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## **BLOOMINGTON BOYS TRAVELING BASKETBALL**



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### **Tryout Guidance Manual**

Board original approval July 2022 (Latest Revision approval July 2025)

Bloomington Boys Traveling Basketball (BBTB) makes every effort to provide a fair and transparent tryout and team selection process. We want to eliminate anxiety and stress by helping players plan for tryouts by knowing what to expect and to be prepared. This Tryout Guidance Manual is available to answer questions and manage expectations for players, parents, and coaches interested in participating. Tryouts are usually early to mid-September and official dates are posted on the BBTB website once available. If you have any questions prior to tryouts, please reach out.

#### **1. Tryout Logistics:**

- Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools are likely locations for tryouts. The tryout location may change, however, and should be verified each season on the BBTB website before tryouts.
- Each grade will be assigned a designated time slot each day of the tryout.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade tryouts include 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade players. All other grades are separate.
- All players check in at the registration table at least 20 minutes before their grade's time slot each day.
- Players must wear basketball attire to each evaluation. Players are not allowed to wear traveling basketball spirit wear or uniforms (including shorts).
- Tryouts are over two days and include around 90 minutes of evaluation each day (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades may be shortened).
  - Players are evaluated on skills (ball-handling, shooting, passing, cutting, rebounding, etc.), live game play, athletic ability, and basketball IQ.
  - Players are evaluated for the entire time they are in the gym, and along with skills and live game abilities, are evaluated on body language, attitude, hustle, listening, and sportsmanship.
  - Players will have the opportunity to warm up prior to drills starting, and evaluators, coaching candidates, and Board members observe and monitor this process as well.
- Attendance policy - A player must participate in all tryout sessions unless the Coaches Committee grants an excused absence **prior** to that session.

- Players who are absent, without approval, may be disqualified and the Coaches Committee reserves the discretion to place players at the appropriate level within the grade.
- Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, including review of the previous year's team placement, coach evaluations and tryout evaluations.
- Parents are obligated to notify the Board as early as possible if their child cannot attend tryouts. The Coaches Committee then determines how best to proceed, as described in this Tryout Guideline Manual.
- **Playing Up:** Players who have played at least one year of BBTB where they were part of the top tier team may email the Board at least 14 days prior to tryouts to request trying out for a grade level one year higher than the grade that player would otherwise be eligible for. Factors on approval include whether that player and the BBTB program would benefit from that player "playing up." These situations are infrequent and subject to Coaches Committee approval as to whether to allow that player to try out at a higher grade. If approved, that player would try out for both their actual grade level and the grade level up. That player would go through a normal tryout process for each of the two respective tryouts. If the following are all true:
  - (1) The player ranks in the Top 5 for the higher-grade during tryouts.
  - (2) The applicable higher grade head coach wants that player on the top tier team; and
  - (3) Allowing that player to play up would not result in a player cut from that grade level's lowest tier team, then that player would be rostered on that higher level team instead of the current grade level team. A tryout result or decision by the player for a given year will not hold over to future years, so that player may elect to move back down to their current grade level in future years but may not do so once a decision to play up each year has been made.
- School Attendance policy - The school your child attends determines which association they can join. Specific guidance can be found at <https://www.myas.org/myba-team-composition>. Players that request to play for an alternate association, must receive a signed waiver permission request ("Player Transfer") from their home association. Player Transfer requests will be reviewed by the Board on a case-by-case basis. Player Transfer requests will be reviewed by the Board on a case-by-case basis for approval. Per MYAS rules, **teams** are allowed a limited number of Player Transfer athletes.
- Twin/Sibling policy - Parents of siblings that are in the same grade such as twins, will need to inform the Board how they want their same grade siblings evaluated prior to tryouts. Options are,
  - Each same grade sibling evaluated independently and placed on the level they qualify for even if they are on separate teams, or
  - All same grade siblings placed on the same team based on the appropriate level for the lowest rated player.

- Players requesting financial aid - The Board will provide scholarships based on the budget funds available. Partial supplemental aid may be available. To request consideration please email the Board upon completing your registration.
- All tryouts are closed to parents and the public. Parents, friends, and family are not allowed to observe tryouts. Only evaluators, Board members, and BBTB coaching candidates are allowed to observe tryouts.
- Communication between players/parents and coaching candidates about BBTB matters is prohibited from the time tryouts begin until the teams are posted. The Board will enforce this rule, including the option of disqualifying candidates from coaching if violated.
- Similarly, coaching candidates and parents shall have no contact with the independent evaluators during tryouts. Players may only have contact with evaluators during tryouts if the evaluator communicates for the purposes of administering the tryouts. Players will have no contact with evaluators outside the tryouts. Board members shall also have no contact with the evaluators during tryouts for their child's grade group. The Board will enforce this rule, including the possibility of disqualifying a coaching candidate from coaching.

## **2. Evaluators and Evaluation Process:**

- BBTB hires and pays independent evaluators to conduct tryouts.
  - Evaluators are chosen based on their basketball knowledge and impartiality to the grade level they are evaluating.
  - Evaluators have exclusive input and discretion into all evaluations. Evaluations are not shared nor revealed to Board members until after the conclusion of the tryout and even then, on a need-to-know basis.
  - The independent evaluators will not speak to coaching candidates, even if they know the individuals outside of BBTB.
- The approved pool of coaching candidates is allowed to observe, but not participate, in tryouts. It is important to note that the Board and the coaching candidates do not conduct tryouts and do not have input into the evaluations provided by the independent evaluators.

## **3. Team Formatting:**

- BBTB will field teams based on registration numbers. Teams will be formed at one of three competitive levels: Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 (in tournaments these may align to A, B and C teams):
  - Tier 1 -The highest competitive level.
  - Tier 2- The intermediate level.
  - Tier 3- The level below intermediate is developmental and will also provide competitive experience.
  - Depending on numbers and talent level, there could be more than three tiers and teams could fall between the listed defined tiers.

- The Board wants to minimize players being cut, but cuts may be necessary based on the total number of players at a grade level and player evaluations. The goal of minimizing cuts will guide the Board in its decision-making process to form teams. However, for travel teams to remain competitive and provide playing time for players (including practice time), tryouts and leveling are necessary and cuts may be needed. Please note that the [Bloomington Athletic Association \(BAA\)](#) hosts an in-house program for any players not selected by BBTB. Any player who registers for BBTB and is cut following tryouts will receive a refund of their registration payment and approval to try out for another traveling association.
- The preferred roster size for traveling teams is 8 or 9 players, although teams may have more players assigned. The total number of teams per grade level will generally be capped at five, unless exceptional factors are at play where the Board elects to go above that number. The Board may also decide to field only two teams at a grade level if numbers are low and recruiting efforts do not result in enough players to the lowest tier team. It is possible, based upon registration numbers, that one team in a grade group has as few as 7 players. The preference is for Tier 1 teams to have the smaller roster and for Tier 3 level to have the larger roster if there is an imbalance in numbers and the Tier 1 head coach decides to have the smaller roster. Natural breaks in talent within the grade will also guide these decisions.

#### **4. Team and Coach Selection and Notification:**

- The Board compiles evaluations by the independent evaluators once the tryout is complete.
  - Details for individual players are viewable by limited Board members.  
Summaries, not tied to individual players, will be viewable by members of the Board along with selected coaches based on improving BBTB basketball.
    - Please do not ask Board members about your child's evaluation.
  - Often, Board members are also coaches. If a Board member is a coaching candidate, that Board member will not have evaluations available to them for review until they are selected as a coach.
  - All players will be ranked within their grade based on the evaluations. For example, if thirty 5<sup>th</sup> grade players try out, then 5<sup>th</sup> grade players will be ranked 1-30. All players will be ranked in a "tier" format. Each grade will have Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 if enough players are present.
  - "Friend requests" are not allowed.
  - Prior to tryouts, a player or parent can request to be placed on a lower tier team. Example, a player knows they do not want to play on the top tier team for the grade and chooses to play on the next team they are selected for.
- If players have played on previous years BBTB teams, their prior commitment, performance and character is considered. No player will be placed on a team over a more deserving candidate because they previously played for BBTB or another association.

- The Tier 1 head coach or the head coach selected for the highest team at the grade level will select their team first. Thereafter, the Tier 2 head coach will be selected and choose their team following the Tier 1 team selection. The Tier 3 head coach will follow Tier 2.
  - If there are two teams at the same level (i.e., two Tier 3 teams), the Board determines whether teams will be further tiered or formed through a draft. This decision is based on natural breaks in talent within the grade and helping ensure as many players are playing at the appropriate level as possible.
- For grades 3-4, the head coach must keep the **top 4** players available, as determined by the independent evaluators. The head coach will then fill out the remainder of their team from players. For grades 5-8 coaches must select the **top 2** players determined by the independent evaluators. The head coach will then fill out the rest of their team. This section will not apply to players playing up a grade for tryouts that fall into the top 2, rather the top 2 will skip over that player and fall to the next player trying out at their natural grade level.
  - A head coach may petition the Board to replace one of the **top 2 or 4** players, but the head coach must persuade the Board of the reasons to do so. If the Board is not satisfied with the head coach's rationale, the player will remain on the team. If a head coach selects a player whose evaluation contradicts that of the evaluations submitted by the independent evaluators, the head coach can do so with appropriate rationale that the Board deems satisfactory.
  - Outside of the top two or four rankings (depending on grade), evaluations are used to guide team selection by the coaches. Team formation is based on ability, position, and role of need.
- Teams are approved by the Board prior to being made public. Once teams are posted, typically within a week of tryouts, the rosters are final. No player will be allowed to change teams unless decided by the Board.

### **5. Coach Selection Guidelines:**

- Parents interested in coaching must submit a coaching application prior to tryouts. The coaching application is on the BBTB website.
- Coaching applications and selection criteria focus on the coaching candidates:
  - History of coaching
  - Conflict resolution style
  - Playing time philosophy
  - Involvement in the program, including open gyms
  - References
  - If a parent, their son being included in the appropriate grouping of players (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3).
  - Historical evaluations and feedback
  - Basketball knowledge
- Following tryouts, the BBTB Coaches Committee (a sub-committee of the BBTB Board) selects and contacts coaches at the top tier of each grade first to confirm acceptance.

- It is possible to have the Coaches Committee offer a co-coaching opportunity, in which case there would be two equal coaches versus a head coach and an assistant coach.
- It is also possible that in-order to make an informed decision, further conversations and evaluations are needed.
- After the coaches are placed at the top tier of each grade, and players are selected, the remaining coaches will be placed with the remaining tiers and selections are continued until all teams are formed.
- Coaching selections will be made with the best interest of the players and if it is determined that an outside head coach or assistant coach is required, the board may elect to hire said coach at any time. If a coach is not found for a team and an outside coach needs to be hired, additional fees may be applied to the player's team.
- All coaches (heads and assistants) will require a background check along with training as decided by the Board.
- The Board shall have the authority to dismiss and replace any coach at any time and for any reason including but not limited to incompetence, failure to adhere to the by-laws, or failure to adhere to this Tryout Guidance Manual.

#### **6. Post Tryout Grievance Procedure:**

- If a player or parent has a grievance after teams have been selected and posted on the BBTB website, a 48 hour "cooling off" period applies. During the 48-hour period neither the player nor parent may contact the coaching staff or Board. After 48 hours, parents may request an in-person meeting to receive feedback from the tryout but may not ask about other players.
- If a player or parent reaches out during the 48-hour period, the Board is not obligated to respond.

Any deviations from the guideline above are subject to board approval.



Revised at 7/25/25 bbtb meeting

