

MEDWAY AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM

Evaluation Process and Player Expectations

1. General Information

The Medway Amateur Basketball Association (MABA) offers a travel basketball program for boys and girls in grades 4 through 8. The Travel Program is a competitive-based basketball program which operates in accordance with the general principles outlined in a Travel Mission Statement adopted by the MABA Board of Directors in 2005. A copy of the Mission Statement is available on the MABA website at www.medwaybasketball.com.

All participants in the Travel Program (i.e., players, coaches, and parents) must: (i) register as a member of MABA; and (ii) agree to comply with the MABA Code of Conduct. Links to the electronic registration process and the Code of Conduct are available on the MABA website.

The Travel Program participates as a member the Metrowest Basketball League. Information regarding the Metrowest Basketball League can be found at www.metrowestbasketball.com.

The Travel Program is administered by a subcommittee ("the Travel Subcommittee") of the Board of Directors. The Travel Subcommittee is appointed by the Board prior to the start of each basketball season. Among other things, the Travel Subcommittee is responsible for developing and implementing: the player evaluation process; the coach selection process; coaching clinics and skills development programs; practice and game schedules; pre-season kick-off tournaments; and post-season playoffs. All travel-related policies, programs, rosters, teams, coaches and activities are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

2. Number of Travel Teams and Roster Composition/Sizes

Factors which can influence the number of teams and the size/composition of player rosters include but are not limited to:

- The number of candidates within a particular grade/gender;
- The degree of age-appropriate basketball skills deemed necessary to compete against comparably-skilled teams from other towns participating in the Metrowest Basketball League (a.k.a. travel-ready)
- The availability of team slots within a particular division of comparably-skilled teams of the Metrowest Basketball League.
- The availability of court time within the Town of Medway for travel team practices and games;

Under typical circumstances, the MABA Travel Program is limited to fielding only two (2) teams per gender per grade. Consistent with the Travel Mission Statement, team composition is typically as follows:

- Grades 4 and 5: Equally-skilled teams (i.e., "Blue" and "White") of up to 12 travel-ready players
- Grades 6 through 8: Competitively-ranked teams (i.e., "A" and "B") of up to 11 travel-ready players with consideration of divisional placement.

Actual final roster size/team composition is at the discretion and vote of the Board of Directors and may deviate from above stated guidelines.

PARTICIPATION IN THE EVALUATION PROCESS OR PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION IN THE TRAVEL PROGRAM DOES NOT GUARANTEE PLACEMENT ON A TRAVEL TEAM FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON. Before making a decision to participate in the evaluation process, all parents and players are urged to consider the fact that due to team number/size limitations and developmental differences among players: (i) not all candidates will be placed on a travel team; and (ii) some returning players may be cut, or may not be placed on the same team as the previous year.

3. The Evaluation Process

Participation in the Travel Program is based on the results of an evaluation process that is established by the Travel Subcommittee and approved by the Board of Directors. The evaluation process is designed to provide a full, fair, impartial and confidential evaluation of all candidates. To that end:

- Coaches for the upcoming season are not selected until the final team composition/size/number is voted on and approved by the Board of Directors.
- Each evaluation consists of a 2-night process which follows a pre-established agenda. The agenda is designed by the Travel Subcommittee and approved by the Board. The agenda is designed to provide an age-appropriate review of critical athletic skills and physical attributes that are deemed necessary to play basketball at a level that is comparable to the other teams/towns in the Metrowest Basketball League
- Each candidate is assigned a numbered uniform to wear at both evaluation sessions. The evaluation of a candidate, and any discussions about a particular candidate, is based on the child's uniform number and not their name.
- Each evaluation session is conducted by a group comprised of the following:
 - A Tryout Leader whose sole responsibility is to run the on-court drills.
 - The head coaches of the previous year's travel teams (or in the case of 4th grade candidates, the prior year's Intramural Lead Coaches). These individuals are relied upon to provide important feedback based on previous season performance and their observations of the current evaluation sessions; the head coaches do not, however, participate in the final selection of teams.
 - An Evaluation Team of three individuals (typically, experienced MABA Travel Program or Intramural Program coaches) who have been selected by the Board of Directors on the basis of their previously-demonstrated basketball acumen.
 - No member of the Evaluation Team may have a son/daughter or other relative in the field of candidates that they are being asked to evaluate.
 - Each Evaluation Team includes a current or past Board member who is responsible for ensuring that the evaluation process is conducted in accordance with all Board directives.
- At the conclusion of the evaluation sessions, the Evaluation Team develops a confidential rank listing of candidates under consideration. In developing the rank listing, the Evaluation Team considers their own observations; input from the head coaches participating in the current evaluation; and, as necessary/available, written player evaluations from the previous season.
- The rank listing developed by the Evaluation Team is then used by the Travel Subcommittee to produce a final recommendation to the Board of Directors with respect to the composition and size of each team.
- The full Board of Directors meets to discuss and vote on the recommendations of the Travel Subcommittee. The actual number of teams which are fielded, and the size/composition of the official team rosters, is at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.

4. Evaluation Location and Schedule

All evaluations are held at the Medway Middle School according to the updated schedule posted on the MABA website at www.medwaybasketball.com.

5. Attendance at Evaluations / Player Injury

All candidates are expected to attend both scheduled evaluation sessions for their grade/gender. While attendance at one or both sessions is not mandatory, one or more absences may lessen a candidate's chance of being placed on a travel team. Player evaluation rankings are primarily based on on-court player performance during the 2-day tryout events.

If a candidate is unable to attend one or both nights of a scheduled evaluation session due to an injury, an illness or other legitimate circumstance, the parent or guardian **MUST NOTIFY A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ADVANCE PRIOR TO THE START OF THE EVALUATION SESSION.**

If a candidate is unable to participate in evaluations due to a previous injury or other circumstance, the candidate must still complete the registration process to be considered on the basis of past playing history. Such injured candidates may be placed on a team by vote of the Board of Directors based on prior year rankings, input from coaches and specific circumstance on a case by case basis.

6. Notification of Evaluation Results

The results of the evaluations will be announced electronically by e-mail.

Fee checks paid at the time of the evaluation will be returned by U.S. Mail to all candidates who are not placed on a travel team.

7. Travel Player Expectations

Players (and their parents) selected for participation in the Travel Program should understand that they have been granted a roster spot on the basis of a competitive tryout, thereby taking a position that another child may have wanted. As such, all Travel Program players are expected to make basketball their #1 athletic priority between the first day of practice and the last day of the playoffs. All players are expected to make a full commitment to be present at, and physically/mentally prepared for, all practices, games, tournaments and other events.

The Travel Program requires a significant commitment and investment of time and energy by both the players and their parents. Pre-season team practices begin in late-October and the post-season playoffs do not conclude until mid-March. Each travel team practices approximately 2 times per week for 90-120 minutes per practice during the regular season, with additional weekend pre-season practices during November. Workday practice times are generally between 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM. Games are generally played on Sundays between 10AM and 7:00 PM. Many travel teams, at the discretion of the head coach and with the approval of the parents and Board, participate in additional tournaments throughout the season.

Basketball is a team game and success/fun on the court relies on a commitment to work hard and attend all practices and games. All players should be in attendance at all practices unless the player is sick, or has school/religious/family obligations. Unexcused absences from practices/games, and/or the failure to abide with the expectations and behavioral guidelines in the MABA Code of Conduct, may result in loss of playing time and/or removal from a Travel Team.

All Travel Program players are strongly urged to participate in the MABA Intramural Program on Saturdays as a way to gain additional practice time while enjoying the benefits of social interaction with classmates and friends who do not participate in the Travel Program.

8. Information Updates and Contact Information

The MABA website at www.medwaybasketball.com and the MABA e-mail distribution list are the primary means of communication for all MABA-related programs, information, schedules, updates and changes. Parents and players are responsible for monitoring the website for updated information and advising MABA of any e-mail address changes.

The names, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, and subcommittee assignments for each member of the Board of Directors are posted on the MABA website. We welcome your feedback, questions and comments.