

## **St. Paul Basketball Playing Time Policy**

General Philosophy: It is SPBB's goal to ensure that each player has the opportunity to play a meaningful role in games, tournaments, and practices over the course of a season. SPBA is not a win at all costs organization. While playing time is most commonly linked strictly to ability, other factors such as commitment to the team, attendance, attitude, practice/game listening skills, physical limits such as an injury or illness, and being on time may also play a role in the coach's decision regarding playing time. This keeps our organization in step with our program goals of instilling characteristics like hard work, dedication, and perseverance in our youth. Coaches are not required to give equal playing time to players, but the goal is to give each player fair playing time over the course of the season so that each player has the opportunity to develop. Coaches also have the discretion to place more emphasis on certain games (i.e.—win and avoid the 8am game the following day).

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teams: For 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade travel teams, coaches should attempt to provide relatively equal playing time over the course of a tournament and season, with the goal of having each player play at least 40% of the time over the course of a season. The coach has the right to alter playing time on a game-by-game basis based on game situations, foul trouble, illness, and disciplinary actions.

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teams: For grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, every travel player should receive, as minimum playing time, approximately 5 minutes per half. For players regularly receiving less playing time than others, coaches should look for situations to provide additional playing time to those players in appropriate game situations.

Teams with more than 10 Players: The SPBB playing time policies are designed for teams of 10 players or less. SPBB tries to limit teams to no more than 10 players. There may be special circumstances where a coach agrees to take more than 10 players on his/her team. In such situations, the coach will have additional discretion to allocate playing time while keeping in mind the general playing time principles outlined above.

Contacting a Coach: If a parent has an issue with playing time, the parent is encouraged to contact the coach outside of games, tournaments, or practices to discuss the situation. Parents are asked to wait at least 24 hours after a tournament before reaching out to the coach with concerns.