



MN YOUTH BASKETBALL ALLIANCE ASSOCIATION BEST PRACTICES & TEAM COMPOSITION GUIDELINES



Enhancing the Community-Based Winter Basketball Experience

By the Associations, for the Associations

Introduction

Applies to:

**Revised
6/2/2026**

- 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 for more information.

This document was proposed by the MYBA Eligibility Task Force and approved by the MYBA Basketball Board of Advisors (20+ 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 Standards

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 the requested information to prove that the Best Practices listed above are being met and the MYBA Team Composition Guidelines are being followed.

Association Best Practices and Organizational Standards- Continued

Player Opportunity Recommendation

- Ensuring inclusivity and equal opportunity for all athletes is a fundamental principle of MYBA. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that MYBA member associations do not impose restrictions on participation or team placement based on factors beyond the eligibility requirements outlined in the MYBA Team Composition Guidelines.
- This recommendation is designed to ensure that all youth basketball players have the opportunity to participate and contribute to their fullest potential, inside the association they are eligible to participate in.

Game Officials Recommendation

- As a best practice, MYBA member associations' Tournament Directors are strongly encouraged to verify if game officials have completed and successfully passed a nationwide criminal background check and concussion instruction.
- By verifying these credentials, associations can help mitigate potential risks and ensure that game officials meet the necessary standards for officiating youth basketball games. Criminal background checks help identify any past offenses that may pose a risk to players, coaches, and spectators, while concussion instruction ensures that officials are equipped to recognize and respond to potential head injuries effectively.

Team Composition & 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 in the Private/Charter/Magnet School Exception section).
- 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.

Determining an Athlete's Home Association

- Athletes that attend a public school: Where they attend school.
- Athletes that attend a private school: Where they live.
 - Note: Athletes that attend a private school have the following participation options and none of them require a Player Transfer:
 - The school that they attend, the association where the school is located, the association where they reside.
 - Please see a complete explanation in the School Team Eligibility Guidelines section.

School Attendance

- 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 (Revised 7/6/2022):
 - In a situation where an individual attends a school that feeds into multiple high schools within a school district, refer to where the athlete resides to determine the designation of their high school attendance area.
 - To prove residency, we will refer to the address that their school has on file.
 - Coaches and travel directors must be prepared to provide this documentation if requested by the MYBA (MN Youth Basketball Alliance) Compliance and Eligibility Committee.
 - Example:
 - Falcon Ridge Middle School in Apple Valley, MN, feeds into Apple Valley HS and Eastview HS
 - If Player A attends Falcon Ridge Middle School and resides in the Eastview HS attendance area, they will participate with the Eastview Traveling Basketball Association.
 - If Player B attends Falcon Ridge Middle School and resides in the Apple Valley HS attendance area, they will participate with the Apple Valley Travel Basketball Association.
 - Exception 1: In the event that the player does not reside in either of the high school attendance areas that Falcon Ridge Middle School feeds into, the player can choose either Apple Valley or Eastview.
 - Exception 2: If the leaders of **both** Apple Valley and Eastview agree, they can choose to allow the players that attend Falcon Ridge Middle School to choose whether they play with Apple Valley or Eastview.

Team Composition & Eligibility Guidelines- Continued

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 MYBA 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.
 - Clarification: If the school enrolls grades 6-12, a 5th grade team representing that school will not meet the MYBA eligibility requirements since the school does not enroll 5th graders.
- Private/Charter/Magnet School Exception: (Revised 8/30/2022)
 - Athletes attending a private/charter/magnet school may choose one of the options listed below.
 - Participate with the private/charter/magnet school that they attend.
 - Participate with the traveling basketball association where the school is located.
 - ♦ Example: If the private/charter/magnet 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 Basketball Association.

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: Both of the items listed below are required (Both must match and copies are accepted).
 1. Documentation from the school the player attends that verifies the address on file for the student.
 2. A current utility bill or housing statement (cell phone bills will not be accepted).
- Note: Coaches and travel directors must be prepared to provide this documentation if requested by the MYBA 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.

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.

Team Composition & Eligibility Guidelines- Continued

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

- The Player Transfer Policy allows an athlete the opportunity to participate with an association other than their Home 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.
- Must be completed annually.
- See separate Player Transfer form.

Residency Exception: An athlete who lives within the boundaries of an association that does not border the association where they attend school may request a Residency Exception to allow them to participate with the association where they reside.

- **Example:** This would allow a player who lives in the Stillwater high school attendance area and goes to a public school in Anoka to participate with Stillwater.
 - Anoka and Stillwater do not share a border.
 - The bordering association component is not in effect for this exception.
 - Documentation from Anoka schools verifying the player resides in Stillwater must accompany the completed player's Residency Exception Form.
- Must be completed annually.
- See separate Residency Exception form.

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.

Team Composition & Eligibility Guidelines- Continued

Options for Players That Do NOT Get Placed on a Team (Added 11/7/2022)

Player who successfully completes tryouts for their home travel basketball association or school (based on the MYBA eligibility guidelines), and are not placed on a travel team through their home association or school, have the following options:

- Participate in their community's in-house program.
- Participate with a bordering travel basketball association if the bordering association has an available spot on a travel team.
- Form a team with other players from the same association/school who completed the tryout process for their home association/school, but were not placed on a travel team.
 - The home association/school will need to notify mybacompliance@myas.org if they approve of the players forming a team and providing confirmation that all rostered players completed the tryout process through their association/school.
 - The home association/school may choose to provide support for this team, but it is not required (uniforms, practice time, etc.).
 - The home association/school must allow the team to use their association's/school's name for the team to maintain eligibility during the winter community based travel basketball season.



Team Composition & Eligibility Guidelines- Continued

MYBA Policy for New Associations (Added 8/29/2023)

This policy refers to two different situations. Please see the explanations below.

1. Newly Formed Associations
 - A. Newly formed associations must agree to follow the MYBA Team Composition Guidelines and Best Practices
 - B. Criteria for a newly formed association
 - i. An association did not previously exist
 - ii. ***An association has existed servicing multiple high school attendance areas, and participation numbers support the separation***
 - a. ***Local leaders are strongly encouraged to work out the details together while keeping the best interests of the participants in mind***
 - C. Newly formed associations must submit the following information to the MYAS staff by June 1:
 - i. Name of the association
 - ii. Clearly stated attendance area/which high school attendance area are they going to serve
 - iii. List of board members and their roles
 - iv. A copy of their bylaws
 - v. A list of the grades and genders they are offering opportunities for within their attendance area
 - vi. Tryout date (s)
 - vii. Acknowledgement that they will follow the MYBA Team Composition Guidelines and Best Practices
 - viii. Explanation of why the association is necessary with supporting documentation
 - D. Newly formed associations must be approved by the MYBA Board of Advisors by a majority vote to gain membership to the MYBA
 - i. MYAS staff will provide the documentation to the MYBA Board of Advisors
2. Existing Associations that seek membership to the MYBA for the first time
 - A. Must agree to follow the MYBA Team Composition Guidelines and Best Practices
 - B. Must have been in existence serving their high school attendance area/community for a minimum of two years
 - C. ***Encouraged to complete the MYBA membership process by September 1***
 - i. ***To help encourage associations to complete the membership registration early in the season, the membership fee may increase as we move further into the season***

