

**EDEN PRAIRIE GIRLS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
(EPGBA)**

POLICY HANDBOOK
(updated May 2024)

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Section I: Background & Operational Structure

The Eden Prairie Girls Basketball Association (EPGBA) provides opportunities for girls in Eden Prairie, Minnesota to learn and play basketball. In particular the EPGBA provides an In-House recreational basketball program open to eligible players in grades with sufficient interest to form teams, a competitive Travel basketball program open to eligible players in 4th through 8th grade, and spring and summer programs that provide additional player development opportunities.

Section I.A. Organization of the Association

The Eden Prairie Girls Basketball Association (EPGBA) is governed by written and approved Bylaws. General members and Board members must abide by the written Bylaws and EPGBA policies.

Section I.A.1. General Members

General members of the EPGBA must be at least 18 years old, residents of Eden Prairie and must subscribe to the EPGBA's philosophy. General members do not need to have a child who plays for the EPGBA but must have a personal involvement in the association's activities.

Section I.A.2. Board of Directors & Officers

The EPGBA is governed by a Board of Directors elected from the general members (the Board). The Board shall meet at least 9 times each year and at least every other calendar month. The Board's annual meeting is held in March of each calendar year. The date, time, and location (in-person or conference call) of each Board meeting shall be announced on the EPGBA website at least seven days in advance of each meeting. Current Board members shall receive an agenda at least three days in advance of each meeting. Anyone interested in contributing to or volunteering for any EPGBA-related activities shall be welcome to attend board meetings.

The following officers are elected from the Board.

- a. **President:** the chief executive of the EPGBA with the primary responsibility for governmental and community relations, for community services, and for program expansion.
- b. **Vice-Presidents:** up to two vice-presidents may be elected by the Board. A vice-president shall perform the duties of the president in the event of absence or inability to act. The vice-president(s) shall serve as the In-House and Travel program director(s) and shall have any other powers as may be assigned by the president or by the Board from time to time.
- c. **Treasurer:** responsible for managing the finances of the EPGBA and keeping an accurate accounting of all financial accounts held by the Association.
- d. **Secretary:** The secretary is responsible for recording and documenting Board meeting information and overseeing the administrative records maintained by the Board and all committees and officers and shall ensure that minutes of any meetings are kept.

The Board shall form committees from the general membership or from parents of registered players. Committees shall be formed from time to time as needs arise. A list of current committees, including their memberships, roles, and responsibilities can be found in Appendix A.

Section I.A.3: Players

Participation in the EPGBA is open to all girls in grade kindergarten through grade 12, except players on any level high school basketball team.

The EPGBA's Travel Program is sanctioned by Minnesota Youth Athletic Services ("MYAS") and consequently, players participating in the Travel Program are subject to MYAS rules and procedures. As such, any player participating in the Travel Program should be aware of the following:

- a. MYAS has guidelines in place that require players to play for the association that serves the community or school district in which a player or her parent(s) reside, unless the player is approved for a transfer by MYAS. As such, the EPGBA Travel Program is only open to players who reside or attend a public or private school in Eden Prairie, unless the player has been approved to transfer to the EPGBA.
- b. Players may be required to provide an accurate copy of their birth certificate and proof of residency or school enrollment in order to participate in MYAS events on an EPGBA team.

Players are eligible to play at their school grade level. Players may never play at a grade level lower than their school grade level. Under certain conditions, players may play above their school grade level. Please see Travel and In-House guidelines for further details.

All girls registering for the In-House Program will be allowed to participate provided all applicable fees are paid and all rules of conduct are followed. Any girls registering for the Travel Program will be allowed to participate provided they are placed on a team following tryouts, all applicable fees are paid, and all rules of conduct are followed.

The following conduct standards apply to all EPGBA players:

- a. Players should conduct themselves properly at all games and practices.
- b. The use of profanity is prohibited. The player is to receive one warning. Any additional violation(s) whether in practice, during a pre-game, or game will result in suspension from play for the next one-half game, per violation. Additional violations should be reported to the parents and the VP of Travel or the VP of In-House for further action.
- c. The use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drug(s) by any player is strictly prohibited during any practice, game, or team event. All players, parents, coaches, and board members have the responsibility to ensure this rule is followed. If player use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs is observed by any player, coach, parent, or board member, it should be reported to the President and VP of Travel or the VP of In-House immediately. Upon receipt of such a report, the President shall call for a meeting of the Executive Committee to be held within 72 hours so the situation can be addressed.
- d. A parent or guardian of all travel players must agree to the EPGBA Player's Code of Ethics on behalf of their players. See Appendix F for the Player's Code of Ethics.

Section I.A.4: Parents & Guardians

Parents and guardians are responsible for the attendance of their players at practices and games. Parents shall conduct themselves according to EPGBA's Parent's Code of Ethics. See Appendix F for the Parent's Code of Ethics.

Section I.A.5: Director(s) of Coaching

The Director(s) of Coaching are responsible overseeing and developing EPGBA players through preseason clinics and participation in team practices and games. The Director(s) of Coaching are also responsible for actively training and evaluating all coaches in the EPGBA programs.

The President or another Board member appointed by the President will conduct an annual review with the Director(s) of Coaching at the end of the season, with input from the Eden Prairie High School Girls Varsity Coach.

The President, with input from the VP of Travel, VP of In-House and Eden Prairie High School Girls Varsity Coach, will conduct interviews and select candidates to fill the Director(s) of Coaching position. The Director(s) of Coaching is a paid position with a budget set annually (Jul 1-Jun 30).

Coaching Director essential duties are listed in Appendix B for In-House and Appendix C for Travel, which will be updated as needed.

Section II: In-House Program

Section II.A. In-House Program Administration

The VP of In-House or their designee may serve as a Program Director for the In-House program. The In-House Program Director serves as the bridge between the Board and all In-House issues. The In-House Program Director should recruit and train individuals to help administer the program. Appendix B, which will be updated as needed, lists roles and responsibilities related to the In-House Program.

Section II.B. In-House Program Team Formation

The VP of In-House or their designee for each grade will form the teams at that grade level. Girls can play up a grade level only with approval of the VP of In-House. There will be a maximum of ten players per team. Two girls who reciprocally request each other may be placed on the same team if possible. First/Second grade teams will be formed by randomly placing girls on teams (except for girls requesting placement with another). Third through eighth grade players are to attend an evaluation session to determine the basic skill levels of each player. Teams will be formed in a manner to evenly balance skill levels of the teams.

Section II.C. In-House Program Coaches

The VP of In-House or their designee along with input from the Coaching Director will select coaches during team formation. All coaches will be non-paid volunteers. Most coaches will be a parent of one of the players on a team, but another adult with a personal interest in the EPGBA and subscribes to its philosophies may be selected as well. Each team will have a head coach or two co-head coaches. Teams may have one to three assistant coaches.

Before commencing any coaching duty, each coach must pass a background check, complete concussion training and safe sport training, and agree to and sign a Coaches' Code of Ethics Agreement, which can be found in Appendix F.

Coaches will not argue with the referees. If a parent is excessively harassing a referee, the coaches of both teams should intervene to minimize the harassment. The coaches should immediately report the situation to the VP of In-House or Coaching Director. Coaches must return all EPGBA-provided equipment at the end of the season.

Section II.D. In-House Fees

The Board will determine the cost of participation prior to each year's registration. The Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Board for such fees based on program expenses. Fees for the most recent season will be posted on the EPGBA web site.

Grants to help defray the fees is available to families who qualify for free or reduced lunches through the school system. In order to qualify for a grant, a confidential application should be submitted to the EPGBA Treasurer. All inquiries and aid provided will be kept confidential.

Section II.E. In-House Equipment

Numbered team jerseys for all program participants in first/second grade and up are provided by the EPGBA. The player must provide all other clothing required for playing or practicing (i.e., shoes, shorts,

etc.) and their own basketball. The team jersey must be worn for each game. At the parent's option and expense, player's jersey may be labeled with a name on the back.

The EPGBA provides each team coach with a first aid kit, game basketballs, practice pull-over jerseys, a ball pump and other necessary equipment.

Section II.F. In-House Playing Rules

The rules of the In-House Program are contained in the Eden Prairie Girls Basketball Association, In-House Rules. A copy of the rules is available on the EPGBA website. The rules may be modified by a majority vote of the Board.

Section III - Travel Program

Section III.A. Travel Program Administration

The VP of Travel or their designee may serve as a Program Director for the Travel Program. Appendix C, which will be updated as needed, lists roles and responsibilities related to the Travel Program.

Section III.B. Travel Program Team Formation

Tryouts will be conducted to measure each player's talent and skill level and to form competitive teams at appropriate playing levels. The dates and times for tryouts will be determined by the EPGBA Executive Board and communicated to the Board, Coaches and Eden Prairie Girls Varsity Head Coach no later than the May Board meeting, and communicated to parents and players no later than June 1. The tryouts, at a minimum, will be conducted over the course of two days. The first day of tryouts will focus on evaluation of players' skills. The second day of tryouts will focus on team formation.

Section III.B.1. Travel Program Skill Evaluations

In order to ensure a fair assessment of each player, the EPGBA will hire independent evaluators which will consist of the Eden Prairie Girls' Varsity Head Coach, Coaching Director(s) and one additional Eden Prairie Girls' Varsity Coaching Staff. In addition to the evaluators, EPGBA will hire an additional individual to run the evaluation phase during the first day of tryouts. These independent evaluators may not have a family member or other familiar player participating in the tryouts. The VP of Travel will review the quality and performance of the independent evaluators with the EPGBA Board no less than every three years.

Prior to evaluations, the VP of Travel will review the EPGBA tryout policies and evaluation criteria with these evaluators. After this review, no individual who is a parent to a player trying out will have any role in the Evaluation phase of tryouts, regardless of what position the individual holds with the EPGBA or the high school coaching staff.

During player evaluations, any eligible (i.e., does not have a child trying out) Coaching Director(s), or eligible designee(s) as determined by the Executive Board as necessary, will monitor the evaluators' approach, drills, performance and adherence to EPGBA scorecard criteria and will ensure the evaluators are performing the work they were contracted to do. The eligible Coaching Director(s) or eligible designee(s) will have no role during the evaluation phase other than to oversee the evaluators. They should not give opinions or insight on any players during the course of the evaluation process.

No individual who is a parent of a player trying out may be in the gyms in any capacity during the evaluation day of tryouts, regardless of what position the individual holds with the EPGBA or the high school coaching staff (including Board members, Coaches and Coaching Directors).

Grade level head coaches are allowed to be in the gym if they do not have a daughter who is trying out during the evaluation day but may not talk to the evaluators or interfere with the work the evaluators are contracted to do. Coaches will not be allowed to participate in any team formation conversations on day 1. They may not give opinions or insight on any players during the course of the evaluation process. If this policy is not followed, head coaches will be asked to leave by the Travel VP or Coaching Director.

Players will be evaluated and scored by the independent evaluators on their abilities in areas such as ball handling, shooting, rebounding, one-on-one, offense, and defense.

Players will wear randomly assigned jerseys and will be evaluated by jersey number.

The scorecard used by the independent evaluators will be developed by the VP of Travel and Travel Committee with input from the Eden Prairie Girls' Varsity Head Coach. It will be approved by the Board and posted on the EPGBA website. The organization, structure and specific drills used during tryouts will be guided by the scorecard.

At the completion of the evaluation phase of tryouts, the independent evaluators will assign one overall score and ranking for each player as well as note any natural break points in talent within each grade level. The independent evaluators will review their completed evaluation scoring and ranking forms with the eligible Coaching Director(s), or eligible designee(s), who are overseeing the evaluation phase.

If the evaluators determine a player is not travel ready, the player may be referred to the EPGBA In-House program. The Coaching Director(s) will provide feedback to these parents/players on what skill(s) need to be improved upon to be considered travel ready in the future.

Section III.B.2. Travel Team Formation

The second day of tryouts will focus on the creation of teams by the Team Formation Committee, will be comprised of the Coaching Director(s), grade-level head coaches, the Eden Prairie Girls' Varsity Head Coach, and the additional EP Girls' Varsity Staff Member hired for the tryout process. The Committee and its members' responsibilities are described more fully in Appendix A. No changes to the Committee can be made without written approval of the Board.

Teams may be formed for grade levels 4 through 8, provided there are enough players in a grade to form a team. If there are fewer than 7 players registered for any grade, then the EPGBA may decline to sponsor a team at that grade level. If there are not at least 7 players at any one skill level in a grade, then the EPGBA may combine players of a similar skill level from different grades to form a team. Any team formed with players from multiple grades will play at the higher-grade level.

The EPGBA reserves the right to limit or expand the number of travel teams per grade based on the number of players trying out, player talent, available gym space for practices and coaching resources.

Teams will be established with 8-10 players based on numbers and/or natural breaks in skill and talent. Unless otherwise approved by the EPGBA Board, teams will have no fewer than 7 players and not more than 10 players.

Section III.B.2.a. Team Formation Process

Prior to player arrival on the second day of tryouts, the eligible Coaching Director(s) or eligible designee(s) who oversaw the Evaluation phase will present the evaluators' final scores, rankings, notes and recommended breaks in talent for each grade level by jersey number to the Team Formation Committee.

During the second day of tryouts, the Coaching Director(s) or eligible designee(s) will facilitate drills and scrimmages among the players in each grade so the Team Formation Committee can make observations to assist in team formation. Players will wear the same jersey numbers as they did during the evaluation phase.

If any player is trying out for a team that is not their current grade level, she will need to be at both tryouts on both Evaluation Day 1 and Team Formation Day 2. She will need to try out for her current grade level and for the grade level team she is attempting to make. The Coaching Director will communicate to a player if they did not score in the top 3 of the grade level above on Day 1.

After the player observations are complete, the Team Formation Committee will work together to form teams at each grade level using all available information, including independent evaluator scoring, ranking and feedback from evaluation phase; observations made during the team formation drills and scrimmages; for returning players, prior year coach evaluations for soft skills and intangibles (e.g., coachability); and live input from prior year coaches if present on the Team Formation Committee. Because player skill may change between seasons, the evaluators' scoring and feedback and observations made by the coaches will be considered more important than prior performance.

Team formation is subject to the following rules:

- I. Team I Placement: The top four ranked players based on the independent evaluation process are automatically placed on the team. The remaining roster will be proposed by the Team Head I Coach taking into consideration the recommendation of the evaluators to achieve the most competitive team roster based on the available players. If the Team I Head Coach is a parent who cannot participate because their player has not been placed on a team, the balance of the team will be proposed by the Team Formation Committee. The final roster must be approved by a majority vote of the Team Formation Committee.
- II. Team II Placement: The top four ranked players based on the independent evaluation process (after Team I formation) are automatically placed on the team. The remaining roster will be proposed by the Team Head II Coach taking into consideration the recommendation of the evaluators to achieve the most competitive team roster based on the available players. If the Team II Head Coach is a parent who cannot participate because their player has not been placed on a team, the balance of the team will be proposed by the Team Formation Committee. The final roster must be approved by a majority vote of the Team Formation Committee.
- III. Additional Team Placements: Additional teams will be selected following the above procedures.

The Team Formation Committee may determine if a player is not travel ready and will recommend the player be referred to the EPGBA In-House program. The Coaching Director(s) will provide feedback to these parents/players on what skill(s) need to be improved upon to be considered travel ready in the future.

Once the teams have been formed, the Team Formation Committee will discuss and assign a level of play for each team. More than one team may be assigned to any given level if appropriate for the skill level and talent of the teams. The Team Formation Committee will be encouraged to work together to ensure all teams can be competitive at their assigned level of play. If multiple teams are formed at the fourth grade level, the Team Formation Committee has the authority to determine if those teams should be formed at different levels or if teams should be of equal ability based on the level of talent in that given year.

Section III.B.2.b. Tryout Non-Participation and Team Placement

In order to most effectively evaluate and place players on the appropriate travel team, it is necessary that all players take part in the tryout process, receive an evaluation by the independent evaluators and be considered for a travel team based on their tryout ranking.

Under limited circumstances approved by the EPGBA Executive Committee (for example – injury/illness accompanied by a doctor note or family emergency), an excused player may be placed on a travel team even though they were unable to participate in evaluations. For approved excused players, the following may be taken into account by the Team Formation Committee in an effort to place players appropriately during team formation: prior year team coach's year-end evaluation of the player will be reviewed; prior year travel tryout evaluation rankings of the player will be reviewed; EPGBA coaches familiar with the excused player will be consulted to obtain perspective on the player's basketball abilities compared to others at the same age; and others familiar with the excused player may be consulted to obtain additional perspective when necessary.

For unexcused players, placement on a team is not guaranteed. If a roster spot is available and the Executive Board approves, the unexcused player will be placed on the lowest team.

Section III.B.2.c. Playing Up

It is EPGBA's preference to have all travel players play with their current grade. Under no circumstances can a player play down into a younger grade. There are very few players who demonstrate abilities beyond their grade level. If a parent believes their player has the skills to be ranked by the independent evaluators as a Top 3 player at a higher grade level, they should contact the VP of Travel no later than 30 days prior to tryouts to request evaluation at a higher grade level during tryouts. The VP of Travel is responsible for gaining input from Coaches, Coaching Directors and if appropriate the Eden Prairie Girls' Varsity Head Coach and either approving or rejecting this request. If the independent evaluators rank the player among the Top 3 players at the higher grade during tryouts, the player is eligible to be considered for placement on a higher grade team if moving this player to the higher grade team will not result in a player in either grade being cut nor will it impact the ability to form teams in either grade, the player accepts the invitation to be considered for a higher grade team, and the Team Formation Committee determines it to be in the best interest of both the player and the higher grade team. The ultimate decision on player placement will be made by the Team Formation Committee. If a player plans to try out for EPGBA and the Eden Prairie High School team, the parent(s) should consult with the EP Girls' Varsity Head Coach to discuss the feasibility of the player making a high school team. In this scenario the teams can be formed, if possible, to cause the least disruption if the player does indeed make a high school team.

The EPGBA President will convene a Board meeting immediately after the Team Formation Phase is finalized to communicate results to the Board and get any required votes completed.

Since the EP Girls' High School Team tryouts are after the EPGBA tryouts, if a player already assigned to an 8th grade team tries out and makes the High School team, the EPGBA President will convene a meeting with the VP of Travel, and the Travel Team Formation Committee and necessary grade level Head Coaches to determine possible team re-assignments.

The VP of Travel will collect all Evaluation and Team Formation documents at the conclusion of tryouts. All information will be entered into a master spreadsheet, validated by both the VP of Travel and the Coaching Director(s) and saved for future reference.

Section III.B.3. Travel Tryout Transparency & Communication

The EPGBA wants to ensure that each player is given a fair and just opportunity to demonstrate her ability and that teams are formed with integrity. The EPGBA intends for the tryout process to be transparent to both players and parents. That includes the posting of the tryout policy and evaluation scorecard on the EPGBA website and making it accessible in all tryout communications. It is important that parents and players understand that the evaluation and team formation processes are focused on identifying players that will make up the best basketball teams and not just the tallest players, fastest players or the players with the best shots. A successful and winning basketball team includes players that can rebound, play defense, pass, shoot, understand the game, are coachable and are willing to play within a team framework with a positive attitude. Parents should encourage their players to attempt to demonstrate all of these skills during the tryouts.

When the team formation process is complete, the teams will be posted on the EPGBA website by the VP of Travel or their designee. Players not selected for a travel team may be referred to the EPBGA In-House program. Player placement is final once teams are posted.

All players trying out may request direct feedback on key areas of performance that were noted by previous year coaches and/or evaluators for the purpose of individual player development. Players or parents may contact a Coaching Director or VP of Travel to request this feedback. Player's individual skill scores and general/abstracted feedback based on evaluator comments may be shared at the Coaching Director's discretion but rankings, feedback on other players and coach statements will not.

See Appendix D for a summary of the primary roles and responsibilities of everyone involved with the EPGBA during travel tryouts.

Section III.B.4. Player Movement into District After Team Formation

If a player moves into Eden Prairie after team formation, she will be allowed to demonstrate her capability as outlined below and if approved, register for the remainder of the travel season. The Executive Board will determine how fees are assessed.

All Head Coaches at the player's grade level will assess the player's skill during a series of team practices and will work together with the Coaching Director(s) to determine the proper team placement for the player. Final placement must be approved by the Executive Committee. No existing player may be displaced, and no team may go beyond 10 players without Board approval.

Section III.B.5. Transfers into or Out of the EPGBA

If a player does not meet the requirements specified in section I.A.3. but requests a transfer into the EPGBA pursuant to MYAS transfer procedures, the EPGBA should not deny the request to tryout for an EPGBA team. If the President believes that allowing the player to transfer into the program would be detrimental to the program overall, the President should call an Executive Committee meeting to discuss the situation. The President may only deny a request to transfer into the EPGBA upon a showing of good cause to deny the request and with approval of the Executive Committee.

If a player who meets the requirements specified in section I.A.3 but requests to play for another association pursuant to MYAS transfer procedures, the EPGBA President shall grant consent of the transfer and the player should be allowed to transfer if MYAS approval is received. If MYAS approval is not received, and the player tries out for an EPGBA team, the player's request to transfer should not be taken into account by the Team Formation Committee.

Section III.C. Travel Program Coaches

Section III.C.1. Travel Coach Qualifications and Head Coach Selection

The EPGBA strives to have the best-qualified coaches for our players. The coaches are to meet the following criteria: have a basic knowledge of basketball rules and fundamentals; have good communication skills; have the ability to teach and motivate players to develop specific basketball and relationship skills; and measure their own success based on their ability to improve all girls as basketball players and as human beings.

Both parent and non-relative applicants may apply to any coaching position.

Head Coaches will be selected by the Coach Selection Subcommittee.

Head coaches are expected to attend a minimum of 90% of all games and practices.

All head and assistant coaches must pass a background check and complete the applicable coaches training (including but not limited to concussion and safe sport training) prior to assuming any coaching duties. Coaches shall conduct themselves according to the EPGBA guidelines and the EPGBA Coaches' Code of Ethics (see Appendix F). Additionally, coaches must make a concerted effort to develop specific individual and teamwork skills in all players. The Board will address inappropriate coach behavior.

Section III.C.2. Travel Program Assistant Coach Selections

Head coaches will select up to two assistant coaches. The Coach Selection Subcommittee will provide names of potential assistant coaches for the head coaches to consider. Parents are encouraged to apply to be assistant coaches. Assistant coaches are volunteers and will not receive compensation from the EPGBA. The Coach Selection Subcommittee will encourage the coaching applicants to include at least one (and no more than two) parent(s) as part of the coach team. Prior to the first practice, each head coach is to supply the Travel Committee Chair(s) with his or her roster of assistant coaches selected in accordance with policy.

Section III.C.3. Travel Program Coach Compensation

Each non-parent head coach will receive compensation from the EPGBA in an amount determined by Travel Committee.

Each parent head coach will have their daughter's registration fee refunded and will not have to pay the coaching fee. The family's volunteer hours for one child will be considered to be fulfilled by a parent head coach.

Assistant coaches will receive no additional compensation from the EPGBA. However, the family's volunteer hours will be considered to be fulfilled for one child by an assistant coach.

EPGBA will pay hotel expenses for head coaches for one out-of-town tournament per season.

The EPGBA will provide each head coach and assistant coach with a coach's shirt each season.

Section III.D. Travel Program Fees

The Board will determine the cost of participation prior to each year's registration. The Travel Committee will make a recommendation to the Board for such fees based on program expenses. Fees for the most recent season will be posted on the EPGBA web site.

Parents will be asked to perform volunteer service for each player during the travel season. Most volunteer opportunities are in support of the Eden Prairie Tip-Off Tournament. A separate \$200 volunteer deposit will be collected with each travel registration. Parent who do not work all assigned hours will forfeit the deposit collected at registration.

For players named to a team, there are no refunds of fees for any reason after evaluations. If a player does not make a team (cut), all registration fees will be returned, less a \$25.00 tryout fee.

Grants to help defray the fees is available to families who qualify for free or reduced lunches through the school system. In order to qualify for a grant, a confidential application should be submitted to the EPGBA Treasurer. All inquiries and grants provided will be kept confidential. Grants in an amount equal to 50% of the registration fee plus 50% of the coaching fee will be given to qualifying players. Grants will not be given to defray the cost of a forfeited volunteer deposit or uniforms.

Section III.E. Travel Tournaments

The EPGBA will register each travel team to play in tournaments throughout the travel basketball season. No EPGBA team may play in a tournament not registered for through the EPGBA.

Each player's travel registration fee includes the cost of the following number of tournaments: Grade 4: eight tournaments; Grade 5: eight tournaments; Grade 6: eight tournaments; Grade 7: nine tournaments; Grade 8: ten tournaments. The Eden Prairie Tournament is included in this total.

Travel teams may request to be registered in additional tournaments/events at their own cost. This includes, but is not limited to, free tournaments, one-day tournaments, invitational tournaments, and jamborees. Generally, teams will be allowed to request participation in two additional events or tournaments each season. Any requests to participate in any more than two additional events or tournaments must be approved by the Travel VP with the input from the Executive Committee and Coaching Director.

Additional tournaments/events may not be added over winter break.

Section III.F. Other Travel Program Policies

Section III.F.1. Practice Requirements

There must be two rostered coaches at every practice for the entire practice. In an emergency situation, a practice may be held with two adults, one of whom is not rostered. If this happens, the head coach

must notify the VP of Travel within 24 hours of the occurrence. Practice must be cancelled if two adults cannot be present.

Section III.F.2. Playing Time

Players should receive at least 50% of playing time over the course of each tournament if eight or fewer players suit up and at least 40% of playing time over the course of each tournament if more than eight players suit up. The head coach may make exceptions to the playing time policy above if a player has not consistently attended practice, does not display effort, or focus in practices or games, displays a poor attitude, or displays limited coachability.

Section III.F.3. Player Expectations & Absences

For players in the Travel program, attendance at practice is expected and is to be treated as the player's primary extra-curricular activity during the season. Player attendance at all games is mandatory unless it is an excused absence that has been approved in advance by the player's head coach.

For purposes of this policy, an unexcused absence is any absence in which the team head coach was not notified in a timely manner, any absence that was not approved in advance by the team head coach, or any absence due to conflicts with other sports. An excused absence is any absence due to injury or illness of the player, any absence due to serious illness or death of a family member, any absence due to scheduled church or school activities, or any absence due to special school assignments.

Section III.F.4. Short-Term Player Movement

If a team has less than seven players for any tournament game, that team may add enough players to increase its roster size to its original roster size. Temporary players must be registered in the current year in an EPGBA program.

The coach of the team requiring player(s) will deal directly with the coach giving up player(s), be responsible for getting tournament double roster approval if the player being added is also playing in the same tournament with her team, and notify the appropriate Director(s) of Coaching and the VP of Travel of the situation.

Section III.F.5. Conflict Resolution

Any issue, dispute or conflict that arises involving a coach, player or parent should be handled in accordance with this section. A cooling-off period of 24 hours should be observed, unless the issue involves a concern about player safety. The player and parent should first discuss the matter with the player's head coach, unless the matter involves player safety. If the matter involves player safety, the matter should be brought to the attention of the President, or if the President is not immediately available, to any other member of the Executive Committee.

For matters not involving player safety, if the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of all parties, the matter should be presented to a Coaching Director in writing with a description of what has occurred and what steps have been taken to rectify the situation. If the Coaching Director is a head coach, the VP of Travel should be contacted instead.

If the matter still cannot be satisfactorily resolved, the next step is to refer the matter to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will discuss and determine the appropriate resolution based on the information provided and through discussion with the parties involved.

Section IV: Eden Prairie Invitational Tournament

The EPGBA will host an invitational travel tournament each year in order to raise funds to cover EPGBA operating expenses. The tournament will be scheduled on or about the first weekend of November, unless the Board determines that another date would be more ideal.

Final determination of participating teams shall be in the sole discretion of the EPGBA.

See Appendix E for Tournament Operating Guidelines & Processes

Section V: Spring Program

The purpose of the spring program is to provide an opportunity for further player development after the completion of the winter season. If the Board determines there is sufficient interest and if playing opportunities are available that are appropriate given the skillset of players who register, the Board may also authorize teams to be formed and to participate in tournaments. If teams are formed, generally, the policies applicable to the Travel Program will govern the Spring Program as well. However, the Travel Tryout process is not applicable to the spring program. See Section V.A below for how players are evaluated, and teams are formed.

Section V.A. Spring Program Player Evaluations

There will be no formal player evaluation process for grades 4-8. Player evaluations from the fall/winter league will be used along with input from coaches and director(s) of coaching where needed. Third grade players will be evaluated during the first week of practice. These evaluations will be performed by the coaches assigned to 3rd grade. If enough players are evaluated as being ready for travel in each grade and if there are competitive playing opportunities available, a team will be formed of those players to play in tournaments. The remaining players will participate in skills development sessions.

Section V.B. Spring Program Fees

The Board will determine the cost of participation prior to each year's registration. Fees for the most recent season will be posted on the EPGBA web site. There are no refunds of fees for any reason once practices begin. Grants to help defray the fees is available to families who qualify for free or reduced lunches through the school system. In order to qualify for a grant, a confidential application should be submitted to the EPGBA Treasurer. All inquiries and grants provided will be kept confidential.

Section V.C. Spring Program Policies

Section V.C.1. Attendance & Absences

While attendance at all practices and tournaments is encouraged, it is acknowledged that spring program is not the primary season for basketball and thus players may have conflicts with other sports and activities. If there is a conflict, the coach should be informed in advance of the absence.

Section V.C.2. Tournaments

If the requirements of Section V.A are met, each spring team that is formed will be registered to play in tournaments throughout the spring season. The EPGBA will pay the entry fees for a minimum of two tournaments in which spring teams participate.

Section V.C.3. Practices

There must be two adults or coaches at every practice for the entire practice. Practice must be cancelled if two adults cannot be present.

Section VI: Other EPGBA Policies

Section VI.A. Senior Scholarships

In the spring of each year the EPGBA will offer two \$1000 senior scholarships. There will be an option for an additional \$1000 available each season that may also be awarded at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. The Executive Committee will review the financials each spring to approve the additional scholarship funds.

The scholarships are available to any player that participated in the EPGBA or Eden Prairie High School basketball programs at any level. However, all scholarship candidates must live in Eden Prairie.

Selection is based on support to the community and/or youth basketball programs and activities, high standards of personal conduct, leadership qualities, and academic achievement.

Interested individuals must complete a written application and submit that application by the due date. The Scholarship Committee will interview all applicants. The Scholarship Committee will recommend that the Board make a scholarship award to two candidates they feel best meet the selection criteria. An officer or member of the Board will present the scholarships to the two selected candidates at the Senior Academics Award banquet held in May of each year.

Section VI.B. Summer Programs

The EPGBA will promote summer programs for year-round player development.

Section VI.C. AAU Teams

The EPGBA does not sponsor AAU teams.

Section VI.D. Policy Modification

Any of these policies can be changed only by a majority vote at any meeting of the Board attended by a quorum of the Board members as defined by the Bylaws.

The Policy Committee shall maintain this policy document.

[Appendix A: Committees](#)

[Appendix B: In-House Roles](#)

[Appendix C: Travel Roles](#)

[Appendix D: Travel Tryout Summary of Roles](#)

[Appendix E: Travel Tournament](#)

[Appendix F: Codes of Ethics](#)

Change Log

Summary of Changes	Date Adopted by Board
New Format	August 16, 2020
Updated to indicate that the separately hired independent evaluators will consist of the Coaching Director, HS Head Coach and additional Staff Member. Also provide clarity on players playing up into HS.	April, 2024