



Spring-Ford Youth Basketball Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 2024-9-01

Can I request for my child to play with a friend/neighbor? Can I request a specific coach?

No. At this time the league is not able to accommodate requests for grades 3rd-12th due to the draft selection process. The league will take requests for 1st-2nd grade, however, it can not guarantee that these requests will be honored.

**Note: if your child has had a bad experience with a specific coach, a request can be made to keep your child off of that coach's team so as to avoid another potential conflict. This request should be made in writing (e-mail) to a member of the League's Board of Director or the Division Commissioner, and is subject to league approval.*

Can I designate more than 1 conflict night per week?

Yes, you can designate 2 conflict nights per week, however, only 1 is guaranteed. The other night the league will attempt to honor, but it is not guaranteed. We understand that kids today are often very busy, and involved in multiple sports or other extra-curricular activities. However, with over 1600 kids participating in SFYB each season, it is not possible to guarantee more than 1 conflict night/week from players.

My son/daughter is a very good player and I'd like to challenge them more – can they “play-up” with an older age group?

It is league policy that each player is registered for their current grade level. At this time, SFYB does not allow an individual player to “play-up.” If you and your player would like to explore a more competitive environment, we encourage your player to try out for our travel program (if applicable for your grade).

What is the difference between the Travel League and the Rec/Intramural League?

Each of the leagues offer tremendous opportunities for players to learn the game of basketball and to improve their overall skill level. The primary differences between Travel and Rec are the time commitment, the level of competition, cost, and skill level.

In the Travel league the level of competition is generally higher than at the Rec league since our teams play against some of the most skilled teams from area leagues throughout Montgomery, Bucks and Delaware counties. That increased level of competition requires a higher level of commitment from both players and parents. That commitment can be in the form of the following:

- **Practice Time** (2x/week for travel vs 1x/week for Rec)
- **Travel Time** (some travel games may be up to 60 miles away vs Rec which are close in proximity)
- **Number of Games** (travel can play 20-25 games whereas Rec teams play 10-14)
- **Cost** (travel costs ~\$400-\$500/player while Rec costs \$150-\$175/player)

Additionally, given the higher level of competition and the limited availability on the travel team roster , players are required to try-out. Rec league players are allowed to participate regardless of skill level and there is no try out.

Does the Rec League have an “All Star” program for the better players?

SFYB hosts intra-divisional "All Star" games at the end of the season for the 3rd-12th grade divisions, in which the top 20 players play against each other in their respective divisions.

In addition, for the Boys 1st grade division and the Girls 1st/2nd grade divisions, SFHS hosts a dribble relay during one of the high school games for all interested kids in these divisions and SFYB also coordinates a “Fun Day” at the end of the season for these age groups.

How are team assignments determined in the Rec League?

At the conclusion of each season, Rec League Head Coaches are required to provide an evaluation of each player on their team. This information is held in strict confidence and shared only with the Division Commissioner and the Director of Rec Basketball. Prior to the following season, this information is further analyzed to group players into similar skill sets and conflict nights. Groupings are then provided to coaches who select their players during drafts held in late October/early November.

Is Spring-Ford Youth Basketball an AAU sanctioned organization?

No. Spring-Ford is not an AAU program.

Is Spring-Ford Youth Basketball affiliated with the Spring-Ford Area School District (SFASD)?

No, our league is an independent organization with no official ties to the SFSD. No funding or administrative support is received from SFASD, and SFYB pays the district for the use of their facilities and all equipment to facilitate our league activities. However, we do enjoy a good standing relationship with district administration and look to emulate the same values as the SFASD Athletic programs.

How are players evaluated for Travel Teams?

Try-outs for travel teams are scheduled prior to the start of the rec season (usually late September - early October). Players are evaluated during 2-3 sessions, depending on turnout, where they participate in drills and simulated games (3v3 and 5v5) under the supervision of objective evaluators.

What league does your travel program participate in?

Our travel teams participate in the Inter-County Basketball League (ICBA). More information can be found on the ICBA website <http://www.icbabasketball.com>.

Can a 2nd grader tryout for a Travel team?

Currently, there are no 2nd grade travel teams, however, a 2nd grader can tryout for a 3rd grade travel team.

When are Travel games played?

The Travel League game schedule is managed entirely by the ICBA, and days on which games are played can vary. Home travel games are typically played on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. However, it is not unusual to have an away game on a weeknight depending on gym availability.

When are Rec games played?

Rec League games are usually played throughout the weekend (Friday, Saturday or Sunday) with most games played on Saturdays. During playoffs, or for make-up games resulting from weather-related cancellations, games may be scheduled during the week.

Does your league have minimum playing time rules?

Yes. In our Rec League, for 1st and 2nd grade Rec divisions, coaches are advised to give equal playtime. For 3rd-12th grades, coaches are required to enter players into games for

half of regulation time and follow a rotation schedule. In the event a game goes into overtime, coaches have the freedom to play any player.

For our Travel program, we strive to have players on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teams play approximately half of the game. For all other travel divisions, our standard is to play all kids at least 1 quarter of the game, however, in both the Travel and Rec leagues, these rules are subject to reasonable exceptions by the coach (ie. availability/participation in practice, adherence to team rules, player injury, etc.).

How does your league handle discipline issues?

Our league has a strict Code of Conduct policy for coaches, players and parents/spectators that can be found on the SFYB league website under Parent's Corner. It is also included in the registration form which is acknowledged and accepted by all registrants upon registration submission. The expectation of all participants and spectators is a demonstration of good sportsmanship and respect for teammates, opposing players, coaches and referees.

If the Board is made aware of inappropriate behavior, we will investigate and discuss disciplinary actions of any and all persons involved. Disciplinary actions include but are not limited to: loss of facility admittance privileges, game suspension(s), season suspension and/or expulsion from the league.

What are the rules regarding players/coaches/spectators who receive technical fouls?

Please refer to SFYB's Technical Fouls Policy located on our website under Parent's Corner.

**Note: these rules are not applicable for technical rule violations (ie. too many players on the court, illegal defense, calling too many time-outs, etc.).*

What does the league do to ensure the quality of your coaches?

SFYB is a 100% volunteer run organization and, as such, does not pay parent volunteers to coach our players. Each year, the league offers clinics and virtual resources to help educate and train our coaches. We also utilize "community coaches" to assist in training, such as Coach Koch and Coach Dennis Stanton who will come in to run a clinic or a practice.

Our coaches come from all sorts of backgrounds – some with a ton of basketball experience and knowledge and others with little more than a good heart and a desire to give back. SFYB is always looking for additional volunteers, and welcomes the opportunity to develop our volunteers into quality coaches.