**Travel Basketball General Information**

Updated for 09/10/22

**General/Objective**

An inter-town traveling basketball program is offered for children in grades 3-8 (boys) and in grades 4-8 (girls). All children must try out to earn a position on the team in the appropriate age group. Teams will travel throughout north Jersey representing Randolph Township, to compete against other town programs. The official website for the Randolph Rec/Travel Basketball program is www.randolphhoops.org.

The objective of the Travel Basketball program is similar to the Recreation program; to create a fun-learning environment for the players to develop their basketball skills, not only from an individual basis but a team basis as well. However, it should be noted that the commitment level is significant in order for the team to be competitive. While winning is not the sole judge of team success, it is a factor, especially at the older age group. Another objective is to improve the players’ individual skills such that, if they so desire, they have an opportunity to make and play at the high school level.

**Eligibility/Tryouts**

To be eligible for the Randolph Travel Basketball Program, the player must be a Randolph resident and be in grades 3-8 (boys) and grades 4-8 (girls). Note it is not a requirement that the player attend a Randolph School. Those who are selected and commit to the Travel Program cannot play in the Rec Program with the lone exception being 3rd graders who will play in both.

All players MUST attend at least one tryout session although it is highly encouraged that players attend both tryout sessions. Only those players who have registered in advance (and paid the appropriate recreational fees) via the Rec Dept or online registration portal will be allowed to tryout. NO EXCEPTIONS. Tryout dates for each winter season can be found on the website and usually take place in early October. Each player will be given a tryout number and that number will be the same for both tryout sessions. If a child cannot attend one or both tryout dates an email must be sent to the Travel Director in advance.

Note: Should any grade level have more than 30 candidates at tryouts, the Basketball Committee reserves the right, at its discretion, to make select cuts after the first tryout date so that the raters are able to focus their attention on those players that they feel have to best opportunity to make a team(s).

No parents, including parent coaches, are permitted in the gym at the tryouts. The Basketball Committee will use 2 to 3 experienced basketball evaluators in determining whether a player makes a travel team.

**Teams**

The goal is to have two travel teams consisting of approximately 10 players at each grade level. If tryout numbers are light in a particular grade one team would be formed consisting of 10-12 players. Grades 4-8 will split their teams into two distinct teams based on ability; Blue team (highly competitive) and White team (competitive). Boys grade 3 may have two evenly split teams or simply one team (TBD)

**Team Selection/Start Dates**

Players should visit the Basketball website the Friday after the last tryout date to see if their number has been selected. If selected the player must confirm their acceptance in writing within two days via email to the contact listed for each respective grade. The website can be found at www.randolphhoops.org.

**Official Start Dates and Season Info**

The Travel Basketball Program begins on/about Nov 1. Those players selected will practice together by grade for the first few sessions or until which time that the Basketball Committee (grades 3-6) or paid coaches (grades 7-8) can properly evaluate and split the players into two distinct teams. The Committee reserves the right to assign the Blue Team coach to make these splits if it should so desire. Those players ranked in the top 25% of the ratings MUST be assigned to the Blue team. Likewise, those players who ranked in the bottom 25% of the ratings MUST be assigned to the White Team. Any deviation from these rules would require the approval of the Basketball Chair and Vice-Chair.

Under normal circumstances, during the month of November, you can expect to practice 4-5 days per week (depending upon grade level) to prepare for games that begin in early December. Practices could be both midweek and weekends including Sundays. The practices may not be the same time/location each week. The gym scheduler does his/her best to provide each coach with the schedule 3-4 weeks in advance.

**Practice Times**

Practices times/duration/location will be communicated in advance and range from 60-90 minutes mostly at RMS, but sometimes at RHS or one of the elementary schools. The younger grades will typically get the earlier time slots. For example (mid week) 6:00-7:30PM while the older grades might go 7:30-9:00PM. Once the rec season begins and gym space becomes tight the schedule may be adjusted to where the time slots reach 10PM. Saturday/Sunday practice could begin as early as 8AM and end at the latest by 5pm.

**Leagues/Tournaments**

Each team will play a 16 game regular season schedule plus playoffs (8 for 3rd grade if available) in the Jersey Basketball League (JBL) or other similar league. The teams will be placed appropriately into a gold, silver or bronze division based on ability in order to offer a challenging environment. Games will be both midweek/weekend with half being home (RMS) and the other half on the road. The coaches and the Basketball Committee will make the final decisions on leagues by the end of October. Note: some games will require a bit of travel. It is not uncommon to travel to Sparta, Long Valley, Scotch Plains, Bridgewater etc…Just depends on the age level, league, and availability of teams.

**Costs**

Each player pays an initial recreation fee to register for travel basketball (depends on the level but approximately $100-$140). If accepted to a travel team, an additional travel fee will apply usually in the range between $215-$240. If your team has a “paid” coach (7th and 8th grade levels), an additional coaches fee will be assessed and could range from $150-$300. Finally, a uniform fee consisting of a jersey, shorts and a shooting shirt is required and those costs are paid directly to the vendor (approximately $120.)

**Coaches**

Parent volunteers will coach at the 3rd/4th/5th/6th grade levels; one “head” coach and one “assistant” coach per team. To get the players ready for high school, paid coaches, if available (no child on team) will coach the 7th/8th grade levels, both Blue and White teams. Note the Basketball Committee reserves the right to change said format based on availability of coaches and or budget constraints. Interviews for coaches will be conducted in October. Those interested should reach out in writing to any Basketball Committee Member. The selection process will consider a number of factors including those who, the Committee believes, embody the principles put forth by the Positive Coaching Alliance. We encourage you to visit www.positivecoach.org

**“Playing Up”**

Players who are currently in 4th grade and up, in select cases may be permitted to play up one travel division, based upon ability and approval of the Basketball Committee. Players may not play up more than one level. Note: Boys in grades 2 and lower are not eligible to tryout for a boy’s 3rd grade travel team. For complete Playing Up rules, please refer to the document at www.randolphhoops.org. Requests to participate in a higher division must be submitted in writing to the Basketball Committee Chairman by October 1.

**Continue on page 4 to see commitment requirement**

**Commitment**

Successful candidates for the Traveling Teams should be aware of the major commitment level expected and that participation in other activities (e.g. ski club), while allowed, will likely be in direct conflict with Travel Basketball and impact a child’s playing time.

The season begins Nov 1 and runs through the end of February. Those who advance deep into the playoffs could play until mid March. It is not uncommon to be in a gym 60 days (depending upon level) during the 4-month season or on average every other day. The availability of gyms, quality coaches and committed players/parents allows the Randolph Basketball Program to be one of the most competitive basketball programs in all of Morris County.

Unfortunately this comes with some sacrifice. If you are selected to a travel basketball team, it is expected that basketball and your travel team will be your first priority in terms of sports during the winter. Missing practices/games for another team or sport is not acceptable. If you cannot make a “full” commitment then travel basketball may not be for you. Feel free to reach out to any Basketball Committee Member if you have questions or concerns about the commitment level.

Note if you are selected to a Travel Basketball team and playing a fall sport, it is acceptable and expected that you will finish out your fall season before being able to honor your basketball commitments.

I have read the Travel Basketball General Information

 (print name)

document for 2022/2023 above and fully understand the commitment involved.

Signature

Date

Grade child is in

This signed document must be turned in at the registration table when you child signs in the first night of tryouts.