



**SYSO Somers Girls Basketball
Travel Program Overview & Guidelines**

SYSO GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYING POLICY

Somers Girls Basketball Travel Program Guidelines

The intent of travel basketball is to provide more skilled basketball players with the opportunity to progress their skills in a more competitive, yet still positive and constructive, environment. As with any SYSO travel division, Girls Basketball follows all SYSO bylaws and guidelines.

Additional details regarding the Girls Travel Basketball program are listed below:

Travel Basketball Calendar

- The travel basketball year begins with tryouts in the fall (usually early October) and ends with the following year's tryout.
- The primary travel basketball season is the "winter" which consists of practices beginning in October through league playoffs in mid/late March. At the coach's discretion teams may also participate in "offseason" spring and/or summer leagues (details below).

Eligibility

- SYSO Girls Travel Basketball players must meet the following eligibility criteria:
 - Must be a Somers resident
 - 4th Grade through 8th grade only
 - Must attend at least one tryout (or have an approved medical waiver)
- Travel basketball teams are **grade specific**, not based on a player's age.
- Playing Up – Playing up will only be allowed when there are not enough players in a particular grade to field a team. No grade appropriate player will be cut to accommodate an individual "playing up".
- Out of town players will not be allowed to play SYSO travel basketball.
- Players who have moved to the town within a given travel year are ineligible to play until the next travel basketball year (as they did not meet the eligibility criteria of attending at least one tryout). Unless it is deemed that there are not enough players (minimum of 8) to fill an individual team roster. This will be at the discretion of the Girls Basketball Board.

Commitment

- It is expected that those who make a roster view the SYSO travel basketball team as their number one sports priority during the winter season.
- Players who accept a roster spot on a travel team are only making a commitment to the winter season. Participation in any "offseason" spring and/or summer leagues is not required.
- Travel basketball requires a significant time commitment. Teams will likely play at least 10 games (depending on the league(s) entered) and practices will be held up to 2-3 times per week. Please keep this in mind prior to accepting a roster slot.
- Each coach should meet with their team's parents at the beginning of the season to discuss both player and team expectations (team rules, playing time, etc.) as well as any other team specifics.
- If you feel that you will not be able to make a number of practices or games before the season begins please let your coach know immediately.

- In addition to the time commitment there will also be additional fees charged for league/tournament registration, referees and uniforms. These costs will be divided equally across all players and will vary per team based on league entered and uniform need.
- Before accepting any travel roster spot please give serious thought to the level of commitment (both time and financial). If you are not able to accept the commitment please decline the roster spot so that someone who may not have originally made the team has the opportunity.

In Town Requirement

- SYSO Girls Basketball does not have an in-town basketball requirement but it is highly recommended that all players consider some other form of basketball activity (in-town, CYO, weekly clinics /training, etc.) in addition to the travel team.

Tryouts / Roster Acceptance

- During tryouts, players are evaluated not only individual offensive and defensive basketball skills but on fundamentals, teamwork and other intangibles including "coachability". The Evaluation Process will vary with each grade and will be numeric based. The Evaluation Process will be communicated to all those who register prior to the 1st tryout dates.
- Evaluators will consist of independent coaches and/or SYSO volunteers who can provide an honest, objective assessment of an individual's skills and ability to play on a travel basketball team.
- Medical waivers in lieu of attending tryouts will only be granted by the Girls Basketball Board. An approved waiver **does not** guarantee a roster slot.
- Team roster size is determined by the league & coaches, and all rosters must have final approval of the Girls Basketball Board.
- Unfortunately, there may not be enough roster spots for all who have tried out. In the likelihood of cuts, players who do not make a team will be placed on an alternate list and if a subsequent roster spot becomes available (for the primary winter season or for the subsequent "offseason" – if applicable) they will be contacted directly.
- Players who have participated in tryouts, have been offered a roster position for the winter season and for whatever reason have declined are then placed on the alternate list and their roster spot will be offered to someone else on the alternate list.
- Alternates will be selected based on team need. The coach will make the decision on whether an alternate will be selected or the roster spot will be eliminated for the season, subject to Board Approval.
- If a player accepts a roster spot on a specific SYSO Travel team and then declines to participate on the team after Travel Team Rosters are communicated, the player may be required to sit out one full season of SYSO Travel Basketball. Final determination will be made by the acting Girls Basketball Board
- Players who, for whatever reason, either quit the travel team or are removed from the team due to a code of conduct violation may be removed from any future consideration for the remainder of the travel basketball year. Final determination will be made by the acting Girls Basketball Board.

Leagues / Tournaments

- There are a variety of options available for travel basketball in this area during the winter travel basketball season including (but not limited to):
 - The Brewster Sports Center Super League – 10-12 games plus playoffs - all games held at the Brewster Sports Center. Winter Season runs from late October to early March
 - Tri-County Basketball League (TCBL) – league runs from mid-November through mid-March. Home games played in Somers. Away games played throughout the area.
 - House of Sports – Winter Basketball Super League. The House of Sports, located in Ardsley, NY will draw teams from the Tri State area. All games played at the House of Sports.
- In addition, there may be area tournaments that teams may be eligible for and coaches may elect to enter. Additional costs may be incurred if teams decide to participate.
- The determination of which league(s) and tournament(s) to enter is at the discretion of the travel basketball coach and the Girls Basketball Board.

Note – each league may have specific rules that prohibit players from playing for SYSO (for example, leagues typically do not allow players to play for any high school team or for two different teams in the same division). Upon selection please let your coach know if your daughter is intending to play for any other team.

“Offseason” Travel Basketball

- Over the past few years the basketball “season” has expanded to include Spring and Summer leagues. These leagues are considered by SYSO as “offseason” and as such participation is not required. If a travel coach wishes to enter their team into a spring or summer league they are permitted to do so and will be eligible to use SYSO facilities for practices and/or games (if available).
- Guidelines for “Offseason” basketball:
 - Priority for “offseason” leagues will be given to those who had a roster spot and have participated on the travel team during the primary winter season.
 - Any available roster slots will then be filled with alternates (those who tried out in the fall and did not make the primary season travel roster).
 - If after the alternate list has been exhausted and there are still not enough players to field a team, that team will not be able to participate in the league as an SYSO sponsored team. Players who did not try out in the previous fall will not be permitted to join the team during the “offseason”.

Coaches

- Head Coach determination will be based on experience and ability to work in a constructive, positive environment with kids. It is recommended to have 2 coaches per team to ensure continuity at practice, games, etc.
- Coaching positions are not guaranteed and children of coaches are not guaranteed roster spots. For a parent to coach a travel basketball team (either as a Head Coach or an Assistant Coach) their daughter must have made that team (and players must meet all eligibility requirements stated above).
- In certain situations, outside coaches/trainers may need to be brought in to either coach or train a travel team. In those instances, the coach must be approved by the Girls Basketball Board and impacted

players/parents will be made immediately aware of the need and decision. To facilitate "Outside Coaches" the individual team must have a registered SYSO Member/Parent at all practices/games.

Communications

- It is expected that communications are delivered in a timely manner both to and from coaches regarding games, practices, and/or team meetings. Follow up & proactive communication will only benefit the experience of the players.

Code of Conduct

- Coaches and parents are expected to abide by the SYSO Code of Conduct. Violations of any code during away or offsite travel basketball games while representing SYSO will be met with the same judgment as if the violation occurred within an SYSO facility.
- Specific Players Code of Conduct
 - If a player is ejected for fighting during a game or practice they will immediately be suspended for the balance of the season.
 - If a player receives two technical fouls (and is ejected) during a game they will be suspended for the following game (regular season or playoffs). If a player is ejected from two games during the same season they will be suspended for the balance of the season.
 - If a player receives out of school suspension they are to be suspended for the following game during the season.
- Parents / Coaches Code of Conduct
 - If a coach or parent is ejected for fighting during a game or practice they will immediately be suspended for the balance of the season.
 - If a coach receives two technical fouls (and is ejected) during a game they will be suspended for the following game (regular season or playoffs). If a coach is ejected from two games during the same season they will be suspended for the balance of the season.
- If there are specific issues that need to be addressed with the Girls Basketball Board there are specific escalation procedures as per SYSO policies.