

2025-2026 Girls Travel Basketball Tryouts

Tryouts can be a stressful time for players and parents. To minimize frustration and confusion, we have done our best to outline the tryout process. In this guide you will find information that may be helpful regarding what to do before tryouts, what happens during tryouts and what to expect when the process is complete. Our best advice to parents is to tell your players to try their hardest, but to relax and have fun too.

Our goal is to place all players on the team that is best aligned to their skill level. In an ideal situation all players would be placed on a travel team. Unfortunately, this is not always possible for two main reasons.

1. Occasionally numbers create a challenge in that we have too many players for one team, but not enough to form a second team. The players not placed on a travel team would be encouraged to sign up for in-house basketball.
2. If our independent evaluators identify a player as not “travel-ready” that player would not be placed on a travel team and would be encouraged to sign-up for in-house basketball to further their development.

Tryout Expectations

All players who want to play on a WAA Traveling Basketball Team will be required to attend both tryout sessions. Exceptions may be granted with the prior authorization of the Girls Basketball Director or Girls Travel Director. Tryouts will take place over a 2-day period in which players will participate in a variety of basketball drills, competitions, and scrimmages.

What do we do if our player is too sick or injured to participate in tryouts?

If a player is unable to participate due to illness or injury the parent or guardian of the player must contact the Girls Basketball Director or Girls Travel Director **prior to** the first tryout session. Players who have registered for tryouts and are not able to participate will be excused for that illness or injury upon submitting a doctor's note describing the player's limitations. The placement of players who are unable to participate will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

What should my child wear to tryouts?

All players should wear shorts, t-shirts and basketball shoes. Players SHOULD NOT wear uniforms from previous years or t-shirts with their names on them. A numbered shirt or jersey will be provided upon check-in.

Tryouts are closed to parents.

The evaluators and players need to focus on the task at hand. Having spectators is distracting to all parties. It is important that we let them do the job they came to do. Parents that do not respect this rule may cause their player to be removed from the process. WAA Girls Basketball thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

The only spectators who will be allowed in the gym are head coaching candidates for that grade. These coaching candidates may observe quietly from the sidelines but will not have any interactions with players or evaluators during the tryout process.

Tryout Dates

Players MUST attend both sessions unless they have prior approval from either the Girls Basketball Director or the Girls Travel Director. We have communicated with the boards for other WAA sports and have done our best to avoid conflicts with other events. We will work to resolve any conflicts that do arise on a case-by-case basis.

Please see the Travel Girls Basketball Website for specific tryout dates & times for each grade level.

Tryout Assessment

Players will be assessed by independent evaluators over the course of 2 days of tryouts.

- Day 1 focuses on skills with built in competition.
- Day 2 focuses on game situations and application of skills.

Each player's overall evaluation rating will be determined from their performance in these basketball drills and scrimmage situations. These ratings, in addition to the coach evaluation from the prior year (coachability, attendance, basketball IQ), are all factors used in making team selections.

The below chart contains the skills and abilities that players will be evaluated on during their tryouts.

Lay-Ups	Shooting	Ball-Handling	Passing	Defense
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of both hands • Accuracy • Finish in traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accuracy • Correct Form • Shot Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of either hand • Dribble under pressure • Eyes up • Limits turnovers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sees the floor • Accuracy • Catches the ball • Strength of pass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can guard on the ball • Help position • Ball pressure • Communicates • Doesn't take possessions off

Offense	Team Play	Hustle/Aggressive	Listening
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands spacing • Pass and cuts • Understands screening • Takes open shots within their range • Shot selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Player • Passes to the open person • Helps on defense • Encourages teammates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effort at both ends of the floor • Goes after loose balls/rebounds • Never walks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listens to facilitators instructions • Stops play when whistle blows • Asks questions if lacks understanding

Evaluators Role

The program's goal is to be as impartial and fair as possible, so we use independent evaluators who will assess players on individual skills and team skills. These ratings will then be used to place players on a team that is appropriate for their level.

Coaches Role

Anyone interested in coaching must apply with the link posted on the Girls Travel Basketball Website and Interview with the Coach Selection Committee (Girls Basketball Director, Girls Travel Director, Girls WHS Coaches), prior to tryouts. If one of the directors is a coaching applicant, then the Girls In-House Director, Boys Basketball Director, or Boys Travel Director will join the selection committee.

Any coach that applied and interviewed as a head coach is allowed to observe tryouts. The coach is not part of the evaluation process, and they are not allowed to communicate with players or evaluators during the session.

Directors Role

Directors will help facilitate, organize, and oversee the tryout process. Directors are not evaluators, but they will monitor and help facilitate drills as needed so tryouts are completed in the time allotted.

Team Placement

The goal is to have 8-10 players on each travel team. The number on each team will depend on the total number of players who are rated as 'travel-ready' by the evaluators, and on the number of players considered ready to succeed at each competition level (A, B, or C).

The Girls Basketball Director and Girls Travel Director will oversee the team selection process.

Team 1: The top 5 players as determined by the evaluators are automatically placed on the 1st team.

1. The Coach Selection Committee will then name the coach of the top team.
 - If a coaching candidate is affiliated with a player, that player needs to be ranked 1-12 for the coach to be considered as a candidate for coaching the 1st team.
 - Typically, "affiliated" means the son or daughter of the coaching candidate, but it could also be another relative or family friend. If the player affiliated with the head coach is ranked 6-12, that player will be added to the 1st team, along with the players ranked 1-5.
2. The 1st team coach will select players to fill out the roster. The coach must make his/her selections from amongst players ranked in the top 11 (8-player team) or top 12 (9-player team).
 - The total number of players on the 1st team will be determined by the Girls Director and Girls Travel Director based on the amount of travel ready players available. The goal is 8-9, but in some cases could be up to 10. Coaches work with the Directors to help round out their team.

Team 2: Following selection of the 1st team, the next 5 highest rated players will be automatically placed on the 2nd team.

1. The 2nd team coach is then selected by the Coach Selection Committee.
 - If the coach is affiliated with a player, that player needs to be ranked amongst the top 12 remaining players for the coach to be considered as a candidate for coaching the 2nd team.

2. The 2nd team coach then selects players to fill out the 2nd team roster, using a process analogous to what is described above for the 1st team.

Team 3: Typically, the girls' program only has 2 teams per grade level. However, if there are enough registrations, the player and coach selection process will continue until all A, B, and C rosters are filled.

*Note: If there is no coach for a team at the time of team selection, the Girls Basketball Director and the Girls Travel Director will work with the Evaluators to select a team.

Policy for twins/siblings in the same grade:

The WAA Basketball Board believes that siblings in the same grade should be treated in the same manner as siblings in different grades. Namely, each sibling is evaluated and treated as an individual. Siblings in the same grade will not automatically be placed on the same team. The WAA Basketball board believes this policy is the fairest to all participants in the travel program.

If families want to keep their twins/siblings on the same team, both players can play for the team the lower performing player was placed on during the tryout process, with approval from the Girls Basketball Director or Girls Travel Director.

Policy on 'playing up' to a higher grade:

3rd –7th grade athletes attempting to 'play up' to a higher grade need to obtain, via email, the approval of the Girls Basketball Director or Girls Travel Director prior to tryouts to be eligible to try out for the higher grade level.

Eligibility for 'playing up' on girl's 5th-8th grade teams:

- Players may only 'play up' on a higher grade's top team if the player is ranked amongst the top 3 players at the higher grade level, as determined by the Independent Evaluators. Players ranked outside the top 3 would be placed at their current grade level.
 - Exception 1: Younger players cannot 'play up' if that results in cuts of 'travel-ready' players needing to be made at the higher grade level

- Exception 2: The younger player is needed to field a team at their current grade level
- Players interested in playing up must attend both the tryout session for their own grade, and the session for the higher grade.

Eligibility for ‘playing up’ on a girl’s 4th grade team:

- Since there is not a 3rd grade girls travel team, this ‘playing up’ policy differs from the policy for the girl’s 4th-8th grade teams.
- A 3rd grade player who rates amongst the top 3 players will automatically be placed on the 4th grade travel team.
- A 3rd grader who is rated as ‘travel-ready’, but not in the top 3, may play on the 4th grade travel team provided that the younger player is NOT displacing a ‘travel-ready’ 4th grader.
 - For example, if there are 11 ‘travel ready’ players, and the 3rd grader is rated 8th, a 4th grade player will not be cut to place a 3rd grader on the team.

Eligibility for ‘playing up’ on the high school team:

WAA is not part of the process of deciding who ‘plays up’ on Woodbury High School Teams (or other high school teams). If you have questions about this, please contact the Varsity Coach directly.

After Tryouts

Upon the completion of tryouts and team selection, team rosters will be posted on the WAA Girls Travel Basketball web site as soon as possible. Typically, rosters will appear on the website within 3-7 days of the completion of tryouts. We will not answer any questions regarding the placement of players on teams for 48 hours following the announcement of team rosters.

What if I have questions about the process?

Questions or concerns about the tryout process should be directed to the Girls Basketball Director or Girls Travel Director. Please do not raise questions directly with the travel coaches or evaluators.

We understand that the outcome of tryouts might not always be what the parent or the player had expected. However, selections will be made in accordance with the WAA tryout policy and are final.

What if we don't accept this placement?

If you turn down your travel team position, you will not receive a refund of your registration fees, and you will not be allowed to transfer to the In-House program. Such transfers are disruptive and unfair to the team you were placed on. Earning a spot on a WAA Travel Basketball team is a privilege that unfortunately not everyone is awarded.

What if my son or daughter is not selected for a WAA Travel Team?

Players who are not selected to play travel basketball will be eligible to play WAA in-house basketball.

- If the player opts to play in the In-House League, the difference in program fees will be refunded.
- If a player chooses not to play in the In-House League, a full refund will be issued.