



Program Description

2025-2026

Purpose

Provide a competitive basketball program for homeschooled students as an athletic opportunity that encourages and develops:

- Christ-like character
- Athletic skills and discipline
- Team commitment
- Respect for authority
- Opportunity for growth

Mission Statement

The Des Moines Warriors strive to help grow young people of integrity and Christian character, with a passion for serving God and others, through the platform of competitive basketball.

Organization Structure

This is a private athletic program administered by a volunteer board. Any board member may be contacted with questions or concerns. Please send email to desmoineswarriors@gmail.com

Board

Charles Ikenberry (program director)	(515) 689-4540	ikenberryc@gmail.com
Timm Reid	(515) 238-5078	timmm@treidlawfirm.com
Tyler Engel	(402) 617-3677	engeltl@gmail.com
Aaron Roth	(515) 371-8482	aaron.aaservicesllc@gmail.com
Phil Schomer	(515) 777-4793	pschomer@hotmail.com

Coaching

Warriors coaches are volunteers, and are not asked to perform administrative responsibilities. Questions about program administration are to be directed to the board. Questions about coaching can be directed to Shawn VanderHart (Coaching Director) (515) 205-1509 shawnvanderhart@toast.net

Parent Involvement

1. Parents are expected to exhibit Christ-like character at Warriors events, demonstrating proper behavioral examples for players and guests.
2. There is to be no open criticism of game officials, coaches, or players.
3. Parents agree to volunteer a minimum of 15 hours throughout the season. (See p. 5 for additional details.)
4. Parents are responsible for player transportation and expenses to home and away games. Coaches are not expected to provide player transportation.

Communications

Most scheduling including last minute game and practice scheduling changes will be communicated via Team Snap. Parents must download the Team Snap app in order to receive important up to date information. Please reference the website for signup instructions.

A secondary game scheduling and communication tool is via <http://desmoineswarriors.org/>, with a link to the Warriors official Google calendar. Please refer to these tools prior to contacting a board member or coach.

Player Eligibility Rules

All of the following conditions are required. Appeals for exceptions, exemptions or rules interpretation may be presented to the Board in writing.

- 1) A player must be homeschooled. "Homeschooled" means that a player must receive a minimum of 51% of his or her primary educational direction through the home. Educational direction through co-ops, such as The Network, Classical Conversations, Two Rivers and ACTS Academy are considered home directed education. High school students who are taking college-level courses, but remain at home under the educational direction of parents or guardians, are 19 or under as of September 15th, and have not graduated from high school, remain eligible for the Warriors.

* Please be informed that as to end of year tournaments (NDIICHA), college classes are not considered parent directed education as stated above. Students receiving more than 50% of their education from college coursework may be considered ineligible from those tournament opportunities.

- 2) The following gives greater direction as to what is considered "Homeschool":
 - a) courses that are taught in the home/studio of the player's parent(s), grandparent(s), sibling (age 18 or older), legal guardian, or another homeschool parent or tutor, provided

- the instruction by a non-parent is done under the direction and supervision of the child's parent(s) or ^[SEP]^[SEP]^[SEP]
- b) courses that are taught at a central location (e.g. homeschool support group “co-op” classes, such as chemistry, speech, or calculus) by a parent or tutor, or ^[SEP]^[SEP]^[SEP]
 - c) are correspondence/virtual/distance learning courses provided by a private kindergarten through grade 12 program or school. ^[SEP]^[SEP]^[SEP] With the exception of c) under the definition of “homeschooled” above, courses taught or otherwise provided by a public or private school, where the player is counted in that course’s enrollment, are not considered “homeschooled”. ^[SEP]^[SEP]^[SEP] Publicly funded correspondence/virtual/distant learning courses, college or vocational/technical school courses are permitted to be taken by a player, but are not considered “homeschooled”. ^[SEP]^[SEP]^[SEP] The percentage of courses considered to be homeschooled is determined by dividing the number of courses considered “homeschooled” by the total number of courses taken. (“homeschooled” + “not homeschooled”) ^[SEP]^[SEP]^[SEP] Once a player has completed high-school coursework, or participated in high school graduation ceremonies, he or she is ineligible to participate in the NDIICHA tournament.
- 3) A player must be living with a parent, guardian, or other approved adult providing homeschool education following current Iowa homeschool laws.
 - 4) In home education, students often work ahead academically. The team assignment that best fits the player is determined by an agreement of the player, his parents, coach, and board. Players may not repeat a year of eligibility solely or primarily for purposes of basketball eligibility. It is within the board’s sole discretion to determine playing eligibility of any student who repeats a year of education for any reason given by the parent or guardian.
 - a) Ages are determined on September 15 of the current school year
 - b) Junior High Girls – grades 7 – 8, age 15 or under
 - c) Junior High Boys – grades 7 – 8, age 15 or under
 - d) Elementary (Scouts Program) – grades 5 – 6. Scouts team may be co-ed format or may have separate teams for boys and girls, depending on registration numbers. Rosters will be limited to a maximum of 20 players to ensure a manageable coach to player ratio. If space allows, 4th grade players that are physically ready to compete with 5th and 6th graders may be allowed.
 - e) High School Boys – grades 9 – 12, age 19 or under
 - f) High School Girls – grades 9 – 12, age 19 or under
 - g) Younger players may be brought up to the next age group at the discretion of the coaches and Board.
 - 5) A player shall become ineligible after 4 years of high school participation, or 5 years if one of those years is 8th grade. See “Player Eligibility” (3) above.
 - 6) Exclusive Warriors team membership is expected for all high school players. At the high school level a player may not participate on other public, private, or homeschool teams during the Warriors season, unless special permission has been granted by the Board.
 - 7) Junior High players are free to participate on other teams but the Warriors coaches should be informed at the beginning of the season.

- 8) All registrations are required by September 30th. To complete the online registration, parents will navigate to www.desmoineswarriors.org, then “Home”, then “Registration” tabs.
- 9) Fees are required to be paid by October 31st (see below).
- 10) The board reserves the right to screen player applications and determine eligibility.

Team Descriptions/Format

Junior High – The emphasis is to develop basketball skills. Players will get game time where their skill set is best matched (higher skilled players will play in games against higher skilled opponents, lesser skilled players will play in games against lesser skilled opponents). Playing time is not guaranteed in games against other programs. Intrasquad games are also used to provide game-time opportunities for lesser skilled players, and held during home events.

Varsity – This is our highest level of competition, and player eligibility is based on tryouts early in the regular season. Playing time is not guaranteed in games, and will be dependent upon game time situations, player performance and other criteria (see Playing Time in Games below).

Junior varsity – This is our second highest level of competition. We will schedule as many JV games as possible, though there may be limited number of opponents. Like varsity teams, this level also has significant travel involved (see Playing Time in Games below.)

Development (high school boys only) – This is the third tier of teams, currently for high school boys only. This is for players not selected for varsity and JV rosters. The focus is to develop each player’s skill so they can be prepared to play at higher levels. Most games are full regulation intrasquad games played during home events to maximize player court time.

Scouts (Elementary)- This will be a scaled back version of the older teams designed to introduce and develop basketball skills and knowledge to younger players. It will generally consist of one 2-hour event each week that will include a portion for skill building and an inter-squad game with officials and regulation feel. Our goal is to prepare our youngest players with the opportunity to be ready when the time comes to play at a higher level. Players will be given the opportunity to play in the game regardless of their experience or skill level. Season will run approximately 12 weeks. (Nov – Jan). Instruction will be handled by some of our upper-level coaches.

There can be movement between any level, up or down, based upon player development and effort.

Season Format – Practices begin October 20, 2025 and games run through February 24, 2026 for junior high and March 10, 2026 for high school. The number of events per week (practices and games) is targeted at but not limited to three (3).

Mixed Teams

Some homeschool teams, particularly those in rural or sparsely populated areas, have allowed students from very small private schools to participate on their teams. NDIICHA will make no rule against participating teams using such students in their own game schedule. But the use of such students in NDIICHA basketball tournament will be limited to 40% or less of private school students on the team. Further, students from private schools will only be eligible to participate on such teams if their school does not field a basketball team. The NDIICHA board may serve as a board of hearing for exceptions to this by-law from an organization. Those students shall also be held to the same academic and conduct standards of NDIICHA.

Playing Time in Games

Warriors Basketball is a competitive program and equal playing time is not guaranteed. Playing time is determined by the coach. Consideration is given to the following criteria, which are neither exclusive nor listed in order of importance.

- Attendance at practices and games
- Effort and character displayed in practices and games
- Known off court displays of poor Christian character
- Athletic skill and talent
- Commitment to the team
- Attitude

Program Fees

Any family needing financial assistance consideration must contact a board member prior to the registration deadline. Full scholarships are available for single parent families.

Player registration fees*

- Uniform Fee \$75 (one time) – note uniforms, warmups and practice jerseys are owned by the Warriors. This fee DOES NOT apply to Scout team players.
- High School (grades 9-12) \$250.00
- Junior High (grades 7-8) \$150.00
- Scouts (grades 5-6). \$75.00
- Travel to away games - If a player obtains a ride from a coach or administrator, a \$20 fee is required for fuel expense. Fees are to be paid to the driver on or before the day of the ride. Transportation fees unpaid may disqualify a player from future rides.
- Registration fees alone do not cover the expenses incurred by the program. Additional finances are raised through admissions, concessions and fundraisers which are announced midway throughout the year. We rely on volunteers to help with each of these.
- Registration fees are required before a player receives a uniform and plays in a game.
- Registration fees are not refundable after a player has participated in one game.
- Fees are required to be paid by October 31st, Venmo, in person to a board member (not a coach), or by personal check sent by postal mail to the Warriors treasurer.

**When three or more children from the same family are registered at the junior high and/or high school levels, the third and each additional child will receive a \$25 discount (the discount is not applicable to Scout team players, nor do Scout team players count towards the discount threshold).*

Affordability

The Warriors program is non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation and expenses are for uniforms, facilities, equipment, tournament fees, etc. Our registration fees are per player, per season. Our intention is to cover expenses through registration fees, concessions, spectator admissions and special fund raising opportunities. The Warriors' primary fundraising opportunity is our annual free throw event which historically provides a significant portion of the funds necessary to operate the program. Admissions are charged at most home games, and Warrior families can purchase a family season pass at an affordable price.

Charitable Giving

Gift receipts will be provided for any tax deductible gifts of \$250.00 or more.

Family Volunteering

Parents agree to volunteer a minimum of 15 hours per family throughout the season.

1. Sufficient volunteer slots are available and are posted in Signup.com. The slots vary from event to event depending on many factors particular to a given venue, but home games, in particular, almost always involve:
 - Admissions,
 - Concessions
 - Post-game clean-up
 - Live-streaming
 - Scorekeeping
2. In lieu of volunteering hours, parents may earn hour credits through non-traditional means, as follows:
 - Providing concession items as requested in Signup.com. These opportunities will be posted at least one week in advance of home games. In general, the cost of these items will be around \$15 per hour of equivalent service.
 - From time to time, organizational service opportunities arise. These will be communicated via Signup.com and/or TeamSnap. These can range from refurbishment of facilities (painting, repairs, etc.) to special organizational needs to assist the Board, Concessions or Uniform leads.
3. Parents are expected to attend and work at as many games as is necessary to fulfill their time commitment obligations. This may include times when their child is not playing. We will post family progress toward the 15-hour commitment two times during the year – most likely around the Holiday Break in December and again near the end of January.
4. Parents who are unable to commit to meeting volunteer obligations can opt for payment of an annual fee in the amount of \$300.00

Player Volunteering

High school participants will also be expected to each work at minimum 7 hours of either admissions or concessions duty, plus stay after the last game of Warrior home events to assist with cleanup and other service opportunities as available. Cleanup does not count toward volunteer hours minimum. High school student hours do not count toward family work minimum of 15 hours. This requirement will be reported to and monitored by coaches. All players still in the gym for the last game of the home date are expected to remain and help clean up.

Miscellaneous Information

Warriors Basketball is not liable for injuries. Players and their parents are responsible to provide their own health insurance.

All of the above is subject to discretionary Board adjustment as circumstances warrant.