

Frequently Asked Registration Questions

General Questions

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1. [What is the difference between House and Select?](#)

The house league basketball program is a purely recreational league. We focus on skill development and having fun. We keep teams small (7-8 players) in order to give everyone lots of playing time. The Select League is run by the Fairfax County Youth Basketball League (FCYBL) and is designed for the player who is prepared to play at a higher, more competitive level. The time commitment for House League is approximately 2 hours per week while the Select League commitment is approximately 8-10 hours per week.

2. [What is the cost to register?](#)

The cost to participate in the Winter House League is a flat fee of \$150 (\$200 after 9/28) which includes a jersey. The cost to participate in the Winter Select Program varies per team based upon the training, tournaments, and other activities the coach may schedule. A price range to participate on a particular select team will be disclosed at the start of tryouts.

3. [What is your refund policy?](#)

Requests for refunds must be in writing and must be received by November 8, 2019. A \$25 processing fee per player will apply, except in the following situation:

- a. Making a High School Basketball team--A player who registers and is subsequently selected to play for their high school basketball team may request a full refund.

4. [When are tryouts? Practices? Games?](#)

- Tryouts: Select League tryouts occur in late Sept/early October each year and House League tryouts occur in early-mid November each year.
- Practices: Practices are held on weeknights at one of our local gyms. House League team practices are 60 minutes in length and are held once a week while Select League team practices are 90 minutes in length and are held twice a week.
- Games: House League games are scheduled by Great Falls Basketball and are played on Saturdays and Sundays. Select League games are scheduled by the Fairfax County Youth Basketball League (FCYBL), an independent organization. Select games can be on weekends and/or weeknights.

House League Questions

1. [This is my child's first time playing basketball. Will he/she be "lost" and/or relegated to little playing time?](#)
2. [My child can't practice on three or more days. The registration system only allows me to specify one day. What can I do?](#)
3. [How do I get my child on the same team with his/her friend\(s\) and/or classmate\(s\)?](#)
4. [I would like my child to be challenged. Can he/she play up in a higher group?](#)
5. [Is it possible for my son/daughter to try out for both the Select Program and House Program? And, if he/she makes it into the Select Program, can he/she play in both leagues?](#)
6. [What are the Priorities of the House Program vs. the Select Program](#)
7. [Can my twins play on the same team?](#)
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1. [This is my child's first time playing basketball. Will he/she be "lost" and/or relegated to little playing time?](#)

The house league basketball program is a purely recreational league. We focus on skill development and having fun. We keep teams small (7-8 players) in order to give everyone lots of playing time. We also have mandatory playing time requirements so that all players, regardless of skill level, will play at least half of every game (one full quarter per half). More details on our rules can be found on our website.

2. [My child can't practice on more than one day. The registration system only allows me to specify one day. What can I do?](#)

The league requires coaches to draft players who do not have a conflict with that coach's practice time slot. We allow each player to specify one "can't practice" day. Our registration system will capture only one "can't practice" day for each player.

3. [How do I get my child on the same team with his/her friend\(s\) and/or classmate\(s\)?](#)

For grades K-1 we try to group players by elementary school in the hopes that that will keep them with their friends. Beginning in Grade 2, we can appreciate the desirability of having your children play on the same team with a friend(s); however, as a league, we need to balance that with our efforts to create teams that are evenly balanced from a competitive standpoint. Given the small number of players on a house league basketball team (7-8 players), two good players paired together can make a significant competitive difference; therefore, our policy is to not pre-arrange team placements for any reason including assistant coaches, requests for carpools, classmates, neighbors, etc.

We encourage parents to note in the registration form (special requests section) your desire to have your child on the same team with another child. We will provide that information to the coaches at the draft session, but coaches are under no obligation to take this information into consideration when drafting their team.

4. I would like my child to be challenged. Can he/she play up in a higher group?

Great Falls Basketball uses a grade-based placement system and does not permit players to play up or play down in the house league based on age, size, or subjective factors including skill level, scoring ability, ball handling, prior experience, etc. Players of unusual size or who possess unusually strong talent should consider trying out for the select program or the fourth grade developmental program. Third and fourth grade players may try out for the 5th grade select teams. If a third or fourth grade player does not make a 5th grade select team, they can try out for the 4th grade developmental program.

4th Grade Developmental Program

The Great Falls Select Basketball program begins in the 5th grade and up until that time, all players will participate in our House League. GF Hoops also has a developmental program for 4th grade players who want a higher level of training and competition.

Who is eligible? 3rd and 4th grade players who would be willing to make a higher level of commitment than House League requires, and who are looking to improve their skills at an even higher level are welcome to try out. **Players who wish to try out for this team must understand that if they make this team, they will still be required to play House league with their peers (i.e. 3rd graders will not be moved to 4th grade House League.)**

What is the program's objective? The primary objective of the program is to act as a 'bridge' between House League and Select basketball and to train players to be prepared to compete at a higher level of competition. We strive to do this by improving the skill level of players through more advanced drills and trainings in practices and enhance the knowledge and understanding of the game through competitive games against teams outside of the Great Falls basketball program.

How does the program work? Players in the Developmental Program sign up for and participate in Great Falls Basketball House League as their primary basketball commitment for the regular Winter season; however, as members of the Developmental Program, they would participate in one additional practice per week, and would have the opportunity to participate in games and tournaments in the VA/DC/MD area. In the case of schedule conflicts between House league and the Developmental Program tournaments, players will be required to attend the House league event. Please note that over the course of the season, every player will have had the opportunity to build their skills and test them against stronger players and teams.

Is there a tryout? Yes. The tryout for the 4th Grade Developmental Program will be held after the regular season teams have been selected. Typically this tryout will occur between November 10 and 25. Generally there are two-three tryouts: evenings and dates will be announced in early October. Interested players are encouraged to attend every tryout possible in order to allow the coaches and trainers ample opportunities to watch the players and assess their skill levels.

Who do I contact for more information? Either of the Select Co-Directors can answer questions: Margaret Brown margaret@gfhoops.com or Philip Nickles philip@gfhoops.com.

5. Is it possible for my son/daughter to try out for both the Select Program & House Program? And, if he/she makes it into the Select Program, can he/she play in both leagues?

On the subject of simultaneously playing Select and House, it is the rule that a FCYBL Select player may not play on a Great Falls House team. With the best interests of the players (and teams) in mind, the main driver is that Great Falls Basketball has no control over the scheduling of the Select games. Invariably, when there is a scheduling conflict with the House team game, the player would most likely choose the Select game. It is logical to assume that the Select player is usually the best player on the House team and the resulting absence would be unfair to the House team.

6. What are the priorities in the House program vs. the Select program?

To better understand our expectations and priorities for the Select and House league programs, please review the Select Program Guidelines and our House League Guideline posted on our website for perspective.

7. Can my twins play on the same team?

In an effort to ensure that teams are competitively balanced, twins may or may not end up on the same team. Any requests for twins to be on the same team will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the House League Director overseeing that grade group and the GF Hoops Board. Please reach out to your House League Director to start the conversation. The names of the House League Directors can be found on our website.

8. What equipment does my child need to participate?

Please make sure that your player has a pair of athletic shoes that are in good condition. High top basketball shoes are encouraged in an effort to provide maximum support to a player's ankles, but not required. If a player would like to practice on his/her own time, the appropriately-sized basketball is also encouraged but not required. Ball sizes can be found on our website. A team jersey will be provided to each player by GF Hoops.