



HERSHEY YOUTH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (HYBA) 2018 - 2019 TRAVEL PROGRAM GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

The objective of the HYBA Travel Program is to provide a more competitive basketball experience for those players who demonstrate the skills and readiness for more competitive play. The Travel program is designed to challenge the more skilled players by practicing more frequently/intensely and competing in travel leagues and tournaments against other competitive travel teams. The Travel program is selective in who can participate, and requires a greater time and financial commitment.

HYBA's travel program is primarily for boys and girls in 5th and 6th grades. If there is enough interest, HYBA will support a travel team for the 4th grade level. Also, HYBA will sponsor the Middle School Varsity and Junior Varsity teams in community league and/or tournament play.

TEAM SELECTION

1. There will generally be one team per grade. Depending on player counts, additional teams may be added at the sole discretion of the HYBA Board.
2. The 5th and 6th grade teams will be based on grade level players and "playing-up" is not permitted.
3. Tryouts will be conducted mid-late October. Dates will be announced by September 30th. Players must be registered with HYBA to try out for Travel.
4. There will be 1 or 2 tryout sessions per grade level. Players are encouraged to attend all tryouts offered for their grade to ensure a thorough evaluation.
5. Official tryouts and player evaluations will be conducted by the School District's Boys and Girls School coaching staffs. The evaluation will assess players' skills and effectiveness in game play.
6. The Travel Program Director will establish tryout dates and locations, but no HYBA Board Members, Grade Level Commissioners, Coaches or Parents will participate in or observe the tryouts.
7. Teams will be selected based on the evaluation of the School District's coaching staff. Each team will target to have 10 to 12 players in total. Some players may be designated as Alternates.
8. ALTERNATES: In an effort to give more players an opportunity to develop their competitive basketball skills, players may be asked to join the Travel team as an Alternate. Alternates are players who demonstrate strong potential to play travel but at this time are slightly behind on key competitive basketball skills. Alternates are expected to attend practices, but are not guaranteed game time.
9. Travel team selections will be communicated within seven days after the last tryout.

PLAYING TIME

1. Travel is a competitive program and there is no guarantee of equal playing time.
2. Playing time is impacted by the competitive situation (league, opponent, game situation) and how players perform in practice. Players who habitually miss practice may lose playing time.
3. In most cases 8 players will dress for games, but the coach may decide to dress up to 10 players for a game. The coach is responsible for managing and communicating rosters.
4. Alternates are not guaranteed playing time, but coaches will attempt to get the Alternates playing time based on their advancement of skills in practice, level of competition, time of season, etc.



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TRAVEL COACHES

1. Travel coaches are recommended by the Travel Program Director and approved by the HYBA Board.
2. Coaches will treat players, parents, officials and opponents with respect and a positive attitude.
3. Coaches should have their team prepared for game situations to include man/zone offense, press/press break, inbounds plays, etc. HYBA's core defensive philosophy is man to man.
4. Practices will be organized with an emphasis on skills development and game situation play.
5. Coaches will adhere to the playing time guidelines and will constantly be evaluating player performance in practice and games to reward those who are playing the best.
6. Travel coaches may schedule additional practices/games with the approval of the Travel Director.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PROGRAM COMMITMENT: Since roster positions are very limited it is expected that HYBA travel is the player's priority out of school activity during the season. By accepting a position we expect a serious, priority commitment to the program.
2. GIVE 100% EFFORT at all times. Be a good teammate and demonstrate excellent sportsmanship.
3. TRAVEL & REC PRIORITY:
 - a. Travel players are encouraged to play in the HYBA Rec League but can opt out. If they do play and have a schedule conflict their Travel event takes priority over Rec.
 - b. Alternate travel players are required to play in the HYBA Rec League. In the event of a schedule conflict their Rec schedule should take priority over Travel.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. BE ON TIME & COMMUNICATE: Ensure your child is on time to practices and games. If you cannot have your child to games or practices on time, please communicate this with your coach.
2. BE POSITIVE with your child and encourage them to work hard and listen to their coaches – don't coach your child from the sidelines in practice or games.
3. EXCELLENT SPORTSMANSHIP is expected from all parents and fans. Please help set a great example and represent HYBA and the Hershey community in a positive light.
4. TRAVEL FEES: This program requires additional financial commitment to cover program costs (uniforms, gym time, referees, leagues, tournaments, admin). Alternate's fees will be slightly reduced due to their reduced league and tournament play. The HYBA registration fee will be applied to these expenses if your child doesn't play Rec.
5. PROBLEM RESOLUTION PROTOCOL: The following steps must be followed sequentially to resolve any issue with a Travel coach:
 - a. Wait 24 hours before calling/communicating with a coach
 - b. Request a meeting with the Travel coach, and a team/HYBA representative
 - c. Request a meeting with the Travel Program Director and/or the HYBA President
 - d. If these steps do not solve the issue, the parent may choose to remove their child from the program with a full refund of travel fees (except uniform fees) if before January 31st.

