

Cobra Optimists Basketball 2026 Fact Sheet

When Do League Games Start?

- League play begins in January 2026 and continues for 8 weeks. Schedules will not be finalized until 7-10 days before league play starts. It takes considerable time and effort to get this organized. Please be patient.

What Age Groups?

- This league is offered for kids in 3rd through 6th grades.

What Does it Cost?

- Cobra fees for basketball are \$40 for the first kid and \$30 for each additional kid from the same family. There is also a \$23 jersey purchase if a jersey is needed. That is what the jerseys cost us. The jersey is yours to keep. If you played last year and you have a jersey and it still fits, you can use it without purchasing a new jersey. The jerseys are reversible and very good quality. If you are playing on a team with previously selected players and you either have your own jerseys or want to arrange for them separately, you do not need to purchase a jersey. But we will need to confirm this with your coach.
 - *Example 1: A family with two kids participating would pay \$40 for first kid plus \$30 for second kid. If one kid already has a jersey but the second one does not, the total cost is \$40 + \$30 + \$23 = \$93. If both kids needed jerseys cost would be \$40 + \$30 + \$23 + \$23 = \$116.*
 - *Example 2: If 2 kids from same family are playing and coach has arranged to provide separate jerseys, cost is \$40 + \$30 = \$70.*
 - *Example 3: If family has one kid and the kid has a jersey from last year that can be used the cost is just \$40. If jersey is needed, cost is \$40 + \$23 = \$63.*

When Are Fees Due?

- Fees are due at time of registration. We will provide a PayPal option on the website to pay these fees. You can use either a debit or credit card on PayPal -- you DO NOT need a PayPal account. If you cannot do an online registration, please contact the person named on the bottom of this page to make special arrangements. We will not place your child on a team or order a jersey until fees are paid.

What Type of Leagues is This?

- This is a recreational league with emphasis on kids learning and improving in the game of basketball.

Other Important Information...

- Kids that are unattached will be organized by school and grade level. Depending on the number of kids, it is possible some schools will be combined. Grade levels (3rd and 4th, 5th and 6th) may also be combined. Boys and girls team divisions will run separately.
- Exact dates and times are not known yet, though we know league games and some practice slots will run on Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Iowa West Field House. We will also have practice slots available at a few other Council Bluffs schools. Additional details on this have yet to be worked out.
- We have not organized coaches yet. This takes time to finalize. Some coaches and teams may get organized before others. The coaches will be the point of contact with players.
- We have almost always been successful in seeing that kids signed up will play. However, it depends on having enough coaches for the teams. In the unlikely event there are not enough coaches for teams, and we cannot successfully place your child on a team, money paid will be refunded. If you'd like to coach, please contact us.
- If you have questions, contact Mark Brooks at 402-253-4674 or Ryan Smith at 402-598-4582.

ATTENTION: COACHES NEEDED

- **We are looking for volunteers to coach or help coach. Experience is not needed. At this age level, only fundamentals are important.**
- **All Cobra fees (with exception of jersey fees) will be waived for coaches who have children participating. Waived fees for coaches is for head coaches only (one waived coach per team).**
- **Cobra does all the administrative work, provides basketballs and arranges practice times (if needed) and game schedules. Coaches organize and supervise practices and do all needed communications with kids and parents.**
- **If you have an interest in coaching, please contact Mark Brooks at 402-253-4674 or Ryan Smith at 402-598-4582.**