



BLAZING THE WAY WITH - BURNSVILLE GIRLS TRVAELING BASKETBALL QUESTIONS TO ASK! ANSWERS TO KNOW!

What is “traveling” basketball?

Traveling basketball is offered for those individuals who are interested in competing at a higher level. It requires a greater commitment - each participant is expected to attend all practices and weekend tournaments. Teams will typically have two practices per week, and play in 27 or more games during the season. Traveling means our teams play in weekend tournaments throughout the Twin Cities metro area. Traveling also means a more competitive level of play, as compared to recreational (In-House) league basketball. Traveling basketball is offered to girls in grades 4 through 8. Our program will bring more focus on competition and developing skills. Traveling teams are formed of our best players to compete with the best players from other communities in the metro area.

When does the season start and end?

The season starts the end of September, with tryouts. First practices typically start the week after MEA. First tournament is in early November. The season ends with a state tournament in early March.

What is meant by “tournaments”?

Tournaments are played on the weekends, typically Saturday and Sunday. Occasionally a tournament may include a Friday night game. Generally, each tournament consists of three or more games; each tournament normally guarantees a 3 game minimum. There are no weekday league games.

How many tournaments are played in one season and where are they normally played?

A total of nine (9) tournaments are played. These tournaments include our own Burnsville Girls Traveling Basketball tournament (December) and a state tournament (March). Some teams may choose to play in additional tournaments but the costs for any additional tournaments are paid for by the individual team members and are not included in our program’s registration fees.

Nearly all tournaments are located in the southwest metro and do not require overnight stays. Some examples of tournaments: Lakeville, Prior Lake, Farmington, Edina, Wayzata, New Prague, Brooklyn Park.

5th-8th grades normally plan one traveling tournament with a hotel stay. (This is the highlight of the season for many girls!)

Is there a schedule set beforehand for tournament dates or for games?

Yes. There are two schedules: 1) Season Schedule: The season schedule lists all of the tournaments our teams will be playing in during the season, with dates and locations. 2) Tournament Games Schedule: The tournament games schedule, listing the upcoming weekend’s game times for each team becomes available 7 to 10 days before each tournament.

What times are the games played? How long is each game?

Games are played at various times throughout the weekend, days and evenings, with morning games typically starting at 8:00 a.m. and some afternoon games may end around 9:30 pm. There are some one day tournaments that would mean you could play 3 games on one day and not play on the other weekend day. In many cases, the win/lose outcome of one game determines the time the next game is played, and so forth. Each game lasts about one hour.

You usually will play morning games or afternoon games on Saturday or Sunday but they typically are not all day on each day.

A tournament game schedule may look like this.

Saturday: 1st Game 8:00am, 2nd game 11:30am. Done for the day or maybe one more game

Sunday: 1st game 8:00am, this could be your only game that day or maybe one more.

How many practices are held each week, and on which days?

Two (2) practices are held each week, on any two (2) of the following evenings: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and/or Friday. Practices are not scheduled on Wednesday nights and we try to limit the Friday practices as much as we can. Players are expected to attend all practices during the season. We feel that when it is basketball season basketball comes first over other out of season sports. Practices are held in all of the schools in District #191. All teams practice at different schools each week.

How long are practices?

Practices are usually 1 1/2 to 2 hours in length.

Is there a monthly practice schedule?

Yes, a monthly practice schedule for all teams is posted on our web site 10-14 days prior to the upcoming month, for the months of November through the first week in March. The October practice schedule is posted after the teams are formed.

What is the schedule during holidays and school breaks?

Tournaments and practices are normally not scheduled during Thanksgiving weekend or during the winter break for School District #191.

Who runs the Burnsville Girls Traveling Basketball Program?

All aspects of our program are managed, executed, and sustained entirely by volunteers. Our volunteers include a board of directors, coaches, coordinators and committee members.

Do parents work at the Burnsville Girls Traveling Basketball Tournament?

Yes. All parents are required to work at our annual tournament. Each parent is required to work a minimum of four hours during the weekend. Our annual tournament is currently held in mid-December. This is our major fundraiser for the season. Funds earned go toward maintaining reasonable registration fees, purchasing needed equipment and providing our players and coaches with professional skills development training.

Are there tryouts?

Yes and they are mandatory. Tryouts are held in late September. Independent evaluators use a standard set of criteria to measure each player's skill set. See our Team Formation Policy on our website.

What is included for the cost of the season registration?

The following is included in the season registration cost:

- A total of nine (9) tournaments are played. Twenty-seven or more games are played during the season.
- All scheduled practices. Court times are rented by the hour, through District #191.
- Uniforms, which include one reversible home/away jersey and one pair of shorts. Uniforms must be returned at the end of the season.
- Practice jerseys, to be returned at the end of the season.
- One ladies size basketball, which must be returned at the end of the season.
- BAC Night during Burnsville Girls Varsity Basketball game. Organized by the high school booster club
- Year-end banquet

Are there other out-of-pocket costs?

Yes. Each player is required to wear basketball court shoes, and bring their own water bottles to all practices and games. Other optional out-of-pocket costs may include purchasing player apparel with logo and player number, (e.g. sweatshirts, pants, t-shirts, and related clothing items), buying concession items at tournaments, and contributing to volunteer coaches' appreciation gifts, at the end of the season. Admission to tournaments: The average amount each day for adults is \$6. Children, (and sometimes seniors), are admitted for less, \$4-5 on average. Girls playing in the tournaments are admitted without charge.

All girls must participate in a fundraising event. Normally there is an opportunity for families to pay an opt-out fee if they do not want to participate. Information will be given at the parent meeting prior to the season starting.

Are there guidelines or policies about the amount of playing time each athlete receives during games?

Yes. Performance is used to determine playing time, which is earned by four main criteria:

- 1) Attendance
- 2.) Effort and focus
- 3.) Positive attitude and attentiveness to coaches
- 4.) Execution of individual and teamwork skills

If these four criteria are met by a player, then that player should receive at least 50% of playing time during the course of the first three quarters of each game. The last quarter, (officially the 4th quarter or the final portion of the 2nd half – typically seven minutes of game time), is left to the discretion of the coaches. There are potentially some scenarios where some teams might change from this, but those are communicated before the season to all parents and players with the knowledge/agreement from the GTBB board.

How are coaches determined?

The success of our program depends on committed volunteers who want to see kids develop and have fun. Our coaches typically have coaching experience and will have the opportunity to attend a coaching clinic to enhance their skills and knowledge. Head coach candidates will be asked to complete a Coach Application, and participate in an interview conducted by the High School Coach. Interviews will be completed prior to tryouts. Selection Criteria includes at a minimum the following items:

- Previous youth coaching experience, including feedback from prior seasons.
- Knowledge of the game of basketball.
- Ability to teach players of all skill levels.
- Attendance and active participation in coaching and player clinics.
- The ability to represent Burnsville GTBB with the utmost respect and sportsmanship.
- The ability to provide positive reinforcement to players in both practices and game situations.
- Commitment to Burnsville GTBB program values and objectives.

How is the state tournament organized?

The state tournament our teams participate in is organized by Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS). In order for the state tournament to be competitive and fair for all teams, the teams in all of the various traveling programs are compared by their season win/loss records by grade. There are multiple divisions to help level the playing field for teams. Coaches attend seeding meetings in late January or very early in February, and work very hard to represent their respective teams, in order to place their teams in the correct division.

What are Parent Expectations?

- 1) Enjoy watching your daughter have fun playing basketball. Basketball teaches teamwork, time management, the thrill of victory & pain of defeat plus so much more. Use the experiences as a means to equip with life lessons they will need as an adult.
- 2) Have your daughter to practice and games on time.
- 3) Encourage and support at all times. This is your daughter's basketball career, not yours.
- 4) Be an example of good sportsmanship. Referees, coaches, opponents and players do make mistakes. You make mistakes too. No one is perfect.
- 5) Your daughter has a coach. Keep sideline coaching insights to a minimum.