



**Readington Recreation
Travel Basketball Program
Rules & Regulations**
(edited Sept. 2024)

The Travel Basketball program is part of the Readington Township Recreation Department.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Readington Township Travel Basketball program mission is to provide a wholesome and safe environment for the higher caliber basketball player to compete with players of the same ability from other towns.

PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

The Readington Township Recreation Committee will oversee the Travel Basketball program with updates from the Recreation Director.

The Recreation Department is responsible for making sure all needs for the program are addressed. This includes but may not be limited to uniforms, equipment, league/tournament payments and facility usage. Township employees and/or volunteers may assist in this endeavor.

LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

Travel basketball teams will play against other towns in the Jersey Basketball League (JBL) with teams from central New Jersey. Away games may require travel of up to 45-60 minutes.

Tournament play is not included. Teams may elect to play in tournaments for an additional fee.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Teams may elect to schedule professional training sessions for an additional fee.

SELECTION OF COACH FOR TRAVEL TEAM

Coaching Requirements:

- Must be 21 years old.
- Must have knowledge of the game.
- Must fill out a coaching application and submit it to the Recreation Office.
- All coaches – returning and new – must submit a coaching application.
- A prospective coach’s child must be ranked in the top twelve by independent evaluators to qualify the parent as the coach of a travel team.
- Coaches with no children in the program may apply to coach.
- Coaches must be fingerprinted in accordance with the rules of the Recreation Department.
- Coaches must possess the certification from the Rutgers Safety Course.

If no candidate has applied to coach in any age group, the Recreation Director will take steps to find a parent to coach. If a coach is not in place by October 15th, a team may elect to hire a professional trainer as coach.

Selection Process Overview:

The Recreation Director in conjunction with the Recreation Committee may interview prospective coaches.

The following criteria will be used for selection:

- Knowledge of the game.
- Feedback from parent evaluations from previous season if available.
- The ability to relate to players and parents.
- Contribution to the recreation program.
- Ability to commit the required time for the activity.
- Must have attended a Rutgers Safety Class and been fingerprinted.
- Must agree to abiding by established travel basketball policies and procedures.
- If returning coach, must have a history of abiding by these regulations.
- Demonstrate that they will be a good role model for children.

All selections by the Recreation committee are final.

Readington Coaches, Parents, and Players are representatives of Readington Recreation and Readington Township when they participate in the Readington Travel Basketball program. All Readington coaches must abide by the Readington Recreation Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will result in sanctions, including and up to removal as a Readington coach.

Coaches are required to:

- Accept the policies and procedures of the Travel Basketball program.
- Attend tryouts (optional) to assist with professional evaluators.
- Hold a parent meeting to review the Readington Code of Conduct, discuss the planned season's activities and expectations for the players.
- Provide timely information on practice dates and times.
- Communicate league games and tournament dates in a prompt manner.
- Wear a Readington Coaches Shirt with long pants to all games and tournaments. Shirts will be issued after coach selection at the beginning of the season.

SELECTION OF ASSISTANT COACHES FOR TRAVEL TEAMS

The selection of an assistant coach(es) will be done by the Recreation Department once the evaluations are complete and the team has been selected.

The Assistant Coach(es) must:

- Accept the policies and procedures of the program.
- Attend the Rutgers Safety Class and be fingerprinted.

SELECTION PROCESS OF TRAVEL TEAM PLAYERS

Player Eligibility

- Players must be or have a parent/legal guardian who is a resident of Readington Township.
- Players must play within their age group if a team is formed.
- Players must register for try outs as communicated by the Recreation Department.

Out of Town Eligibility

- If the travel team has a minimum of 5 players from Readington Township they are eligible to take up to 6 players from out of town to complete the team.
- A player from another town may be eligible to play in Readington if their town does not have a travel program or does not field a team for their age group.
- If a player is not offered a spot on their own travel team, he/she can try out for a Readington team.
- If a player tries out for their own town travel team and is offered a place, he/she may not decline that spot and remain eligible to play in Readington.

Try outs will be held in September by professional evaluators.

There must be a minimum of eight players selected by October 15th for a team to be formed.

Ideally travel teams have 10 players. In some circumstances there may be up to 12-13 players.

No "B" teams will be formed unless there is enough gym space, and it is approved by the Recreation Committee.

GAME AND PRACTICE TIME ALLOCATION

Teams will be assigned practice time in the following manner:

- In pre-season teams will practice no more than 2 to 3 days per week with the understanding that athletes may complete their fall sports seasons.
- During the season 7th and 8th grade teams will receive up to 2 practices per week.
- All other age groups will be assigned 1 practice per week.
- **Parents may not attend practices.**
- Regardless of gym availability, no team shall practice more than 3 days per week.
- If scheduled gym time becomes available due to a team's cancellation the schedule will be updated with the opening noted.
- Coaches may request gym time from the schedule coordinator via email at least 24 hours in advance. The scheduler will do his/her best to assign the available time in a fair manner using first come/ first served as the initial method of assigning times.
- Coaches are responsible for informing the schedule coordinator that they will not be using the gym via email at least 24 hours in advance unless there is an unavoidable circumstance.

COST

The 2024-2025 fee per player is \$230.

- Referee fees are an additional cost to be paid to the coach or team manager.
- Uniform purchase is not included in the registration fee. Uniforms are purchased from Darrow's Sporting Edge, in the Whitehouse Mall. Athletes are required to purchase a uniform and a pinnie. Other optional apparel items are available for purchase. Coaches will distribute uniform purchase information to their teams.

PLAYING TIME

Each outside league will have their own playing time rules. This section addresses the minimum playing time requirements for each age level as required by the Readington Travel Basketball procedures.

- Play time requirements are contingent on the player attending the required practices and games.
- Players (or their parents) are responsible for notifying the coach if they will miss a practice or game.
- Accepted excuses for missing a practice or game include illness or injury but there may be other valid absences and those should be discussed in advance with the coach.
- If a player does not attend a scheduled practice or game without a valid reason communicated to the coach, the Head Coach can take the following action. This may not be abused by the coach but is intended to be fair to the players who have attended games and practices.
 - He/She can adjust the playing time for the game following the missed practice or game.
 - After the player attends the next scheduled practice or game the playing time should be back to their normal play time which must be at least the minimum required by the Readington Travel program.

4th and 5th Grade Teams:

If the team has 10 players, each player should play at least 12 minutes per game.

If the team has more than 10 players, each player should play at least 8 minutes a game.

All other Grade Levels:

If the team has 10 players, each player should play at least 8 minutes a game (one quarter).

If the team has more than 10 players, each player should play at least 6 minutes a game.

HEALTH/MEDICAL PROTOCOLS

Any athlete or coach experiencing any symptoms of any illness should stay home.

This program utilizes the Readington School District's facilities and thus is required to follow any guideline or protocol set forth by that entity. Away games are subject to the host facility guidelines and protocols.