



Revised
6/6/2022

Minnesota Youth Basketball Alliance Best Practices, Team Composition & Player Eligibility Guidelines

Applies to:

- Grades 3-8
- Winter community-based traveling basketball season
 - Late October through the MYAS Grade State Championships in March

This is a living document. There will be modifications and additions made to this document. To ensure that you have the latest version, please refer to the “Revised” date listed near the top of the page.

Every travel basketball association within the state of Minnesota is strongly encouraged to join the MYBA. If your association is interested in joining, please visit www.myas.org.

This document was proposed by the MYBA Eligibility Task Force and approved by the MYBA Basketball Board of Advisors (association leaders from around the state of Minnesota) and establishes eligibility guidelines for youth athlete participation in a traveling basketball association.

It is each MYBA member association’s responsibility to ensure that rostered players participating on teams assembled by their association are eligible to do so, under the current player eligibility guidelines.

Associations that border each other geographically are strongly encouraged to openly correspond, communicate, and collaborate to ensure that players are participating with the appropriate youth basketball association.

ASSOCIATION BEST PRACTICES AND ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Criminal Background Checks

- All coaches and administrative personnel must have passed a background check within the last three years.

Concussion Certification

- Per Minnesota state law, all coaches and administrators must complete an accredited concussion course that needs to be renewed every three years.

Child Safety Training

- Coaches must be in compliance with the federal law, Protecting Youth Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017.

Code of Conduct

- Associations must establish code of conduct policies that each player and parent/guardian must acknowledge prior to the start of the season.

Tryout Process

- Associations must have an open try-out process for players.

Coach Selection

- Associations must have an open application process for coaching candidates.

Coach Education

- Associations must provide a coaches' education program each year.

Organizational Standards

- The MYBA and the MYAS recognize organizations that promote and implement programs for multiple age/grade levels.
 - We do not recognize single teams formulated by any individual(s) not affiliated with or recognized by a recognized organization as described below, or by a bona fide association.
- The sponsoring organization must be of perpetual nature (i.e., intend to be in existence from year to year).
- The sponsoring organization must have a democratic posture, meaning that the administrative structure of the organization must allow for open election of officers and open forums for parents and participants to voice their concerns.
- Associations must have a minimum of four traveling teams.

Association Recognition Policy

- The MYAS Board of Directors has deemed that having multiple travel basketball associations servicing the same area can create confusion among athletes, parents, coaches, and facility providers. Therefore, the MYAS has adopted the policy that only one association in any given high school attendance area/geographic area will be recognized by the MYAS.
- Exceptions to this policy are Minneapolis and St. Paul (see **Clarification on Minneapolis and St. Paul**).

Compliance Audits

- MYBA members shall agree to provide the MYAS with requested information to prove that the Best Practices listed above are being met and the MYBA Team Composition Guidelines are being followed.

TEAM COMPOSITION AND ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Player Eligibility

- Athletes are allowed to participate with only one MYBA member association or school for the winter community-based youth basketball season.
- Athletes must try out and compete with the travel basketball association where they attend school (some exceptions are listed below).
- If a travel basketball opportunity through an association, school, community education, or similar does not exist in the area representing the youth athlete's school attendance area, or if the athlete has been cut or restricted from their home association, they may participate with a bordering association. In this situation, the athlete does not need to complete the Player Transfer process.

School Attendance

- **An athlete's home association is determined by where they attend school**, not where they reside.
- Clarifications/examples:
 - If an athlete attends a school within the Centennial HS attendance area, that athlete will register to play for the Centennial Basketball Association.
 - If an athlete lives in the city of Blaine but attends a school within the Centennial school system, the athlete will register to play for the Centennial Basketball Association.
 - The athlete would not be eligible to play for the Blaine Basketball Association.
 - If an athlete lives in the attendance area for Blaine HS but attends a school within the Centennial school system, the athlete will register to play for the Centennial Basketball Association.
 - The athlete would not be eligible to play for the Blaine Basketball Association.
- Situations involving schools that feed into multiple high schools:
 - In a situation where the athlete attends a school that feeds into multiple high schools, they can choose from among those associations when signing up for traveling basketball. This will be enforced based on the current school they attend (i.e., their elementary or middle school).
 - Once an individual chooses an association, they may not "flip" to another supported association unless/until they change the school they attend.
 - Example:
 - Falcon Ridge Middle School in Apple Valley, MN, feeds into Apple Valley HS and Eastview HS based upon where an individual resides within the district.
 - ◆ If Player A attends Falcon Ridge MS they can choose Valley Athletic Association or the Eastview Basketball Association when they first start attending Falcon Ridge MS.
 - ◆ If they choose the Eastview Basketball Association, they may not switch over to Valley Athletic Association unless they change the middle school they attend.
 - ◆ If Player A attends an elementary school in the area that is designated for Apple Valley HS exclusively, but then goes to Falcon Ridge MS, they must play for the Valley Athletic Association while attending that elementary school. Once they attend Falcon Ridge MS, they could choose to play for either Valley Athletic or Eastview Basketball Association.

School Attendance (*continued*)

- Residency Exception: Allows a player who lives within an association that does not border the association where they attend school to request a Player Transfer allowing the player to participate with the association where they reside.
 - Example: This would allow a player who lives in Stillwater and goes to a public school in Forest Lake to request a Player Transfer from Forest Lake to play for Stillwater.
 - Forest Lake and Stillwater do not share a border.
 - The bordering association component is not in effect for this exception.
 - Documentation from Forest Lake schools verifying the player resides in Stillwater must accompany the completed Player Transfer form.

School Team Eligibility Guidelines

- This rule applies to both private and public schools.
- The following criteria must be met for a school team to meet MYAS eligibility requirements:
 - The program must be organized by the school staff/administrators.
 - All the kids must attend the school.
 - The school must enroll kids at the specific grade level for the school to offer a team at that grade level.
 - Clarification: If the school enrolls grades 6-12, a 5th grade team representing that school will not meet the MYAS eligibility requirements since the school does not enroll 5th graders.
- Private/Charter School Exception:
 - Athletes attending a private/charter school may choose one of the options listed below.
 - Participate with the private/charter school that they attend.
 - Participate with the traveling basketball association where the school is located.
 - ◆ Example: If the private/charter school is located within the Brainerd HS attendance area, the athlete could choose to play with Brainerd Basketball Association.
 - Participate with the traveling basketball association where the athlete resides.
 - ◆ Example: If the athlete resides within the Brainerd HS attendance area, the athlete could choose to play with Brainerd.

Home School and Online School Policy

- The athlete may participate with the traveling basketball association where they reside.
 - Example: If the athlete resides within the Andover HS attendance area, the athlete is eligible to play with Andover.

Open/All-Star & Independent Teams

- Open/all-star and independent teams are NOT allowed to participate in MYAS/MYBA events.
- An "open/all-star" team is defined as any team that is comprised of players from multiple communities where recognized youth basketball associations exist.
- An "independent" team is defined as any team that is comprised of players who all reside in the same community or attend the same school, but who have chosen to bypass the local traveling basketball association.

Player Transfer *(often referred to as a player waiver)*

- A player may request to play with a bordering association.
- Both the player's home association and the accepting association must approve the transfer.
 - Neither the home association nor the accepting association is required to approve a transfer request. They have the right to either approve or deny the request.

Documentation to Verify School Attendance and Residence

- School Attendance: The following forms of verification are accepted (copies are accepted).
 - Any school-issued ID or document that lists the player's name and school that they attend.
- Residency: The following form of verification is accepted (copies are accepted).
 - To confirm residency, the MYBA will refer to the address that the player's school has on file.
- Note: Coaches and travel directors must be prepared to provide this documentation if requested by the MYBA (MN Youth Basketball Alliance) Compliance and Eligibility Committee.

Documentation to Verify Current Grade

- Any school-issued ID or document that lists the player's name and current grade (copies are accepted).
- Note: Coaches and travel directors must be prepared to provide this documentation if requested by the MYBA (MN Youth Basketball Alliance) Compliance and Eligibility Committee.

Penalties

- Should compliance and eligibility violations arise, appropriate action will be taken, which may include but is not limited to written censures, suspensions of individuals, loss of MYBA membership, or the loss of the privilege to participate in MYBA/MYAS basketball events.

Clarification on Minneapolis and St. Paul

- Minneapolis and St. Paul are approved to have multiple associations.
- A player attending a school in Minneapolis may play with any of the associations in Minneapolis.
- A player attending a school in St. Paul may play with any of the associations in St. Paul.

Clarification of Common Misconceptions *(correct eligibility rules listed here)*

- For situations where parents/guardians feel that their son or daughter was placed on a team that does not match their skill level, the MYBA/MYAS cannot intervene. These situations must be worked out with the leadership within their association.
- If an association does not offer an "A" team (for example), this does not automatically give the athlete the ability to participate with a different association. In these situations, the MYBA Player Transfer process must be completed.
- A Player Transfer must be completed annually.