**Randolph Travel Basketball “Playing Up” Policy**

*Revised 09/10/22*

To be eligible to tryout for the Boys/Girls Travel Basketball Program a child must reside in Randolph and be in grades 3-8 (boys) and grades 4-8 (girls). Travel Basketball is “grade-based” and not “age-based”.

**2nd Grade Boys**

Are not eligible to “play up” in 3rd grade travel EXCEPT if:

1) There are not enough 3rd graders to field a team. In such a case, a special tryout for all interested 2nd graders would take place.

or

2) The Committee cannot find a parent coach within the 3rd grade candidates and elects to select a qualified 2nd grade parent.

These are the only two exceptions regardless of a player’s birthdate. Being old for one’s grade (e.g. “red shirting”) is irrelevant as it relates to a 2nd grader.

**3rd Graders**

Are not eligible to “play up” to 4th grade travel. This allows a 3rd grader to spend at least one year with his 3rd grade class which will come in handy in later years and also helps the Basketball Committee better understand the player’s overall ability relative to his peers.

There two exceptions to this rule. 1) if a child is old for his grade and would age out of a Travel League (e.g. JBL) for 3rd grade based on his birthdate and league rules and 2) Since the girls do not have a 3rd grade team, a 3rd grade girl could be brought up to 4th grade if the 4th grade is short on numbers to field a team. In such a case, a special tryout for all interested 3rd grade girls would take place.

**4th-7th Graders**

Those in grades 4th-7th wishing to “play up” must notify the Committee Chair in writing by Oct 1 of the tryout year indicating the reasons and desire for the request. The Committee Chair will discuss with the Committee and if it is determined that the player is deemed eligible of trying out at a higher level, the Committee Chair will respond in writing to the parents with the procedures that must be followed (shown below).

1) Player must first attend the ratings for his current grade and be the first or second highest ranked player to be allowed to attend the following week’s tryout at the higher-grade level. The Committee Chair will notify those seeking to “play up” if they met the criteria above within 3 days after the first tryout. Failure to attend the first tryout at the player’s current grade level voids any opportunity to “play up”.

2) If the player(s) then attend(s) tryouts at the higher grade the following week, he/she/they must rate in the top 3 to be eligible for the higher grade and would be assigned to the Blue team.

3) Only one player can play up from a grade (4th to 5th, 5th to 6th, 6th to 7th and 7th to 8th). The intent of the playing up rule is to focus on the one player who leaving him at grade level would be detrimental to the development of other players or to himself.

4) If the parent does not send the necessary letter of desire to “play up” to the Committee Chair by the Oct 1 deadline or the player does not meet conditions 1) and 2) above he would not be eligible to “play up” at all. NO EXCEPTIONS.

5) If there is only one team at a particular grade level, then no one would be allowed to “play up” for that grade unless said player had “aged out” of his current grade based on birthdate/league rules.

6) Players wishing to “play up” may only “play up” one grade level.

7) If a player does “play up” in any given year, he would need to go through the exact process described each year should he elect to “play up” again. “Playing up” in one year does not automatically allow you to “play up” the next year.