

USCAA
BOYS BASKETBALL PROGRAM
RULES & REGULATIONS
(Revised September 2014)
(Approved November 2014)

IN HOUSE RECREATION BASKETBALL PROGRAM

Purpose:

- The purpose of the Upper St. Clair Athletic Association's (the "USCAA") Boys Basketball Program is to provide an opportunity for boys of township residents to learn and play the game of basketball
- The emphasis of the program is to create a recreational environment in which the participants can have fun and enjoy the experience of a team sport.
- A league format is structured to introduce the participants to competitive team play. **AT ALL TIMES THE RECREATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM WILL REMAIN THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WITHIN THE COMPETITIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE LEAGUES.**
- Equal playing time for all participants is stressed and exposure to all court positions is encouraged. Minimum playing time, in terms of quarters or minutes played, is established for all age groups and must be adhered to by all coaches.

Eligibility:

- Boys of current residents of Upper St. Clair are eligible to participate. In addition, boys of families who can substantiate that they are moving into the township during the season are eligible to participate. Any false or misleading information contained in the registration forms and birth certificates, particularly information that is not consistent with previously submitted data or other available records regarding the birth date of the participant, the grade level of the participant and the residency of the participant, may affect the child's eligibility for the USCAA's Boys Basketball Program in the year in which the discrepancy is discovered and in future years.
- The Boys Basketball Recreation Program is administered by the USCAA in cooperation with the Upper St. Clair Township Department of Recreation and Leisure Services (the "Department"). The Department will register all participants, collect fees, and provide uniforms, game balls and scorebooks. The Department will obtain permits for the gym time required. The Township will pay the costs of game officials.
- A fee per participant will be established by the Department each year and payment must accompany the registration form submitted to the Department. There will be a

registration date deadline and a maximum number of participants per grade group set annually by the Department.

- Any registration received after the deadline or above the maximum number will be subject to placement on a waiting list.

Grade Groups:

- Boys only will be permitted into the Boys program.
- The Boys Basketball Program is structured based on the grade the child is registered in school. All players must play in their own grade level. A player may not play up or down in another grade level.
- The following leagues will be formed annually, pursuant to minimum registration requirements: 3rd/4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th-12th. In the event that the minimum requirements are not met, the USCAA and Department reserve the right to combine age groups.

Program Administration:

- The USCAA Board of Directors appoints a Boys Basketball Commissioner (the “Commissioner”) to be responsible for the overall administration of the Boys Basketball Program. Such responsibility includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 1. Equipment requirements, including uniforms, balls, etc...
 2. Assigning gym times provided by the Department to the age group directors for scheduling of practices and games.
 3. League structure and grade levels.
 4. Referees.
 5. Compliance with rules and disciplinary procedures.
 6. Clinics may be provided for players, coaches and referees.
 7. Make modifications to the rules and regulations, which become effective immediately, and are to be presented to the USCAA Board annually prior to the beginning of each season.
- To assist in this effort, the Commissioner may appoint Assistant Commissioner(s) from the USCAA Board of Directors (collectively, the Commissioners”). The Commissioners

will propose, on an annual basis, individuals to act as League Directors for the various age groups to be approved by the USCAA Board of Directors.

League Director Responsibilities:

- The League Directors are assigned the following responsibilities within their respective age group:
 1. Formation of teams as determined by the size of the league – Every registrant will be assigned to a team so long as the paid registration was received prior to the end of the registration period and prior to the maximum number of players being met. A listing of late registrants will be maintained by the League Director in the order in which the paid registrations are received and players will be placed on teams from the waiting list if and when space becomes available.
 2. League Balance – The League Director will strive to achieve competitive balance among all the teams within the age group. Players will be distributed among the various teams based on the results of the annual tryouts. If the player chooses not to participate in the tryout format, previous basketball experience or other known facts about the playing ability of the child will be used. The League Director will make all efforts to ensure that the talent of the participants is divided equally to avoid unusually strong teams and weak teams. Teams should have an equal number of similarly related players.
 3. Coach Selection – The League Director will identify individuals who have noted on their child’s registration form or otherwise indicated a desire to coach or to assist in coaching a team. All coaches must be in compliance with the USCAA Background Screening Policy. From the available pool of volunteers, priority will be given to coaches who satisfy the following criteria:
 - a. Have demonstrated good sportsmanship and mature behavior in handling young people.
 - b. Have exhibited a proper understanding of the purpose and objectives of the Boys Basketball Program and other USCAA programs.
 - c. Have the potential to enhance the Boys Basketball Program, in general, and contribute to the positive development of the participants, in particular.

Based on the League Directors recommendations, the Commissioners will present all coaches to the USCAA Board for approval. Upon approval from the Board of Directors, the League Director will be responsible for contacting the coaches.

All coaches must abide by the USCAA Code of Conduct.

4. Administration – The League Director will be responsible for ensuring that the participants adhere to the rules and regulations of the facilities and the leagues set forth annually by the Commissioners including, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Ensuring that each team has no more than 12, and when possible, no more than 10 players on a team to allow for each player to play a minimum of at least one half of each game.
 - b. Ensuring that all participants adhere to the use of the facilities in accordance with the requirements of the permits issued. The requirements include:
 - i. adhering to the beginning and ending times of the permits
 - ii. ensuring that activity is restricted to the permitted portion of the facility only (i.e. other than obtaining entry and exit to the gymnasiums and the restrooms, there should be no participants or guests in other parts of the facilities)
 - iii. adhering to the requirement that basketballs are not permitted to be thrown, bounced or otherwise used anywhere in the facilities other than in the gymnasiums
 - c. Coordinating a single or double elimination tournament as a culminating activity for the end of the recreation season.
 - d. Communicating all violations of rules and regulations to the Commissioners.

TRAVEL BASKETBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Purpose:

- The purpose of the travel basketball program is to provide skilled players the opportunity to participate at a higher and more competitive level.

Eligibility:

- Boys of current residents of Upper St. Clair who are participating in the Recreation Basketball program are eligible to participate.
- In order to maintain eligibility, a player must participate fully in the Recreation Basketball program throughout the year. All travel players must be enrolled and regularly participate in the recreation program. If travel players are enrolled in any other recreation program or team sport during the travel basketball season, the USCAA recreation program must take complete priority over the other recreation program or other team sport. If travel players do not actively participate in the USCAA recreation

basketball program, they will not be permitted to participate on the USCAA travel basketball team.

- The travel basketball season begins with tryouts in early November (usually the first two weekends) and runs through the end of March (with an occasional extension into April as a result of the timing of certain tournaments and the scheduling of spring break). If a player is not able to make playing travel basketball a priority during the core period (November 1 – March 31) because of other commitments during such time period, the player should not try out in order to allow other players the opportunity to participate.
- Any false or misleading information contained in the registration forms and birth certificates, particularly regarding the birth date of the participant, the grade level of the participant and the residency of the participant, may affect the child's eligibility for the USCAA's Boys Basketball Program in the year in which the discrepancy is discovered and in future years.
- Players who do not adhere to the all of the eligibility requirements may be declared ineligible to participate in the travel basketball program in the current year and in future years.
- A fee per participant will be established by the Commissioners. Once teams are selected, there will be a deadline date for the fee to be paid in order to maintain eligibility.

Grade Groups:

- The travel basketball is structured based on the grade the child is registered in school. All players must play in their own grade level. A player may not play up or down in another grade level.
- The following leagues will be formed annually, pursuant to minimum registration requirements: 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th.
- There may be a second "B" team fielded in any of the grade levels listed above depending on the number of available players and available gym time.
- Teams in other grade levels may be considered on a year-to-year basis by the Commissioner based on the following factors:
 1. Number of available players
 2. Available gym time
 3. Existence of a coach who meets the criteria of a travel basketball coach
 4. Existence of an appropriately competitive avenue for competition

Program Administration:

- The size of the teams is small so that all participants receive significant playing time.
- There will be no more than 12 players on each team that will be selected from eligible participants based on the performance of those players at tryouts conducted by unbiased evaluators and/or high school coaches and players. This selection process will be held in early November of each year.
- The Commissioners will present travel coaches for each grade level to the USCAA Board for approval. Upon approval from the Board, the Commissioners will be responsible for contacting the coaches. Selecting a coach who will teach the boys the game of basketball and cause them to have a positive experience is of primary importance. In addition, selecting a coach who properly represents the USCAA and follows the guidelines of the USCAA is important.
- The Commissioners will make all decisions for the traveling teams concerning practices, games and tournaments. In the absence of any extenuating circumstances, the maximum number of tournaments per team per year is four (4) and teams will not be permitted to enter any tournaments starting after April 15th.
- USCAA has traditionally held tournaments for 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades during the month of March. The tournaments are traditionally held at the Eisenhower, Boyce and High School gyms.
- The Commissioners will appoint a Tournament Committee, the duties of which will include, but not be limited to:
 1. Preparing a tournament budget, that includes team entry fee, admission fee, referee fee, anticipated concession revenues and team awards. The budget is to be approved by the Commissioners.
 2. Establishing a list of teams to invite and extending invitations.
 3. Determining the number of teams in each grade level.
 4. Tournament administration to include receiving team fees to forward to the Commissioners, scheduling of games, referees, concessions, announcers, scorekeepers, clock operators and gym cleanup.
 5. Providing a report of tournament income and expenses to the Commissioners.

Travel Coach Responsibilities:

- It is the responsibility of the coach to remember that the purpose of the travel program is to provide the better players the opportunity to participate at a higher and more competitive level and not to win at all costs. As such, the coaches are to adhere to the playing time requirements stated below:
 1. During the regular season, each player will play at least one (1) full quarter or equivalent minutes per game.
 2. During tournaments the coaches will use their own discretion to the amount of playing time per player. All players must play in every game.

Coaches are to evaluate the skill level of their players in relation to the skill level of the competition and to allocate playing time in order to balance the goals of winning and providing a positive and appropriately competitive experience for all players

- Be responsible for the distribution of uniforms and, if necessary, the collection of uniforms at the end of the season.
- Collect all registration fees, forms and birth certificates and communicate any variances in the information contained from the registration form to the Commissioners. Any false or misleading information contained in the registration forms and birth certificates, particularly information that is not consistent with previously submitted data or other available records regarding the birth date of the participant, the grade level of the participant and the residency of the participant, may affect the child's eligibility for the USCAA's Boys Basketball Program in the year in which the discrepancy is discovered and in future years.

Birth certificates may be required for any registrant whose birth date on the registration form is not consistent with previously submitted data or other available records.

- Be responsible for the assistant coaches' and all players' actions at home and away games.
- Be responsible for ensuring that players adhere to all eligibility requirements and for communicating to the Commissioners any violations of those requirements.

TRAVEL AND RECREATION BASEKETBALL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- The Disciplinary Committee will consist of the Commissioners.
- The League Director and Travel Coaches are responsible for reporting any violations of rules to the Commissioners.

- The League Director/Travel Coach shall report any dispute, violation of rules (including but not limited to technical fouls and adherence to the rules/regulations related to permitted facilities), and any game protests as soon as possible after the incident or dispute arises in order to resolve the problem as soon as possible.
- Disciplinary problems involving an action which occurs during or after games will normally be reported by the game official.
- The League Director/Travel Coach will be advised promptly of any disciplinary problem that has occurred within the Boys Basketball Program; however, all such matters shall be adjudicated by the Disciplinary Committee.
- The Disciplinary Committee will address any incidents relating to coach, assistant coach, player, fan or team misconduct either before, during or after a game or practice or at a permitted facility during the time that the facility is permitted.
- Any abuse of referees by a coach, assistant coach, player or fan may also be reviewed by the Committee.
- Incidents involving playing time disputes, game protests or game forfeitures will normally be handled by the League Director/Travel Coach and only referred to the Disciplinary Committee if the “USCAA Code of Conduct” is violated.