



CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE  
**JUNIOR**  
 basketball league  
 Love the game!



By the Virginia Basketball Academy (VABA) ❖ GRADES 1-2, 3-4 ❖ INAUGURAL SEASON 2011-12

For more info about VABA, the Junior League, Summer Junior Camps or any further questions, visit [www.PlayVABA.org](http://www.PlayVABA.org) or call 434-242-7729.

**LEAGUE MISSION:** The mission of the Junior Basketball League is to provide the highest quality fun, positive learning environment for basketball skill and personal character development. Organized and run by the Virginia Basketball Academy this program is set on VABA's two main goals: SKILL & CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. To this end, the JBL encourages good sportsmanship (founded on VABA's Core values), the proper teaching of basketball fundamentals, and a greater sense of purpose beyond basketball to shape our youth. Ultimately, the JBL aims to "light the fire," inspiring young athletes to fall in love with the great team sport of basketball.



What is VABA? The Virginia Basketball Academy is a locally run, non-profit organization, widely regarded as the foremost name in basketball teaching and character development in Central Virginia.

**SIGN-UP DEADLINE: October 1, 2011**

**COST: \$100.00** (scholarships available – please call to inquire)

**Teams are formed on a first come first served basis. INDIVIDUALS MAY SIGN UP TODAY! There are limited openings for individuals on teams, so please complete a registration form as soon as possible (go to website, [www.PlayVABA.org](http://www.PlayVABA.org))**

**League Structure:** This is a recreational basketball league. However, beyond just "participating" or "playing the game," the JBL provides an environment where devoted, professionally trained coaches and young athletes can sincerely focus on developing fundamental skills. Ultimately, VABA's goal is to strive toward maximizing participants potential on and off the court while developing a love for the great team sport of basketball.

There are two "divisions" within the JBL: grades 1-2, 3-4. Teams are formed based on the public school district where athletes attend school. All teams, comprised of 10 players each, taken on a first come first serve basis, are divided based on the public middle schools where they would be districted to attend (also applies to private and home-schooled students). The JBL ("Junior League") is not run directly by the schools, or the middle schools, or their athletic directors and coaches. Games and practices take place at local elementary and middle schools.

**Two (2) Divisions: Grades 1 – 2 & 3 – 4 ❖ Four (4) teams per school/mascot per division**

**TEAMS**

**BEARS (Burley MS):** Agnor-Hurt, Cale, Stone-Robinson, Stony Point

**FLUCOS (Fluvanna MS):** Central, Columbia, Cunningham

**HORNETS (Henley MS):** Crozet, Brownsville, Meriwether Lewis, Murray

**JAGUARS (Jouett MS):** Agnor-Hurt, Baker-Butler, Broadus Wood, Greer, Woodbrook

**LIONS (Louisa MS):** Jouett, Moss-Nuckols, Thomas Jefferson, Trevilians

**SHARKS (Sutherland MS):** Agnor-Hurt, Baker-Butler, Hollymead, Stony Point

**WILDCATS (Walton MS):** Cale, Red Hill, Scottsville, Stone-Robinson, Yancey

**WOLVERINES (Walker MS):** Burnley-Moran, Clark, Greenbrier, Jackson Via, Johnson, Venable

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## “Junior League” Offerings

- ❖ **Trained Coaches/”Coaches Clinics:”** All JBL Head Coaches are professionally trained, through a series of “Coaches’ Clinics,” on a specific basketball curriculum of Coaching Ethics, Defensive & Offensive play. All coaches are volunteers. Team Managers and coaches are typically parents of participants. Parents assist with the running of game operations and serve to help support the league mission. There is no charge for JBL coaches to attend these clinics.
- ❖ **“Team Clinics:”** All participants are expected to attend ONE Team/Player Clinic (this is where the learning begins!!). Executive Director, Ben D’Alessandro (former Division I college coach), and JBL Director, Jeff House (former college and present WNBA coach) conduct these teaching sessions. This is the first time JBL Head coaches get a chance to meet and work with their teams. At Team Clinics JBL coaches are taught to employ the skills learned in the Coaches Clinics. Team Clinics cover the fundamentals of proper man-to-man defensive play, and the individual and team skills, concepts and schemes of proper offensive play. All clinics are included in the price of the league.
- ❖ **Full-time League Director:** The Virginia Basketball Academy provides a full-time league director who is entrusted with running the league. The full-time JBL Director is Jeff House, former UVA Women’s Assistant and present WNBA coach.
- ❖ **Mesh Jerseys, Shorts, Shooting Shirt:** All young athletes are outfitted in a reversible mesh jersey (shorts optional, additional \$20), and shooting shirt.
- ❖ **Practice & Game schedule:** All teams practice once-a-week (on weekdays) with games on weekends (Saturdays).
- ❖ **League Rules:** In the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Division, the rims are start at 8’ and there is no score kept for games. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade Division, the rims start at 9’ and the score is kept. All Junior League divisions required equal playing time for all participants.
- ❖ **“Grass-Roots” Partnership:** While the JBL is organized and run by VABA staff, parent volunteers partner with the league, assisting with communication and carrying out some game-day operations. Parents may have a direct hand in the league’s rules and policies, as VABA’s goal is to provide the best possible basketball opportunity for the community.
- ❖ **Full & Partial Scholarships!!** **\*\*Cost should NOT PREVENT any young athlete from trying-out/signing-up!!\*\***  
In order to provide the highest quality organization & league, it requires significant costs – listed above. The JUNIOR LEAGUE is a program of the *Virginia Basketball Academy a non-profit organization*, whose mission is to “build character and shape lives through the game of basketball”- ensuring opportunities to all potential participants is *critical* to its purpose and success. **APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TODAY!** Go to [www.PlayVABA.org](http://www.PlayVABA.org); call 434-242-7729.

## Season Info – CAMPS, CLINICS, PRACTICES, and GAMES

**SUMMER CAMP: “Junior Camp”** (not required or part of the JBL) is held July 11 – 14 (Cost: \$95).

Visit website to sign up today!!

**COACHES CLINICS:** All JBL head coaches should contact VABA immediately if interested in coaching!

All JBL head coaches are required to attend “Coaches Clinics” – in late-October and early-November. All clinics will be run by league director, Jeff House, former UVA Women’s Assistant and WNBA coach.

**TEAM CLINICS/FUNDRAISER:** Team Clinics take place on one weekend in early November.

League-wide fund-raiser may be done in conjunction with these clinic dates.

**SEASON LENGTH: 12 weeks (10+ games)**      **FIRST PRACTICE: Third week of November**

Practices will be held on weekdays, usually @ the area elementary school (no practice on day before Thanksgiving or the week of Christmas & New Year’s).

**FIRST GAME: Saturday, December 3** (games take place at local elementary schools)

**LAST REGULAR SEASON GAME: Weekend of February 18-19**

All games take place on Saturday morning/afternoons.

**Single-elimination tournament: TBD**

