



August 2020

Orono Travel Basketball Families,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer! Planning for the 2020-2021 season is coming along, and as you might expect, it is a bit of a moving target. We have decided to proceed as though we will have a normal season and are preparing plans to adjust when/if needed. Communication on changes will be sent via email, posted on our website and on social media (Instagram).

We are excited for the 2020-2021 season and thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we will surely be navigating uncharted waters. The safety of our players and our community is our top priority and we will make all decisions accordingly.

**Registration** opens **Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>**! Access the link via our [website](#). Registration is set to close September 25<sup>th</sup> so please register as soon as possible.

**Scholarships** OBBA provides scholarships to families who qualify. Please complete application [here](#) or see link on OBBA website. OBBA Families: please consider contributing to our OBBA Scholarship Fund, which enables our organization to provide opportunities to other children in our district. When completing your registration online, please look for the option to donate to the fund or contact the OBBA directly to make your donation. 100% of your donation will be used to cover the costs of scholarships for children in our program. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Thank you for supporting our community and our program.

### **Tryouts**

The Tryout structure will look slightly different this year. Players will attend one full weekend of tryouts with practice starting the following week. Tryouts will be held on the following dates at the Orono Middle School: (*specific times for each grade TBD*)

- **GIRLS** - Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> **AND** Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Teams posted by the evening of Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Team practices start the week of Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>
- **BOYS** - Friday, October 23<sup>th</sup> **AND** Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Teams formed by the evening of Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Team practice start the week of Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

Boys and Girls in grades 5-8<sup>h</sup> will each have one Friday and one Saturday tryout (back-to-back tryout days for each gender). Players are required to attend both sessions. 4<sup>th</sup> graders will have only one

day of tryouts (Saturday). If your player cannot attend one or both sessions you must provide notification via email to [info@oronobasketball.com](mailto:info@oronobasketball.com) at least one week in advance.

**Tryout Fee:** A \$15 Tryout Fee will be assessed during the registration process. This fee covers the tryout jersey which will be also used for practices throughout the season.

Please refer to the Orono Basketball Policy Handbook for additional details related to tryouts. OBBA will also provide additional information via email to all registered email addresses prior to tryouts.

**Outside Evaluators *\*New\**** If you are a returning OBBA family, you will recall we utilized a third party to conduct our evaluations last year for the first time. We will again utilize a third party this year but due to changes at the Minnesota Timberwolves & Lynx Academy, we have selected Jefferson Mason and his team of highly experienced evaluators to facilitate our evaluations for the 2020-2021 season. OBBA has partnered with Jefferson for our K-3 program for several years and are excited to expand that partnership into our Travel evaluations. Jefferson has experience facilitating evaluations for several Twin Cities youth basketball associations we are excited to have him lead this critical process for us. We are excited to build off the positive changes we made last year and further enhance this process for the upcoming season. As fairness and transparency remain key objectives for OBBA, we are thrilled to be able to continue to uphold this commitment. OBBA will provide additional, specific details prior to evaluations regarding the structure, scoring criteria and team formation strategy.

### **Volunteer Coaches**

Due to practices starting right after tryouts this year, we will need all coaches applications submitted by:

- **Girls Coaching Applicants:** Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>
- **Boys Coaching Applicants:** Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

Coaching application link [here](#). Parent Coaches will be notified of their team placement at the same time players are notified.

### **Parent Meeting**

OBBA will endeavor to host a parent meeting, whether in person or virtually, during evaluations. Details will be forthcoming.

### **Program Fees**

OBBA will not be making changes to the fee structure for this season and fees remain as follows:

Grade Level	2020-2021 Fees
4th	\$350
5th	\$400
6th	\$400
7th	\$500
8th	\$500

Please note, as we mentioned in our parent letter last year, some local associations had either considering or voted to move to an admission-free tournament format. On a positive note, this change directly impact families attending tournaments by removing the entrance fee. However, in order to recoup these costs, associations will need to begin increasing the registration fee of their tournaments which is a significant cost passed on to OBBA. This trend seems to be picking up speed and many of our tournament fees, especially on the boys' side, have increased. However, OBBA has committed to keeping fees flat this year and re-evaluating as needed in future seasons. It is likely OBBA will need to reevaluate registration costs in the near future as the cost of tournament registrations are increasing at a rate that exceeds our program fees. Participation in quality tournaments is a critical component to the success of OBBA and we will continue to monitor this format change and communicate with our families as it develops.

### **Refunds due to COVID**

Should COVID negatively impact our plans for the season, OBBA will provide refunds, either full or partial depending upon what the season entails. Should tournament play be limited but OBBA is able to hire trainers to run skills for our players, we will use registration funds to support these costs.

### **Uniforms**

Although this year was scheduled to be a year in which all players purchased new uniforms, we have decided to hold off on requiring new uniforms this year due to the potential of COVID impacting our season. Should players require new uniforms due to sizing or other issues, you will have an opportunity to order new. All incoming 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be required to purchase uniforms. Additional information will be sent regarding this.

### **Family Volunteer Fee**

Families of each OBBA player are required to submit a volunteer deposit check of \$250 per player payable to OBBA (separate checks required for each OBBA player). **Checks will be collected at tryouts.** Upon completion of a shift at an Orono sponsored tournament, the deposit will be waived. In the event the volunteer requirement is not met, the check will be cashed. This is no change from last season. Should OBBA not host a home tournament, all checks will be destroyed and there will be no volunteer requirement.

### **Out of Town Travel Tournament**

OBBA is monitoring the COVID situation and will be evaluating the possibility of safety participating in an out of town travel tournament. At this point we are not registered for any tournament outside of the twin cities metro area.

### **Open Board Positions**

Volunteers are a critical component to the success of OBBA and we are grateful to our amazing families who commit their time and talents. As our program continues to grow and develop, we always seeking volunteers to join our board.

We currently have two open board positions:

- Facilities Coordinator
- Girls Tournament Director

Additional details for each position can be found on our website. If you are interested in joining the OBBA board the application is on the website or [here](#). Please reach out to myself or any board member if you would like to receive more information. Additionally, we welcome support in these roles by non-board members.

Lastly, please share this email with others who may not know about OBBA. Our emails are only sent to those currently associated with our program and we would love to see new faces this Fall. *If you wish to NOT receive our emails, please reply to this note and we will remove you.*

Visit our [website](#) frequently for updates throughout the remainder of the summer and into the season.

Thank you for your support of and commitment to Orono Basketball.

Beth Watkins, President  
Orono Basketball Association  
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