

Rice Lake Girls Basketball Travelers League Policy

Mission Statement

The Travelers League Program is sponsored by the Rice Lake Girls Basketball League and is open to any girl from the Rice Lake School district in 4th-8th grade. It is intended to give girls an opportunity to learn more about basketball and how to play as a team in a competitive weekend tournament schedule. We will measure our success less in terms of wins and losses and more in terms of effort, attitude, and whether the overall experience is a positive one for our young athletes. Our goal is to create enthusiasm for basketball and provide the high school program with young female athletes who want to continue playing basketball for the high school program. This program requires a significant increase of time and effort from the player, her family, and the coaches compared to the City League Program. Guidelines and expectations set forth by the Girls Basketball League Board are as follows:

Teams

1. A goal of 8-10 girls per team depending on the number of players and coaches with interest in the program. Teams are not allowed to cut any athletes.
2. If there are 16 or more girls signed up for a grade level and enough coaches for two teams, the teams may be divided as follows:
 - a. 4th-6th grade – equally based on talent
 - b. 7th-8th grade – A and B team structure, with the coaches and at least (2) two Board members who aren't coaching that grade level and are voted on by the Board attending (2) two tryout sessions and then splitting the athletes into A and B teams.
3. Coaches will be allowed to add additional tournaments if they have a large team and do not split into two separate teams. Board approval is required anytime a team goes over the stated number of tournaments per the grade standards.
4. All teams shall be composed of girls from the same grade. If a team does not have enough players for a tournament, the team may use girls from a younger grade to fill in. The process for this should be as follows:
 - a. Work with the coach from the grade level directly below your team to see which athletes he/she would recommend to "play up" for that tournament.
 - b. If the team is still short players they would then move down to the next grade level and use the same procedure.
 - c. Under no circumstances should an athlete "play up" more than (2) two grade levels.
5. To participate in the Travelers League Program, all 4th-6th grade girls must also participate in the City League Program. The only exception to this is if they are enrolled at St. Joseph's School, in which case they will not be mandated to play in the City League Program during their 5th and 6th grade years, as long as they are playing for the St. Joseph's School team.

Specific Grade Level Expectations

4th Grade

1. We consider this grade level a developmental team.
2. All athletes will play in all games and scrimmages on an equal basis except for the 4th quarter. Coaches can use their own discretion in the 4th quarter.
3. Exceptions to the “equal play” rule are allowed for issues arising such as missed practices, poor attitude, etc. based on the coach’s discretion.
4. Teams shall have 1-2 practices per week.
5. Teams will play in 3 tournaments.
6. Practices are considered “closed”, meaning parents that are not coaches should not be in the gym during practices.

5th Grade

1. We consider this grade level a developmental team.
2. All athletes will play in all games and scrimmages on an equal basis except for the 4th quarter. Coaches can use their own discretion in the 4th quarter.
3. Exceptions to the “equal play” rule are allowed for issues arising such as missed practices, poor attitude, etc. based on the coach’s discretion.
4. Teams shall have 1-2 practices per week.
5. Teams will play in 4 tournaments.
6. Teams will be allowed to play in the WSICT tournament if they are invited and choose to do so. This tournament will not have the “equal play” rule in effect. However, all athletes must be invited to play in these tournaments.
7. Practices are considered “closed”, meaning parents that are not coaches should not be in the gym during practices.

6th Grade

1. We consider this grade level to be a developmental team.
2. All athletes will play in all games and scrimmages on an equal basis except for the 4th quarter. Coaches can use their own discretion in the 4th quarter.
3. Exceptions to the “playing time” rule are allowed for issues arising such as missed practices, poor attitude, etc. based on the coach’s discretion.
4. Teams shall have 2-3 practices per week.
5. Teams will play in 5 tournaments.
6. Teams will be allowed to play in the LCT and WSICT tournaments if they are invited and choose to do so. These tournaments will not have “playing time” rules in effect. However, all athletes must be invited to play in these tournaments.
7. Practices are considered “closed”, meaning parents that are not coaches should not be in the gym during practices.

7th Grade

1. We consider this grade level to be a competitive team.
2. All athletes shall have an opportunity to play in all games and scrimmages. A minimum of one quarter per player per game is expected.
3. Exceptions to the “playing time” rule are allowed for issues arising such as missed practices, poor attitude, etc. based on the coach’s discretion.
4. Teams shall have 2-3 practices per week.
5. Teams will play in 6 tournaments.
6. Teams will be allowed to play in the LCT and WSICT tournaments if they are invited and choose to do so. These tournaments will not have “playing time” rules in effect. However, all athletes must be invited to play in these tournaments.
7. Practices are considered “closed”, meaning parents that are not coaches should not be in the gym during practices.

8th Grade

1. We consider this grade level to be a competitive team and a high school preparation year.
2. Playing time is based solely on the coach's discretion.
3. Teams shall have 2-3 practices per week.
4. Teams will play in 7 tournaments.
5. Teams will be allowed to play in the LCT and WSICT tournaments if they are invited and choose to do so.
6. Practices are considered “closed”, meaning parents that are not coaches should not be in the gym during practices.

Coaches

The Board appreciates the time and effort of those who volunteer to coach and realize that without these volunteers we couldn't have teams! The Board likes to delegate as much responsibility for the team to the coaches as possible, but also tries to give the coaches clear guidelines to follow to avoid potential issues and misunderstandings. Our goal is to create a positive environment for coaches, players, and parents, and the Board reserves the right to be involved and take corrective actions if issues arise.

1. All coaches will be interviewed at the discretion of the Board and approved by the Board prior to the season.
2. Coaches will undergo a background check prior to coaching and on a bi-annual basis after the initial background check.
3. Coaches are required to attend a preseason meeting with two or more board members to discuss policies and sign documentation that all policies were reviewed and understood.
4. Coaches will have first preference to coach their daughter if more than one team is created at any age level.

5. Coaches will hold a preseason meeting with parents to introduce themselves, create a season schedule, and explain the guidelines and expectations from the Board. A copy of our policy will be given to each family and a signed receipt of this will be collected by coaches.
6. Coaches will behave in a respectful manner at practice and during games. You are a role model and are representing the Rice Lake community.
7. Coaches will strive to keep the Travelers League Program affordable for all families. For this reason, each team will have a predetermined budget each season to use for team bonding events, special snacks/treats, team/player awards, end of year parties, etc. As a Board, we want to impress upon all coaches that we do not believe in asking families/athletes to feel pressured to buy extra items, such as warmups, apparel, team bags, etc.
8. All coaches must adhere to the Travelers League Program Policy. Deviation from the policy may result in that coach's dismissal per the Board's discretion.

Parents

It is important that parents understand that the Travelers League Program requires extra time and money on their part. Tournaments are typically held in communities not more than 2 hours away, but can be farther. Regular season GNBL tournaments are a one-day (Saturday) format, and games typically run from 9:00am-4:00pm. Exceptions to this are LCT and WSICT tournaments, which are a two-day (Saturday-Sunday) format.

1. A parent or guardian of each player will be required to attend a preseason meeting. At this meeting policies will be discussed and the family representative will sign documentation that they have reviewed and received said policies.
2. Parents are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner toward coaches, other parents, players, and referees. You are also representing the Rice Lake community.
3. Parent concerns about playing time should never be discussed with coaches. If a parent has a concern that playing time is not being followed in accordance to policy, this concern should be directly addressed with the Board.
4. If a parent has a different concern/complaint, they are to wait at least 24 hours after the most recent event to bring their concern/complaint to a coach. It is expected that this conversation starts with the coach/coaches. If a situation is urgent or unsafe, exceptions to this rule are allowed and the board should be contacted immediately.
5. If a parent has already discussed their concern/complaint with a coach and the issue is not resolved, then the parent can reach out to the Board.
6. Families are expected to volunteer during our home tournament, which provides funds for our league to help keep costs/fees down. This is vital to the success of our program!

Note: The Board reserves the right to review and revise this policy at any time. Ultimately, the Board is the final authority over the Travelers League Program and its rules/guidelines.