plans, please visit with Jareese Williams. Since entry fees, gym fees and administration fees hinge on a full roster, we are unable to give discounts or refunds for missed events.

Playing Time

This team is a competitive tournament team. Playing time will be based on performance, effort and helping the team win. Playing time is earned.

Staff Commitment

NIF coaches must possess the ability to hold themselves to the highest standard in coaching basketball. They need to be able to fill numerous roles for the team beyond coaching such as trainer, administrator, educator and role model.

Coaches will work hard to train your child for the physical and mental aspects of basketball. We will strive to help every player, regardless of ability, to achieve their personal best. We feel very fortunate to be able to work with these great kids and this great sport.

Coaches Expectations for Players

- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Work hard every minute on the court.
- Respect other players, coaches and officials. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.
- Have fun.

NIF Rules/Expectations

- Attend practice. If family or mandatory school activities fall on practice nights or tournament play, the player is expected to take the responsibility of notifying the team coach at least four hours in advance so that alternate arrangements for the team can be made as necessary. Three unexcused absences may result in your dismissal.
- Parents/players should mark their availability for a tournament as soon as possible using *Team Snap*. If a player fails to show up at an event, without notifying a coach, we reserve the right to remove the player from the team and the player will forfeit all program fees paid.
- Be 10 minutes early for practice and 30 minutes early for games, unless otherwise directed by the coaches.
- Carry in basketball shoes to practice and games.
- The provided NIF uniform is to be worn at games only and is the property of NIF. Uniforms will be returned to the organization at the end of the season.
- A player convicted of using or possessing any controlled substance, alcohol, tobacco products will be dismissed immediately.

Expectations for Parents

- When attending practice or games, don't distract your child with "good intention" advice. Please allow the coaches to do their job.
- Ensure you or your child has notified coaches if unable to attend a practice or a tournament.
- Respect coaches, officials and players. Cheer loudly, but arguing with officials or opponents is not allowed. We expect encouraging and positive comments from our fans.
- Questions are always welcome and feedback is appreciated. The only request we have is that you do not approach coaches to discuss concerns during a tournament.
- Parents may be asked to volunteer to assist in various activities when requested such as scorekeeping or tournament support.
- Prompt payment of program fees.