



## FAQ's

### What is the WI Interscholastic Cycling League?

The non-profit [Wisconsin Interscholastic Cycling League](#) (501(c)3), a Chapter League of [NICA](#) (National Interscholastic Cycling Association) has been part of the national movement of NICA since 2014. Using mountain biking as a youth development tool, more than 1000 highly trained volunteer coaches deliver programs designed to build strong minds, bodies, character and community through cycling to nearly 2000 middle and high school student-athletes, on more than 90 teams around the state.

Using methods based on our FIERC values of Fun, Inclusivity, Equity, Respect and Community, student-athletes learn bike handling skills and trail etiquette while creating a positive, accepting team culture in the outdoors where every athlete participates to the best of his/her/their ability. There are no bench players in mountain biking!

Mountain bike races provide healthy competition and a weekend of camaraderie at venues all over Wisconsin. Adventure programming provides group riding opportunities without the pressure of the race clock. GRiT, Girls Riding Together, encourages female athletes and coaches to get involved. Teen Trail Corps teaches land and resource stewardship when student-athletes and coaches help assist with trail maintenance.

We are rapidly growing as more students discover this fun, inclusive, challenging, and healthy sport where every youth is empowered to be part of a thriving and engaged cycling community.

### How do I find my team?

In general, student-athletes are rostered to the team based on where they attend, or will attend, high school. Some teams are school-based and some are composite teams of several area schools. Use our [interactive map](#) to find the team near you. Click your community on the map and contact information for your team will pop up. Reach out to the Team Director to get all the info.

### When and where does my team practice?

The WI League season is from July through October. The practice schedule is team-based so check with your Head Coach and Team Director for these details.

### What is an WI League MTB Festival or Event Weekend?

WI League MTB FESTIVALS are incredible weekend experiences full of fun! The MTB Festival Guide will be published in June but here is a sneak peak.

Full Festival Weekends include racing and begin Labor Day weekend and run through October. Events in July and August highlight non-race programming like GRiT, Teen Trail Corps and Adventure but do not include racing.

Camping will open on Friday evenings. Activities will begin on Saturday morning and last all day, giving everyone plenty of opportunity to Adventure Ride, Course Pre-Ride and enjoy all the other fun before the sun goes down. Sunday, starting Labor Day weekend, will be full of racing fun for competitors and spectators alike.

### ADVENTURE →

Pre-planned routes/excursions for riders & families seeking thrilling mountain biking adventures beyond the race course and a new on-site skills course with new features to play on and hone your skills. Adventure Rides will be scheduled when trails other than the race course are available onsite.

### COURSE PRE-RIDES →

Exclusive opportunities for participants to pre-ride the race course, gaining insights into the terrain before the adrenaline-pumping race day.

### RACING →

Heart-pounding mountain bike races for spectators, teammates and competitive riders.

### GRiT →

Girls Riding Together: Group Ride and other bike related activities building camaraderie and empowerment amongst girls.

### TEEN TRAIL CORPS (TTC)→

Activities to engage athletes & families surrounding trail maintenance and conservation efforts, fostering a sense of responsibility and environmental stewardship.

### CULINARY DELIGHTS →

A variety of food truck offerings for a wide array of delicious options.

### FESTIVAL FUN →

A lively atmosphere with sponsors, vendors and new merchandise to add to the excitement!

## What is the cost to join the WI League?

### BASIC REGISTRATION \$130

Required for all student-athletes and begins April 1.

After receiving your invite from your coach, login to Pitzone, complete your forms and pay your NICA (\$50), [NICA Tech Fee \(\\$5\)](#) and WI League (\$75) fees for a total of \$130. Then you are practice ready and can enjoy all the activities and camaraderie of your local team! Riding starts July 1. Check with your team for specific registration deadlines.

### FESTIVAL/EVENT PASSES

Student-athletes attending any part of an MTB Festival Weekend, must purchase a pass. All activities are included and you can choose how you want to spend your time each weekend.

#### Option 1:

#### **\$300 Season Pass - BEST VALUE. Final Deadline August 12 at 11:59pm**

Register by July 15 for 7 Festivals/Events (\$43/weekend)

Register by August 12 for 6 Festivals/Events (\$50/weekend)

***IMPORTANT: To receive the Season Pass discount when registering in Pitzone, select ALL Festivals and Events available to you, which will be 6 or 7, depending on the date you register. Select ALL 6-7 weekends available, even if you are not planning to attend some of them. The discount will only be applied after putting ALL weekends in your cart. The Season Pass discount expires at 11:59pm on Tuesday, August 12. Starting August 13 only the \$75/Selective Pass will be available.***

## Option 2:

### **\$75 Selective Pass**

Register for each Festival/Event individually now or by 11:59pm on the Tuesday before each Weekend. This option is best for those attending 3 or fewer weekends.

**IMPORTANT: ONSITE FESTIVAL/EVENT REGISTRATION IS NOT AVAILABLE. STUDENT-ATHLETES MUST BE REGISTERED IN ADVANCE TO ATTEND ANY PART OF A FESTIVAL or EVENT WEEKEND. Upon successful registration you will receive an email confirmation. If you do not receive this confirmation, registration did not go through correctly. Please try again or contact the League Help Desk for assistance.**

*Passes include race registration, when applicable, but racing remains optional. The Season pass only includes the half-league race to which an athlete is assigned, either Lowes Creek or Minooka, but not both. Refunds only for doctor verified injury preventing participation. Festival passes do not include team based fees or camping.*

## Do I have to do everything at a Festival, even race?

MTB Festival Weekends are challenge-by-choice events. When purchasing a pass, you are automatically signed up for all parts of the festival but can choose which activities you want to experience. All athletes will have a spot in race staging but if you choose not to race, we will simply call up the next rider. No pressure but everyone is welcome! If you have never raced before, consider giving it a try.

## Do I have to pay the WI League/NICA registration for my child to participate with a local team?

Yes. Local teams operate under the jurisdiction of NICA and WI League and get their insurance, etc., from being part of the state and national organization. Athletes on local teams must be fully current with all state and national league registrations (i.e. 'Practice Ready' in the NICA PitZone) in order to participate.

## Does my WI League registration cover local team fees/dues?

No, team fees/dues are separate from your WI League/NICA registration and are set at the discretion of your local team. Team fees typically cover administrative costs for the team, team gear, team kit (uniform), etc. Your team will communicate its costs to you directly.

## Is there a way for my child to try this out before committing?

Yes. Many local teams offer pre-season "Try-it-out" events for prospective athletes and future coaches. Also, at the local team's discretion, athletes may also be able to participate in one actual team practice. Either option requires a parent or guardian to sign an insurance waiver. Due to the requirements of our national insurance plan, this waiver can only be used on one occasion. To continue after that, the student must have their registration current.

## If my child decides this is not for them, are there refunds?

Our experience is that students love being part of the WI League on a variety of levels and we have a very low attrition rate.

Student-athletes can select the way they wish to participate. Some are all about the competition and love racing. Others enjoy time maintaining trails and attending practice with friends. Everyone participates to their level of interest and ability. If you are unsure about registering, please first take advantage of a Try-It-Out with a team in your area before registering because only for doctor-verified, season-ending injury or illness will a 50% refund be considered.

## Is financial assistance available?

Finances should not be a barrier to joining our community. Our financial assistance process is simple and confidential. Applications are available on our website.

## What does it cost to run the WI League?

The WI League costs about \$650,000 to operate each season. What does that include??

- Programming for GRiT, Adventure and Teen Trail Corps along with Coach Training and our new Try-it-Out program cost about \$80,000.
- Operational expenses like insurance, Pitzone credit card processing fees, various business related subscription services and storage are nearly \$65,000.
- Even with generous in-kind support from our sponsors, our Festival Weekends have a total price tag of \$250,000 which includes venue rental, core staff stipends, timing services, emergency services, sanitation services, radio communication services, bike plates/back tags, awards, generator fuel, signage and much more.
- Add in \$20,000 for special events and \$20,000 for scholarships.
- Finally, consider the salary, payroll taxes & benefits for staff and you can see that running the WI League has significant costs, even though we are a non-profit organization and work very hard to keep our expenses as low as possible.

Fees paid to the League are anticipated to generate about \$575,000 of revenue, which does not quite cover our expenses. The rest of the expenses are covered by fundraising, donations and sponsorships. This new structure will allow for the WI League to continue on a financially viable path and continue for years to come.

Learn more at the WI League at [wisconsinmtb.org](http://wisconsinmtb.org) or submit an inquiry to the

[WI League Help Desk](#)