

**COMPETITIVE TRAVELING TEAM GUIDELINES
RIVER FALLS GIRLS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**

I. OBJECTIVES

1. The objective of the traveling team program is to offer girls residing in River Falls School District an opportunity for participation in a competitive basketball program.
2. The Association's efforts are ultimately directed at the development of players for a successful high school program. Based on this objective, the Association supports and works directly with the River Falls School Girls Basketball Program and its coaches.

II. PHILOSOPHY

1. We will work to develop the skills of each player in this program. This includes physical skills as well as a solid understanding of the game. The traveling team program also places a strong emphasis on winning.
2. There is a commitment to developing our teams and program, yet we will not lose sight of the fact that enjoyment in the process is central to the program.
3. Accepting roles and making individual sacrifices is important. It should be clearly understood that each player's skill level, athletic ability and attitude will determine the type of role she may play. The players selected to be members of a team may contribute in a variety of roles. Certain players will help more defensively, some will rebound better, some will pass especially well and others will do a greater share of the scoring. Certain players may lack some skills yet may still be valuable team members because of their positive attitudes and work in practice.
4. Coaches determine playing time and team role. Equal participation will not be guaranteed, although every effort will be made to get each player a reasonable amount of playing time in each game. In addition, all players will contribute to team performance and will be treated with respect.
5. In order for our teams to reach their potential, players must be willing to work together. A great deal of emphasis will be placed on teamwork and the concept of team. How team members work together and how they treat each other will be an area of emphasis. The friendships that develop out of this experience will endure long after the last whistle blows.

III. TEAM SELECTION

1. There is a standardized system to pick traveling teams. Players will be rated and selected by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors and may include River Falls School District coaches and outside evaluators. Player selection will be determined by the rating results of tryouts, combined with position considerations and past coaches' evaluations.
2. The River Falls Girls Basketball Association follows a "Gold" team / "Blue" team philosophy for the 7th and 8th grades, with the Gold team playing at a higher competition level. The Association has selected different skill level tournaments to coincide with this system. Players will be placed on Gold or Blue teams based upon the selection process described above.

3. **For 7th and 8th grade**, depending upon the number of girls registered, we will attempt to fill at least two competitive teams. Each team may have up to 12 players. For players not selected to a traveling team, the School District of River Falls provides team play for all 7th and 8th grade girls interested in basketball. We expect 7th and 8th grade teams will play in 8 to 10 Saturday tournaments (32-40 games), beginning in October and ending in February. Traveling team players in 7th and 8th grade are encouraged to also play in the River Falls School League.
4. **For 6th grade**, depending upon the number of girls registered, we will attempt to fill at least two competitive teams. Each team may have up to 12 players. We expect 6th grade teams to play in 6 to 8 Saturday tournaments (24-32 games), beginning in November and ending in February.
5. **For 5th grade**, depending upon the number of girls registered, we will attempt to fill at least two competitive teams. Each team may have up to 12 players. Teams will be divided based upon position requirements only and will compete at the same competitive level. We expect 5th grade teams to play in 5 to 7 Saturday tournaments (20 to 28 games), beginning in November and ending in February. Formation of 1 team may occur as a result of not having enough girls. In this instance girls may rotate to tournaments so each child as equal playing time.
6. **For 4th grade**, This will include (2) options for signup. 1st part of season will be to learn fundamentals of game and will include scrimmages with coaches as refs and instructors. The 2nd part of the season will follow the same format of the 5th grade tournaments. Formation of 1 team may occur as a result of not having enough girls. In this instance girls may rotate to tournaments so each child as equal playing time.
7. Players who try out must reside in the School District of River Falls or seek special exemption from the Board.

IV. PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

1. Players are expected to attend all practices and games. If for some reason players are going to be late or miss a practice, coaches must be notified.
2. Treat others with dignity and respect on and off the court.
3. Traveling basketball has a long season with many highs and lows. Each player is expected to work at being positive and embracing the team attitude.
4. Players should be on time. This means on the floor and ready to start practice at the designated time. Players should be ready to take the floor 30 minutes before scheduled games.
5. No profanity will be allowed.
6. Be respectful of school employees and property, as well as other activities or events being held in the schools during your practice time.
7. Provide coaches your full attention and respect. Focus and concentration in practice is critical. The success of the season directly relates to what takes place on the practice floor.
8. Be respectful of the game officials and never challenge their calls or respond in a negative manner. The coaches will deal with officials.
9. Compete hard, but treat opponents with respect.

10. Players on the bench need to be into the game, be aware of what the team is doing offensively and defensively, and be ready to play.
11. Our goal is to win, but we will always show good sportsmanship in winning or losing.

V. COACH SELECTION

1. Quality of basketball coaching is the most critical component of a successful traveling basketball program. Head coaches must be able to work with youth players and have an appropriate level of knowledge and expertise for the age and ability level of the team they are coaching. Demonstrated past experience in coaching and playing will be strongly considered. In addition, coaches must promote the philosophy of the program.
2. The Board of Directors will determine the coaches for each team. Selection will be based upon the recommendations of a committee appointed by the Board. High School and Jr. High School Coaches may contribute to the search/selection committee. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to identify potential candidates and make final recommendations to the Board. Coaches selected the previous year do not automatically coach the current year and must be evaluated by the committee.

VI. COACH EXPECTATIONS

1. Coaches will be organized and prepared for all games and practices. Coaches should be on time for practice and games.
2. Coaches will treat players, parents, and opponents with respect.
3. Coaches are expected to work at being positive and embrace the team approach.
4. No profanity will be allowed.
5. Coaches must be respectful of school employees and property and other events being held at the school during practice times.
6. Coaches will deal respectfully with officials.
7. Coaches will promote competition, discipline, skill development and team attitude.
8. Our goal is to win, but coaches will show good sportsmanship in winning or losing.

VII. OTHER

1. Player or parent concerns should be discussed with the coach first. Concerns may also be brought before the Board or to the attention of any Board member.
2. Parents and players are expected to support the team and the coaches. Parents will be required to work and help out at River Falls Girl Basketball Hosted Tournaments (1 or 2 per year). A payment of \$50 may be made to the Association in lieu of donating time.

VIII. SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Let's not forget that this program is aimed at giving the youth of our school district the opportunity to have fun, while developing basketball skills, self-discipline, team spirit, and

a desire to win. We will demand good sportsmanship and respect for others in winning and losing.

2. The River Falls Girls Basketball Association authorizes the Board of Directors to have summary powers to suspend, expel or terminate the membership of any family, adult, or child whose conduct the majority of the Board shall deem detrimental to the purpose of the organization.