

## **Travel Basketball**

The Woodcliff Lake Travel Basketball program is a volunteer organization, operating under the WCL Boys Basketball Association. Its mission is to contribute to increasing the passion for basketball in the community by offering a higher level of competition while developing fundamental basketball skills. Team-oriented play is emphasized with a goal of being competitive against other towns. Practice time and advanced training are provided to enhance the individual and team skills of each participant.

## **Eligibility**

Participation in the WCL Travel Program is available to players residing in WCL who participate in the Rec Program or who play on the WCL Middle School team. The WCL Boys Basketball Association ("Association") recognizes the growing number of activities available year-round in all sports through club teams, religious organizations, volunteer teams, etc. In order to achieve its mission of providing a branch of the rec program for advanced players, only players who participate in the Rec Program (or middle school team) are eligible to participate in the Travel Program. Any player missing two rec games (absent illness) must sit out the next travel game. This rule must be enforced by travel coaches. Players are eligible to play in only the grade they are in.

## **Tryouts**

Participation on a travel team is based on tryouts, which occur annually prior to the season. Tryouts are conducted by independent evaluators, hired by the Association. The Evaluators are High School coaches from other towns, who have experience in conducting tryouts. Association members have no knowledge of who is selected to make the team and no say in who is selected. There are two tryouts for each grade. Evaluators rank the players based on performance in both tryouts. Attendance at both tryouts is mandatory, unless absence at one tryout is excused by the Board. If a player attends one tryout and is excused from attending the other, evaluators will base their decision on the limited opportunity they had to assess the player in the one tryout he attended. If a player does not attend at least one tryout, he will not be permitted to play on a team (unless added to a roster pursuant to the "Injury Rule").

Each tryout will also be overseen by two members of the WCL Basketball Board, none of whom may be a parent of a player in the grade that is trying out for that team. The role of the Board Members is to supervise for safety, organization and compliance with rules. Board Members have no role in the selection of the team. No parent is permitted to stay in the gym or watch the tryouts. No exception is made for parents who have coached in the travel program in past years. No tryout shall begin until all parents have left the gym.

## **Injury rule**

If a player who played on a WCL travel team in the preceding year must miss both tryouts due to injury or illness, a roster spot will be added for that player. The Association recognizes that more than ten players on a team poses a hardship for the team and the coach with regard to both practices and playing time. In order to be eligible for a roster spot through the Injury Rule, parents must present reasonable evidence of the player's inability to attend tryouts for medical reasons. By way of example, while a broken arm in a cast does not require a note from a medical doctor, inability to try out due to illness will not trigger the injury rule in the absence of a doctor's note or exceptional circumstances, which shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Board. If a player voluntarily misses the first tryout

without excuse and is unable to attend the second due to medical reasons, the Injury Rule will not apply and that player will not be on the team roster. Because situations do arise, it is strongly encouraged that players wishing to play participate in both tryouts to decrease the likelihood of not making the team due to injury, illness, a bad tryout, etc. at the other tryout.