

# **Edina Basketball Association**

## **Boys Travel Tryout Process Overview (09/09/25)**

### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to establish a uniform process and set of criteria for Edina Basketball Association (EBA) travel team tryouts to ensure that each player is given a fair and just opportunity to demonstrate his ability. This overview is further intended to promote the integrity of the team selection process by requiring the travel coaches to be accountable for their selection decisions.

### **II. Application**

These guidelines apply to all travel team player evaluations and selections.

### **III. Independent Evaluators**

- A. The EBA hires independent evaluators. Players are evaluated according to their randomly assigned pinnie jersey number throughout the first two sessions of the tryout process. Player names are not provided to the evaluators by the EBA.
- B. The evaluator may not have a family member trying out in the grade the evaluator is evaluating.

### **IV. Evaluation Times and Guidelines**

- A. The times for the player evaluations will be determined by the EBA Executive Board. The evaluations, at a minimum, shall be conducted over two days. Each evaluation session may last up to two hours. A final team placement tryout day is included for 5th-8th grade involving the travel coaches and the Edina High School basketball coaching staff.
- B. The player evaluation sessions will be conducted by the Edina High School basketball coaching staff, as well as the independent evaluators. All non-parent coaches are invited to observe all evaluation sessions.
- C. The first part of the evaluations will be devoted to evaluating the players as they perform multiple drills intended to assess skill and ability including shooting, passing, dribbling (speed and controlled), rebounding, 1-on-1, and other basketball skills.
- D. The second part of the evaluations will involve, at a minimum, player scrimmages in both 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 games. During this section, the evaluators will assess player skill and ability in areas including offense (with and without the ball), defense, and overall court awareness. The coaches may continue scrimmages to match-up specific players and evaluate positions.
- E. The organization, structure, and specific drills of any evaluation shall be left to the discretion of the high school coaches.
- F. The EBA prohibits players' parents from observing tryouts with the following exceptions: (1) Parent travel coaches in 5th-8th grade with written authorization from the EBA may attend tryouts; and (2) EBA board members specifically authorized by the President of the EBA may observe any tryout sessions that do not involve his or her child. Board members may not observe any tryout sessions that involve his or her child under any circumstances. Tryouts are closed to everyone other than registered players and individuals specifically authorized by the EBA.
- G. Players will be notified of team placement on the EBA web site (see VII. Player Notification section).

### **V. Player Evaluation Non-Participation Policy**

In order to most effectively place players on the appropriate travel team, it is necessary that all players take part in the respective travel player evaluations to be considered for a travel team.

Under certain circumstances approved by the EBA President, the VP of Boys Travel, and the VP of Girls Travel (for example: religious or family event, injury when accompanied by a doctor's note, or illness when accompanied by a doctor's note), excused players may be eligible and placed on a travel team even though they were unable to participate in the evaluations.

In such situations, one or more of the following will be conducted in an effort to place players appropriately within the EBA programs (travel or house):

- Where possible, excused player's prior year team coach's player evaluation will be reviewed.
- Where possible, EBA coaches familiar with the excused player will be consulted to obtain perspective of the player's basketball abilities compared to others in the same grade.
- Others familiar with the excused player may be consulted to obtain additional perspective when deemed necessary.
- Excused player family members will not be consulted regarding potential team placement.

Any player who did not participate in the EBA basketball program the previous year will only be considered for a travel team if overwhelming evidence is obtained by the EBA Executive Board about the player's basketball abilities. In such situations, the EBA Executive Board has the authority to place an excused player on what is deemed the most appropriate team. Such designation will be communicated to the respective travel coaches during the current year tryouts in advance of team selections.

## VI. Team Formation

- A. The EBA reserves the right to limit or expand the number of travel teams per grade based on the number of players trying out, player talent, available gym space for practices, and coaching resources. The boys travel program typically consists of two 3rd grade teams, four 4th-7th grade teams and three 8th grade teams. Generally, each grade has an 'A' team and a 'B' team. There is no 'C' team in 3rd grade, one 'C' team in 8th grade, and two balanced 'C' teams in 4th-7th grade.
- B. Unless otherwise determined by the EBA Executive Board, teams will have no fewer than 8 players and no more than 10 players. Nine players are preferred on the 'A' team for each age group.
- C. 3rd-4th Grade Teams: At the conclusion of the final team placement tryout, the high school coaches will meet with the independent evaluators to form the teams. The final player rankings as determined by the evaluators will be used to assign players to the respective teams. Depending on total number of players trying out, depth of talent, and number of teams, it may be necessary to cut players. Generally, the top ranked 9 players will be placed on the 'A' team. The remaining ranked players will either be placed alternately on the 'B' teams, in order the 'B' team, alternately on the 'C' teams, and/or in order on the 'C' team.
- D. 5th-8th Grade Teams: At the conclusion of tryouts the first weekend, the independent evaluators will provide a ranking of the top ten players. The independent evaluators' player evaluations of the rest of the players will be used to determine which players advance to the final team tryout day. Player cuts are likely, depending on total number of players trying out, depth of talent, and number of teams. At the final team tryout, the high school coaches will meet with the travel coaches and the travel coaches will select their teams.
  - i. 'A' Team Selections
    - a. The top five ranked players, as determined by the evaluation process, will be placed on the 'A' team.
    - b. The 'A' travel coach will select the remainder of the team, taking into account the evaluators' player evaluations. At the coach's discretion, he may also consult prior year travel coach player evaluations (see Section E below) and have discussions with the prior year travel coach (see Section F below) and high school coaches.
    - c. Consecutive Year Coaches: If the 'A' travel coach is coaching the same level team one grade higher for consecutive years (ex: 5A then 6A), the travel coach will select the top five ranked players as well as at least three of the players ranked 6-10 as determined by the evaluation process.
  - ii. 'B' Team Selections
    - a. The remaining top ten ranked players will be placed on the 'B' team.
    - b. The 'B' travel coach will select the remainder of the team, taking into account the evaluators' player evaluations. At the coach's discretion, he may also consult prior year travel coach player evaluations (see Section E below) and have discussions with the prior year travel coach (see Section F below) and high school coaches.
  - iii. 'C' Team Selections
    - a. If there are two 'C' teams, the 'C' travel coaches will draft from the remaining players alternately to form two balanced 'C' teams, taking into account the evaluators' player evaluations. At the coach's discretion, he may also review prior year travel coach player evaluations (see Section E below) and have discussions with the prior year travel coach (see Section F below) and high school coaches.
    - b. If there is one 'C' team, the remaining players will be placed on the 'C' team.
- E. 5th-8th Grade Teams: For returning EBA travel players, prior year travel coach player evaluations will be made available to the evaluators as well as to the travel coaches. Each evaluator and travel coach may use their own discretion in weighing prior year travel coach evaluations.
- F. 5th-8th Grade teams: For returning EBA travel players, during the evaluation process prior year 5th-7th grade travel coaches may discuss former players with current year travel coaches to allow current year travel coaches to be more informed about their player selections. Each travel coach may use their own discretion in weighing prior year travel coach input.
- G. 5th-8th Grade Teams: The EBA President or VP of Boys Travel will make the evaluators/coaches aware if they are proposing to move a player up or down two or more levels compared to the previous year (ex: player on 5B last year is proposed to be cut and moved to house; player on 7C last year is proposed for 8A). This is done so that evaluators/coaches can further discuss the player. The final decision will be made by the travel coaches.

## VII. Player Notification

- A. For 5th-8th grade players, the evening one day after the conclusion of the first weekend, players advancing to the final team placement tryout day will be posted on the EBA website. All players that advance to the final team placement tryout will make a travel team.
- B. The teams will be posted on the EBA website the evening one day after the final team placement tryout.
- C. Players not selected for a team are encouraged to join the EBA's house program.