

<b>Marlton Recreation Council Standard Operating Procedure</b>	
<b>Section:</b> Sport Specific Policies	<b>Number:</b> 104.01
<b>Subject:</b> Sport Travel Team Policy	
<b>Effective Date:</b> 4/08/2025	<b>Page:</b> 1 of 2
<b>Last Revised:</b>	<b>Supersedes or replaces: None - New Policy</b>
<b>Issued by:</b> MRC Executive Board	
<b>Approved by:</b> MRC Executive Board	
<p>The Written Policies developed by the Marlton Recreation Council are intended to provide a system for the orderly operation of youth sports, and do not enlarge any MRC member's civil or criminal liability in any way. They should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of Written Policies can only be the basis of an internal complaint against any member of the MRC, and then only in conjunction with disciplinary action.</p>	



**Purpose:**

To provide a clear guidance for the creation and maintenance of travel teams by individual sports

**Scope:**

This policy shall apply to all sports, that wish to create and/or maintain travel teams

**Procedure:**

**A. General Policy Statement**


The MRC recognizes that certain sports wish to provide a more competitive level of competition than that typically provided by recreation leagues. To that end, this policy is intended to provide guidance and certain requirements for the creation of and maintenance of travel teams. The intent of travel programs is to provide highly competitive programs designed to serve those players who are interested in playing sports at a higher level than is found in the “in-town” or “recreational” program. The goal of a travel team always should be to field teams that are competitive in the tournaments in which they play. Travel teams only should be created with this in mind.

**B. Travel Team Creation**

Beginning prior to and finishing after evaluations and/or tryouts, the Sport Board should determine the number of competitive travel teams that it believes it can field and for which it has sufficient players, which decision shall be made and posted on the sport website. Once that decision is made and the number of teams is posted on the website, a sport may not create a new travel team for any reason, including because a parent volunteers to coach one and their child was not selected for a travel team. Such a process is contrary to the goal of fielding competitive travel teams. If a sport wishes to create more than three travel teams in any age group, it must provide notice of such intent to the Executive Board and receive approval from the Executive Board.

**C. Evaluations**

Each sport that creates and fields travel teams should create an evaluation process to determine the number of teams it feels would be appropriate to participate in the travel program and how many teams that justifies. This process is in the discretion of the sport, but, once created, (1) it shall be applied in the same manner to all athletes seeking to play travel and (2) it cannot be changed until before the following season. Any

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evaluations and the results thereof shall be kept confidential and shall not be provided to parents or outside the MRC. This confidentiality is necessary so that the evaluators are able to be honest and forthright in their evaluation of the athletes.

**D. Standards to Make Travel Team**

Players for travel teams should be selected based on several factors including effort, determination, intensity and skill level. One or more teams may be formed per age group, depending on the number of players interested in participating in the Program and the ability to form teams under the standards of this policy. Any standards and requirements to be added to a travel team shall be posted prior to tryouts for that travel team (or prior to the beginning of the recreation season if playing recreation is a requirement to playing travel). Once posted, those criteria will remain in effect though the end of that travel season and cannot be changed until between the end of that travel season and the beginning of the following year’s travel season.

**E. Notification**

Prior to evaluations, each sport shall post on its website and, if it maintains social media pages, its social media pages, the expected date by which all individuals who have been assigned to a travel team will be notified. Following notification of all athletes who have been assigned to travel teams, each sport shall post on its website and, if it maintains social media pages, its social media pages, a statement that all travel teams have been completed and that, if an athlete has not received notice, they have not been assigned to a travel team. A sport may, but does not have to, contact athletes who were not assigned to travel teams that they have not been assigned.

**F. Non-Selection to a Travel Team**

Assignment and selection/non-selection to travel teams is at the discretion of the Sport and are not grievable under the MRC grievance policy. (Policy 101.03)