



Eden Prairie Boy Basketball Association (EPBBA) 2025-2026 Travel Program Information

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Questions regarding the EPBBA Travel program may be directed to Matt Flesch and Pat Nseumen, EPBBA Travel Directors, at EPBBAtraveldirector@Gmail.com.

Registration:

EPBBA registration will be posted on the EPBBA website. Players must register with the EPBBA for their grade by the end of registration period (which is prior to the first day of tryouts).

Key Program Elements:

- The Travel program is designed to give boys with more advanced basketball skills the opportunity to play against stronger competition.
- **Tryouts are open to boys that attend school in Eden Prairie.** There are some exceptions to this MYAS rule, so if this affects your son's eligibility, please contact EPBBAtraveldirector@Gmail.com as soon as possible.
 - <https://www.myas.org/myba-team-composition>
- Travel teams in 3rd grade will compete in 8 to 9 tournaments and teams in 4th – 8th grade will compete in 10 to 11 tournaments. These have been selected in advance by the EPBBA based on previous experience and annual feedback from coaches and families. Tournaments are held on weekends and games are played on Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday.
- Travel coaches may schedule **2** additional tournaments. Parents must agree to these tournaments and the added cost is at the team's expense. This ensures that all participants in the program will participate in approximately the same number of tournaments and also allows for all participants and their families to have scheduled "weekends off" during the season.

EPBBA Program Philosophy:

- Provide ALL participants with a positive experience.
- Inspire each player to continue playing and to develop their skills.
- Teach life lessons through the game of basketball.
- Help participants develop a strong work ethic.
- Winning is an outcome . . . it is NOT an objective.

Number of Teams:

The EPBBA is expected to sponsor approximately 20 teams for a given travel season. Each Travel team will have between 8-10 players with the exact number of players to be determined based on historical team sizes, coaches' feedback, and performance at tryouts. The level of play for each team (A, B or C) will be determined based on a variety of factors – including number of teams and overall talent level of the grade – and may vary from tournament to tournament.

Coaches:

EPBBA conducts an interview process to determine available coaches for each team. Players are placed on teams before coaches are assigned. Coaches may or may not be selected prior to the posting of the team selections. It is possible that at the conclusion of the tryouts a team may not have a coach. In that event, the parents of the players selected will be contacted seeking a volunteer(s) to coach the team. In the event no parent volunteers to coach, the EPBBA will attempt to hire a paid coach. The cost of the paid coach will be the responsibility of the participants on that team.

Exhibiting good sportsmanship and the development of players and their basketball skills are our

primary points of emphasis, with past coaching experience and feedback considered during the coach selection process.

The playing time policy of the EPBBA is that each player will play at least 50% of each tournament for teams of 8 players, and 40% of each tournament for teams of 9+ players. Coaches are not required to play each player equally, and coaches DO have the right to bench players for disciplinary reasons, including issues with effort or attitude.

The EPBBA may consider paid, non-parent coaches for some of the older grade levels. If the EPBBA determines that a paid coach is most appropriate for a given team, the EPBBA may cover a portion of the cost for the paid coach.

[CLICK HERE for the Head Coach Travel Application](#)

Practice and Tournaments:

- It is expected that participation on a Travel team will be the player's primary extra-curricular activity during the Travel season.
- **We will LIMIT our teams to three (3) events a week, which is typically two (2) practices and one (1) tournament or three (3) practices.**
- Practices will start in mid-October and the season concludes with the State Tournament in mid-March.
- Participation in other activities should not conflict on a regular basis with the Travel tournament and practice schedule. Parents will be given a tournament schedule at, or before, the first practice of each team. EPBBA will not schedule tournaments or practice over Thanksgiving weekend or during the Christmas/New Year's break.
- Participating in Travel basketball is a significant time commitment from the player and his family. The EPBBA wants players and families to be aware of this and take it into account as they consider participating.

Tryout Process:

All boys who are interested in playing Travel basketball are required to participate in travel tryouts.

Evaluation:

The tryouts will be conducted by, and the teams will be selected by, Eden Prairie Varsity Basketball Coach Culver with input from non-EPBBA staff selected by Coach Culver. Participating as evaluators in the tryouts will be Coach Culver, the Varsity Staff, and other external evaluators invited by Coach Culver. All evaluation sessions will include evaluators independent of the Travel program and independent of the specific grade being evaluated.

It is important that parents and players understand that the evaluators are looking for the players that will make up the best basketball teams and not just the tallest players, the fastest players, or the players that are the best shooters. A successful basketball team includes players that can rebound, play defense, pass the ball, shoot the ball, and are willing to play within a team framework with a positive attitude. Parents should encourage their sons to attempt to demonstrate all of their basketball skills during the tryouts. Players demonstrating abilities in all facets of the game and that demonstrate the ability and willingness to play as a member of a team, and not as an individual, will be more highly rated in the evaluations than players concerned only with making as many shots as possible. Evaluations from prior year's Travel coaches may also be considered in the selection of players as needed.

Format:

The tryouts consist of **two sessions**:

- All players will attend both tryout sessions.
- At the conclusion of the second evaluation session, cuts will be made, and teams will be formed.

Notification:

- The rosters for the Travel teams will be posted on the EPBBA website.
- The approximate day and time that the results will be posted will be announced at the conclusion of the second tryout session.

Tryout Schedule:

Tryouts consist of two separate sessions. **A player must attend both sessions to be selected for a Travel team.** Situations preventing attendance at one or more sessions should be communicated in advance and will be addressed by the Travel Director and the EPBBA Executive team on a case-by-case basis. These situations may also be handled under the injury and illness rules detailed below at the discretion of the EPBBA. Tryouts will take place at the **Eden Prairie High School Activity Center or Main Gym (EPHS)** on:

Sunday, September 14, 2025 and Sunday, September 21, 2025

Players should report to EPHS at their designated check-in time. Note that 3rd and 4th grades will be evaluated at the same time, but on different courts.

Grade	AC Courts	Sunday, September 14, 2025				Sunday, September 21, 2025			
		Check-in		Evaluation		Check-in		Evaluation	
		Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
3 rd	5 – 6	8:00 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	10:00 AM
4 th	1 – 4	8:00 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	10:00 AM
5 th	1 – 4	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	12:00 PM
6 th	1 – 4	12:00 PM	12:30 PM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	12:00 PM	12:30 PM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM
7 th	1 – 4	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:45 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:45 PM
8 th	1 – 4	3:45 PM	4:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:30 PM	3:45 PM	4:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:30 PM
		9/14 Tryout Note: Bring Travel Team check and \$300 volunteer check				9/21 Tryout Note: Uniform try-on during check-in			

Parents are not allowed in the gym during tryouts. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Details about a **mandatory** parent information meeting will be communicated separately.

Injury and/or Illness:

If a player is unable to participate due to injury or illness, the parent of the player must contact the Travel Director prior to the tryout session. At that time the EPBBA rules governing placing injured or ill players on a Travel team will be reviewed with the parent. Players that are injured or ill at the time of tryouts may still be placed on a Travel team at the time of the initial team selection. The primary factors involved in making this determination include:

- **Anticipated recovery time:** If a player is not expected to be able to participate in basketball until after December 14th, they will not be placed on a team at the time of the initial team selection but may utilize a mid-season evaluation when they are physically able to play. If a player is not

expected to recover until after January 30th, they will not be placed on a team and will not be able to utilize a mid-season evaluation.

- **A player's past participation in the EPBBA:** A player's former coaches will be consulted to obtain an evaluation of the player and the level of his play. This may involve discussions with both Travel and In-House coaches.

The EPBBA in its sole discretion will determine if players are allowed, or required, to participate in a mid-season evaluation. Mid-season evaluations consist of a player participating in practices with the team at the level they desire to try out for. The Travel Director, EPBBA Directors (if needed), and the coaches from the specific grade level will watch the player participate in a practice or series of practices and if the player is determined to be better than 50% of the players on the team, he will be placed upon that team for the balance of the season. The player will pay the full Travel fee regardless of the length of the season remaining. A player may try out for a team at one level and if not placed at that level, may be placed on a team or try out for a team at another level. Players participating in mid-season evaluations may also be placed on teams to replace players originally selected but injured after tryouts. Players missing tryouts for reasons other than injury, illness or unforeseeable family emergency may not utilize the mid-season evaluation process for placement on a Travel team. Unless a player is bedridden due to injury or illness, they must still attend the tryout session even if they are unable to participate. The EPBBA reserves the right to require confirmation from the player's doctor as to the extent of his injury or illness and the anticipated recovery time.

Twins Policy:

If a family has twins and both are trying out for a Travel team the parents will need to decide how they want to handle team placement for their boys with one of the following options:

1. Each boy will make the team that is appropriate based on their individual evaluation.
2. If the desire is for the boys to be on the same team, the players will be assigned to the lower of the two teams. A player will not be moved up a team to allow the boys to be on the same team. The decision of the parents must be communicated to the Travel Director prior to the second day of the evaluations. If no decision is communicated, the boys will be placed on the appropriate team based on their evaluation.

Playing Up in Travel:

Players in 4th through 7th grade who are interested in playing up a grade level must contact EPBBA President and Travel Director expressing interest at least one week prior to tryouts. The EPBBA and Coach Culver will review on a case-by-case basis to determine if the player will be allowed to try out with the older grade. The following is taken into consideration for playing up:

- The player must be clearly in the top 5 players of the next grade based on their evaluation results and must have played at least one year on an EPBBA Travel team.
- Approval to play up is based on the skill level of the player, the team needs of the older team, and the best fit for the player in the current year.
- Consideration of the previous year's coaching evaluations, and player code of conduct, and commitment.

Travel Fees:

Fees for participation on Travel teams include (1) an EPBBA base registration fee and (2) a Travel Team fee. The total fees to participate in Travel are the same for each grade (with the exception of 3rd grade due to fewer tournaments). Due to differing base fees by grade, the amount of the Travel team fee may be

different depending on the participants grade and are as follows:

Grade	Base Registration Fee	Travel Team Fee	Total Travel Fee
3 rd	\$155	\$395	\$550
4 th	\$175	\$475	\$650
5 th	\$175	\$475	\$650
6 th	\$175	\$475	\$650
7 th	\$175	\$475	\$650
8 th	\$175	\$475	\$650

NOTE: Financial Aid is available for those who are eligible. See below for details.

The base registration fee is paid during online registration. The EPBBA Travel Team fee is collected by check or cash at the **first session** of the tryouts from all players. We will destroy the checks for players who do not make a Travel Team. If you pay by cash and your player does not make a Travel team, you will be reimbursed with a check from EPBBA. A team jersey and team shorts are included in the Travel fee. Parents and players should be aware that there are additional costs for participation in the Travel program that are the responsibility of the participants. These costs include admission fees for the tournaments, expenses of traveling to and from the tournaments, and overnight lodging and food costs at the Rochester tournament. Warm-ups, shooting shirts, caps, duffle bags, shoes, or any other sports apparel are additional costs at your own expense. These costs are not included in the fees paid to the EPBBA.

Volunteer Requirement:

Parents of the Travel team participants are **required to work four hours** (1-2 shifts) at the EPBBA Travel Basketball Tournament. **In addition to the Travel Team fee, players will bring a second check in the amount of \$300.** This check will serve as a deposit for parents to work their designated shifts at the EPBBA Travel Basketball Tournament. If the parents decline to help at the Eden Prairie Tournament, the \$300 will be used to reimburse the EPBBA for the hiring of tournament workers. Checks from parents who work their assigned shifts will be destroyed. We will also destroy the checks for players who do not make a Travel team.

Financial Aid:

To achieve our goal of ensuring any boy, regardless of financial situation, can play Travel basketball, the EPBBA has developed a Financial Aid program. The EPBBA Travel Basketball Financial Aid program details are the following:

- The EPBBA will offer a scholarship program to cover the full cost of the current Travel fee and the base fee if the player is eligible for free or reduced school lunch.
- As part of the registration process the parent will be asked 1) if the player will be trying out for Travel and 2) if they are in need of financial aid.
 - Parents will be asked and are required to provide their free and reduced lunch form to the EPBBA Financial Aid Director. Upon receipt of the documentation, the fees will be waived.
 - The EPBBA requests that parents work their designated shift at the EPBBA Travel Basketball Tournament and will expect the \$300 deposit at the first session of tryouts. If you are unable to provide this deposit or are unable to work the tournament, please reach out to the EPBBA Financial Aid Director. (EPBBAFinancialAid@outlook.com)

Code of Conduct:

By participating in the EPBBA travel program, all players, parents/guardians, and coaches agree to the EPBBA Code on Conduct policy that is posted to the EPBBA website:

<https://www.epbba.org/page/show/8032917-epbba-policies>

Thank you for reviewing this information and for considering participation in the Travel program. We're proud of the basketball experience we offer the participants in this program and look forward to another enjoyable basketball season.

Eden Prairie Boys Basketball Association