

**MARLBORO TRAVEL BASKETBALL
RULES AND GUIDELINES**

The following rules and guidelines have been adopted by the Board of Directors of the Marlboro Basketball Association (the “Board”) for the travel basketball program.

By participating in the Marlboro basketball travel program, each coach, assistant coach, player and parent agrees to comply with and be fully bound by these rules and guidelines.

TRAVEL TEAMS AND TRYOUT INFORMATION available on the website marlborobasketball.com

(a) We will be fielding teams in the following age groups:

Boys	Girls
Under 8	Under 8/9
Under 9	
Under 10	Under 10
Under 11	Under 11
Under 12	Under 12
Under 13	Under 13

(b) There will be one (1) team in each age group. There are no “A” and “B” “flights” in travel basketball. With very rare exceptions, each town fields one (1) team. All the teams play in 1 or 2 divisions (with the teams divided by geographic location and not by prior season’s won/loss record). Accordingly, there is no flight or division in which “B” teams can play -- even if fielding a “B” team were otherwise feasible. At present, we also do not have the facilities to accommodate more than one travel team in any age group.

You must tryout in your applicable age group. **NO PLAYER MAY TRYOUT FOR AN OLDER TEAM OR PLAY UP IN AN AGE GROUP UNLESS GRADE ELIGIBLE.** However, to the extent a player was already playing up in age before these rules were adopted, the Board in its discretion may allow that player to continue to play up on his/her same team through U-13. However, once such a player completes his/her team’s last season in U-13, he/she may not tryout for and play a second season on a U-13 team even though age eligible to do so.

Clarification:

- Grade eligibility will be allowed but there will be no repeating divisions with the exception of U8 boys and U8/U9 girls.

- Should a player playing grade eligibility tryout and not make the team, the Board will reconsider the player's eligibility the following year.

(c) Prior to the start of the season, it is the responsibility of each team's coach to obtain a birth certificate for each of his/her players verifying the player's date of birth. Any player whose age was misstated during tryouts and who therefore tried out for the wrong team, whether intentional or by accident, will be removed from his/her team and will not be eligible to tryout for another team until the following season.

2. TRAVEL TEAM SELECTION

(a) Each age group will have as many tryout dates as the Board determines is necessary to properly select the team's players.

(b) In age groups where there is a large turnout, there may be multiple cuts preceding the selection of the team so that the pool of players being rated is reduced in order to allow the raters to focus on a smaller pool.

(c) The Board cannot alter or change the tryout dates to accommodate conflicts. A player should make every effort to attend every tryout date in his/her age group to maximize his/her chance of being selected for the team. However, the failure to attend part of the tryout, where good cause exists, will not disqualify a player and the Board reserves the discretion to excuse a player from attending part of the tryout where good cause exists. **IT IS THE PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO APPRISE BOTH THE BOARD AND HIS/HER COACH IF HE/SHE CANNOT ATTEND ANY PART OF A TRYOUT.**

(d) No player will be placed on a team where he/she failed to attend the tryout, except where (i) the player was physically unable to tryout and this was supported by a physician's note and the Board in its discretion excused the player from the tryout on that basis; or (ii) less than 10 players attend a team's tryout and the Board determines in its discretion following the tryout that it would be in the team's best interest to add players so as to reach a maximum roster of 10.

(e) The tryouts will be conducted and supervised by the Board, whose Members will act as impartial raters. The number of raters will vary from tryout to tryout in the Board's discretion. The Board may also utilize Marlboro travel basketball coaches as raters. An individual who is neither a current Board member nor a current Marlboro travel basketball coach may not act as a rater at tryouts.

(f) The head coach of each team, except in U-8, will assist the Board in conducting the tryout and in selecting his/her team. Although the Board allows the head coach to provide significant input into the selection of the team, the final decision regarding selection of players will be made by the Board.

(g) Players will be selected for each team based in part on their ratings at the tryout. However, in all age groups above U-8, the Board gives significant weight to the player's evaluation by his/her coach if the player in question is a returning Marlboro travel basketball player.

(h) No less than 10 and no more than 12 players will be selected for each travel team. However, the Board in its discretion may select less than 10 players or more than 12 players for a team where it deems this appropriate.

(i) No player shall play on more than one (1) Marlboro basketball travel team during the season; except that with the Board's prior permission, a Marlboro travel basketball player may guest play on another Marlboro travel basketball team in extraordinary situations (i.e., where a team will otherwise forfeit due to the unavailability of its own players).

(j) Players who are selected to play on a Marlboro basketball travel team will receive a telephone call so informing them following the conclusion of tryouts.

3. **COMMITMENT TO ATTEND GAMES AND PRACTICES**

(a) Each travel team is expected to play at least 25 games, between league and tournament play, and may play substantially more. Many of the games require travel to different parts of New Jersey. We will supply directions but do not supply transportation to games. It is your responsibility to arrange transportation to the games.

(b) Each travel team is expected to practice once or twice per week during the season, assuming court space is available.

(c) ***Attendance at games and practices is mandatory.*** Travel basketball is a major commitment and you should not undertake it unless both the player and parents are prepared to devote the necessary and required time.

(d) Because we consider the program to be instructional, attendance at practices is just as important as attendance at games.

(e) Repeated unexcused absences from games and/or practices will result in diminished playing time and, in the Board's discretion, may result in a player's suspension and/or removal from the team.

4. **CONFLICTS WITH OTHER SPORTS/ACTIVITIES**

(a) During basketball season, the commitment to your Marlboro travel basketball team takes priority over your commitment to any other basketball team, including Marlboro recreational basketball, AAU basketball, JCC basketball and Church league teams. "Basketball season" means the entire period during which your Marlboro travel basketball team is still playing organized basketball in any league (Monmouth Youth; Mid-Monmouth; Central Jersey) or in any tournament, even if that overlaps with other teams/leagues in which you play.

In the event of a conflict between a Marlboro travel basketball game and another basketball team's game or practice, we expect ALL players to attend their entire Marlboro travel basketball game. The only exception is a middle school or high school league game. This rule is uniform for ALL teams and may not be waived or overlooked by a coach.

(b) In the event of a conflict between a Marlboro travel basketball game and a practice in another sport (*i.e.*, soccer, baseball, swimming, gymnastics, etc.), we expect all players to attend their entire Marlboro travel basketball game. This rule is uniform for ALL teams and may not be waived or overlooked by a coach.

(c) If a player misses all or any part of their Marlboro travel basketball game in order (i) to attend another team's basketball game or another team's basketball practice (other than for his/her middle school or high school team), or (ii) to attend practice in another sport, it is the responsibility of the team's coach to immediately report this via e-mail to the Board.

(d) In the event of a conflict between a Marlboro travel basketball game and a game in another sport (other than basketball), we ask you to be fair to both teams and to discuss the situation with your travel basketball coach **before** making a decision on which game to attend. You should take into account whether your Marlboro travel basketball team will be missing players for that game and if your absence will significantly impact the team. In the event the player and coach are not able to fairly deal with any such situation, the Board should be advised.

(e) In the event of a conflict between a Marlboro travel basketball practice and a game in another sport (other than basketball), we do not mandate attendance at basketball practice. However, should attendance at another sport's games result in a player's repeated absence from his/her Marlboro travel basketball practice, this may, at the coach's discretion, result in diminished playing time.

(f) Valid excuses for missing a Marlboro travel basketball game or practice include extraordinary amounts of schoolwork, religious obligations, extraordinary family obligations and illness. Valid excuses do not include birthday parties, attending a sibling's ballgame, school dances and the like. These examples are not intended to be all inclusive.

5. **PLAYING TIME**

(a) There is no minimum playing time rule in Marlboro travel basketball. However, there is a 5th quarter that is usually played before the start of the official game. The 5th quarter should be utilized to provide additional playing time to the team's non-starters. The 5th quarter should not be utilized, even in part, as a warm-up period for the team's starters.

(b) Playing time is at the discretion of the team's coach.

(c) The Board expects coaches to exercise their discretion in a responsible, non-biased manner, making use of those opportunities where substitutions ought to be made.

(d) There is no guarantee that every player will play in every game. However, we encourage coaches to make every effort to play each player if the situation permits and to not sit the same player(s) for the entire game in consecutive games.

(e) We do not encourage parents to discuss playing time with their child's coach. However, should you decide to do so, please do not approach the coach before, during or immediately after a game. The time to have any such discussion is on a non-game day and not in the presence of the players (including the player being discussed) or other parents. We expect

that any such discussion will be civil, devoid of any heated exchange or argument, and with appropriate respect shown for the coach, parents and players.

(f) In the event a parent or coach believes the situation requires the Board's involvement, the Board should be contacted and the matter will be referred to the Board's disciplinary committee.

6. **UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT/TRAVEL FEE**

(a) You will be loaned, without charge, a uniform top and shorts, both of which must be returned at the end of the season in a similar condition.

(b) Your coach will supply the basketballs at each practice and game. **DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN BASKETBALL TO PRACTICE OR GAMES.**

(c) The fee for playing travel basketball is \$100 and may be raised periodically.

(d) All tournament fees are paid for by the Board.

7. **MARLBORO TRAVEL TOURNAMENT**

(a) Marlboro hosts a travel tournament each Fall with teams from different parts of New Jersey. The tournament serves as the major fundraiser for our program.

(b) Each family is required to volunteer their time to assist at the tournament.

(c) The monies raised in our tournament are used for various purposes, including to pay for each travel team to participate in other travel tournaments.

(d) To assist us in funding the basketball program, we ask each family to raise money for the tournament ad journal by selling ads to businesses or by purchasing a personal ad of encouragement for their child's team.

8. **RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL**

(a) Each season, the Board re-evaluates its policy on which travel age groups, if any, may also play in the Marlboro recreational basketball league.

(b) At present, all travel players may also play in the Marlboro recreational basketball league.

(c) Should a Marlboro travel basketball player decide to also play in the Marlboro basketball recreational league, the travel team's games and practices take priority over recreational league games; except that a travel coach may (but is not required to) in his or her

discretion excuse a player from practice or a game in order to allow the player to attend his/her recreational league game.

(d) Should a Marlboro travel basketball player choose to also play in the recreational league, we encourage the player to use this as an opportunity work on improving his or her skills and to raise the level of play of the recreational players.

9. **APPLYING TO COACH TRAVEL BASKETBALL/EVALUATION OF COACHES**

(a) The Board in its sole and absolute discretion selects all travel coaches.

(b) Once selected, each travel coach serves at the Board's pleasure and may be removed, replaced or not reappointed at the Board's sole and absolute discretion, with or without cause. However, once selected as a head coach, if a head coach is later removed, replaced or not reappointed, he or she will be given notice, an opportunity for a hearing and may appeal the Board's decision to the Marlboro Recreation Commission. Each travel coach by agreeing to these rules agrees that in the event he or she is removed, replaced or not reappointed to coach, that he or she waives any cause of action or claim that is based upon his or her removal, replacement or failure to be reappointed.

(c) Coaches are selected and evaluated on many grounds, including prior experience in coaching organized basketball and other sports, playing experience, personality and such other factors as the Board believes are relevant. A background check is also required through the program/vendor established by Marlboro Township.

(d) We make every effort to have a coach continue with his or her team from U-8 through U-13. However, the Board evaluates travel coaches at the end of each season and will replace a coach if we believe it to be in the best interests of the team and players.

(e) The Board evaluates each travel coach at the end of each season on a number of factors, including: the quality of instruction; the team's performance; commitment; interaction with the players and such other factors as the Board believes are relevant.

(f) Assistant coaches are recommended to the Board by each team's travel coach following tryouts and the selection of players. The Board must approve each assistant coach and may, in its sole and absolute discretion, decline to appoint an assistant coach recommended to it and instead appoint another assistant coach.

10. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

(a) Every player and every parent is required to sign a Code of Conduct and to return it to his/her travel coach. Violation of the Code of Conduct may result in suspension or removal from our program, or such other penalties as are provided for in the Code of Conduct and under applicable New Jersey law.

(b) Any parent who is abusive to another parent, a coach, a referee or to any player. will be referred to the Board's disciplinary committee for appropriate action.

(c) Every coach in our program is an unpaid volunteer. Please be respectful of the time they are committing, regardless of whatever issues you may have with that coach. In the event a coach or parent believes there are issues that cannot be resolved without the Board's intervention, please contact the Board.

(d) There is a no-tolerance rule with respect to fighting. NO EXCEPTIONS.

(e) **PARENTS:** Please remember that the children are observing your conduct and, therefore, please act as a role model for the players.

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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