Hello ERAA Families,

We hope that everyone is safe, healthy, and having an enjoyable summer. We wanted to provide an update on ERAA Basketball programming for the upcoming winter.

Thank you for your patience as we are doing our best to navigate the COVID-19 environment, wherein the situation is constantly changing. We will use a FAQ approach to hopefully answer your questions in this email.

1. Is ERAA Basketball going to have a season?

Travel: If Travel Basketball happens in MN, ERAA will field teams.

In-House: We are planning to field teams if games are allowed.

Little Raptors: We will make a final decision closer to the start of programming in December.

1. When will registration open for Travel Basketball, In-House Basketball, and Little Raptors?

We will proceed with opening registrations in a phased approach that aligns with the start dates of our programming.

Registrations for Travel Basketball will open on Aug 21 in anticipation of tryouts in Sept; we are still working through the logistics of a tryout process in the COVID environment. Registration for ERAA Travel Basketball will be $395/player.

Dates have not yet been set for the opening of registration for In-House Basketball or Little Raptors, though we do not plan to open these registrations until after school begins and we see how return to school progresses.

1. Why has ERAA Basketball delayed the opening of registration?

We are hoping to have as much confidence as possible that a season will actually happen before opening registration. There is a significant cost- both monetary and in time- to collect registrations only to have to turn around and refund them. We are attempting to minimize these costs.

1. Why isn’t ERAA able to make a final decision on a season at this point in time?

Unfortunately the progression of the virus and the associated mandates/regulations that could be put in place in an effort to mitigate spread are difficult to predict. There are 2 primary sources of decisions which impact us but which we do not control:

1. Mandates from the State of MN- all associations across the state will be impacted uniformly by such decisions
2. Decisions within Washington County that impact our access to gyms. We rely heavily on the gyms in the schools within District 833 for our programming. District 833’s current published [policy](https://www.sowashco.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1217437&pageId=27511058) on facilities is that rental of gymnasiums will NOT be allowed if District 833 schools shift to a Distance Learning model. Currently District 833 is planning to utilize a model which includes in-person instruction, in which case gym rentals are allowed. However, the District could shift to a Distance model either by a decision of the School Board or if mandated by local COVID-19 case counts in accordance with guidelines set forth by the State of MN. As of last report the case counts in Washington County were 16.66 per 10k residents; these numbers are reported weekly [here](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/wschool.pdf). Under the currently published policy, If that number increases above 30, Distance Learning will be required in Washington County and gym rentals will not be allowed.  
     
   The distance learning threshold was changed at last week’s School Board meeting; the earlier threshold was 20. That change is just one example of the fluidity of the current environment, and the challenges with planning.   
     
   Note that the District 833 policies mentioned above are subject to change in the future.
3. Why have other associations decided to play a season but ERAA has not?

No association is currently able to guarantee that a season will occur, due to the outside factors mentioned in item #4. Our friends at WAA and CGAA also utilize facilities in District 833, and would be similarly impacted by any shutdown of those facilities.   
  
Other associations have elected to open registration before ERAA has chosen to do so, but nobody can say if programming is going to take place at this point in time.

1. Will WAA have a season while ERAA chooses to cancel its season?   
     
   At this point in time we do not envision any scenario in which WAA has a travel or in-house season but ERAA does not. WAA and ERAA in-house teams play in the same in-house league, and our travel teams similarly play in the same types of tournaments (though specific events vary for the travel teams).   
     
   It is possible that ERAA could elect to cancel Little Raptors while WAA runs their programming for young athletes, as those programs are run independently. No decision has been made at this point in time.