



Connecticut Storm

2023 Girls Travel Teams Summary

Teams: Teams will be selected after tryouts.

Tournaments: Tournaments usually consist of 4 games with 2 on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. Schedules are tailored to the team age and strength to ensure good matchups, to help insure well run events, and for good college recruiting opportunities for our older teams. The team fees are adjusted accordingly. Grades 5-6 usually go to three to five events, grades 7-8 five to seven events and 9-11 six to eight tournaments. Our Advanced Tournament Schedule (ATS) is utilized by our more competitive teams where enough competitively advanced events are available to build a schedule of only high-profile events.

An opportunity to attend an AAU National event is an important life experience for a young athlete and has a significant impact on her athletic growth. We understand the financial impact to our member families, so we are careful when we select teams to attend.

Practices: Generally, practices start in early March or April following the school seasons. Practices usually occur twice per week with locations dependent upon gym availability with a goal of using a central location for that team. Parent assistance in securing gyms is welcome. Practices will often be 'open' practices to parents, but this may change depending on a number of circumstances.

Force Majeure: CT Storm and/or its officers shall not be responsible or liable for any failure of or delay of providing practice facilities or tournament access caused by unforeseeable, unavoidable, and insurmountable objective conditions i.e., pandemic, acts of war or terrorism, natural disasters, etc. Should any of these 'superior forces' occur CT Storm officers shall evaluate action to be taken including replacing tournaments, suspending AAU season, reimbursement of a portion of dues paid to date, etc. Consideration of any due's reimbursement will include work done to-date i.e., administration work, AAU card expenses, expenses of obtaining practice sites and



tournaments, insurance paid, administration/coaches paid to date, travel expenses paid, annual meeting, etc. Please see "Refund Policy" for additional information.

Team Selection: Teams are usually composed of 8-10 players, 6-8 of which will be selected at the club tryouts if enough strength and athlete numbers are present. Selection is made by the coaching staff as well as other observers as appointed by the President and/or a VP.

Notification: Athletes are usually notified within 48 hours of the tryout. Athletes need to be ready with a commitment when the coaches make the contact. Those athletes not selected for teams in an age group will be contacted to address other options supported by the club.

Commitment Guidelines: The club understands athletes have many activities that make them well-rounded young women. Important academic and family functions usually take precedence over club activities. All athletes are expected to attend greater than 90% of practices and games. Play time may be affected for practice attendance less than 90%. Our commitment to you is to provide the best environment possible for athletic excellence.

Team Chemistry: Currently one of our focus areas showing good results. **Great teams have good chemistry.** It is important for parents to understand how their behaviors influence the development of their athlete and the team. Parents or athletes who are detrimental to team chemistry are coached to better behaviors. Other actions may result for continued negative behaviors. Our goal is to correct any issues before athletes attend college exposure events where behaviors are a key part of the evaluation process of both athletes and parents.



Play Time: Tournament minimum play time rules exist for all athletes. Play time in excess of the minimums will be based on **athlete attitude, commitment, work ethic (hustle), ability, etc.** Every healthy athlete will play a minimum of three (3) minutes per game. An athlete must attend 90% of practices for the guaranteed playing time rules to apply, based on an average of two practices a week. The club expects coaches to attempt to advance as deep in the tournament as possible balanced with athlete play time. Coaches will make the final determination.

Travel: Each team should select a travel coordinator to arrange for group hotel accommodations. You may stay overnight at up to half of the weekend tournaments. Athletes are expected to stay with their parents or in rooms shared with other families

at the request and approval of the players parents/guardian. **Players staying with coaches other than their parents is prohibited.** Travel expenses are the responsibility of the athlete and her family.

Fundraising: Fundraising packets are provided for athletes to utilize sponsorship fundraising to defray their club membership and travel costs. Connecticut Storm is a 501(c)3 non-profit which supports fundraising since contributions are tax deductible. More information is available at the Members Meeting. An annual club fundraiser is often done each year. Our hope is to have 100% participation from all families.

Evaluations: Coaches will perform a short-written or oral evaluation at midseason and a more in-depth written evaluation at the end of season. Parents and athletes are given feedback forms to evaluate the program and their coaches to support program improvements.

Members Meeting: **Date:** TBD, **Time:** TBD, **Location:** Mohegan Sun
We try to have all teams meet to plan the season with coaches and elected representatives. Member packets are issued including information on fundraising and fees. Uniforms are available for sizing. CT Storm clothing is available for sale. Team attendance is highly encouraged. There is an abundance of information shared at this meeting that all families will need to be aware of.

Mother's Day Tournament: Parents are strongly asked to provide their shared support of the club's tournament scheduled for May 13-14, 2023. Please block out those dates, as this is the club's major fundraiser. Parents who refuse to contribute time to the event may impact their athlete's play time.

Uniforms: The current cost is \$100. Parents own the uniform and are responsible for its care. Uniforms can be ordered online at ctstorm.com and are available at the members meeting. The club reserves the right to change this fee based on our costs and other determining factors.

College Recruiting: The club hosts how-to seminars intended for our Grades 9, 10 & 11 teams (but open to all) with the focus on what you need to do as a parent and athlete to achieve your goals and understand how you fit in this selection process. Our recruiting program is to help answer questions about the recruiting process, connect players and college coaches, send schedules to college coaches, etc. The Connecticut Sun WNBA team may also be a part of our Recruiting process.



2023 Fees:	<u>Team</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Fee</u>
	Grade 5	\$995	Grade 8	\$1350
	Grade 6	\$1230	Grade 9	\$1370
	Grade 7	\$1270	Grade 10	\$1460
	Grade 11	\$1460		

Combo teams, Select teams, etc. fees will be the same as the majority of the grade level of players on the team, i.e., if a team has eight Grade 7 players and two Grade 8 players the fees will be equal to that of the Grade 7 Team.

Fees for additional teams are based on their age and tournaments selected. The club reserves the right to make small adjustments in fees for teams which select a more aggressive event schedule. Checks made to the club and returned for insufficient funds are subject to a \$25 processing fee.

Fees: Travel team fees may be paid in periodic installments. The first payment of \$400 is due within four (4) days of making a team. **This payment is non-refundable and confirms the athlete's team position.** A second installment of \$300 is due on or before January 15. The remaining balance is due no later than March 1. Fees are immediately used to pay for club expenses which are incurred and calculated from the program preparation, not the start date of events. Administrative work and related expenses including player AAU registration, insurance, tournament fees, practice site fees, scorebooks, basketballs, medical kits, Storm coaches, etc. are front-end expenses.

Play and practice time may be suspended if the account is not paid or a payment plan has not been negotiated by the start of the first tournament game.

Payments by check are preferred and can be sent to the club address:

CT Storm Basketball Club
Dale Robertson
46 North Court
Colchester, CT 06415

Refund Policy: Refunds, excluding the \$400 non-refundable amount, will be proportionate to the unused portion with further deductions based on proximity to the start (first practice) of the program. Specifically, anyone requesting a refund prior to 90 days before the first practice will be eligible to receive 75% of their remaining balance paid (less the non-refundable \$400). Example: Paid \$1,000 dues and withdrew 91 days or more before the first practice: Refund will be the \$1,000 less the \$400 non refundable amount: \$1,000 - \$400 = \$600 X 75% = \$450 refund.

Anyone requesting a refund 90 days or less before the first practice will be eligible to receive 50% of their remaining balance paid (less the non-refundable \$400). Example: Paid \$1,000 dues and withdrew 90 days or less before the first practice. Refund will be the \$1,000 less the \$400 non refundable amount: $\$1,000 - \$400 = \$600 \times 50\% = \300 refund.

The eligibility and appropriateness of all potential refunds will be at the sole discretion of the President and/or the Vice President of the CT Storm.

CT Storm and the Connecticut Sun WNBA: The CT Storm has partnered with the Connecticut Sun WNBA team. Through this partnership, we will have close contact with the CT Sun coaches, players and the Mohegan Sun facility. Some benefits of this are coaches and players will run clinics for Storm players and clinics for Storm coaches. CT Sun will be helpful with the recruiting process, answering questions, giving input, etc. During the CT Sun season, CT Storm players will be eligible for discounted tickets, ball exchanges, fan tunnels, meet and greet with WNBA players, etc. We highly encourage our Storm families to take advantage of having this resource in our backyard. Connecticut Season tickets can be purchased at <http://sun.wnba.com/season-tickets/>. The games are so much fun and a great opportunity for our athletes to see the next level!

Questions: Jen Labrie Club President 860-460-8368 jlabriectstorm@outlook.com
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www.ctstorm.com

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