



## TRAVEL PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### **Mission Statement:**

In addition to the regular PRAA recreation level sports offerings, the PRAA will create a travel sports program that allows children the opportunity to advance their skills and compete as a team in a safe and more challenging environment whenever possible.

### **Construction of Teams:**

All travel programs are regulated by Fairness Committee guidelines.

**Baseball:** Refer to Fairness Committees established rating and team selection/drafting system.

**Softball:** Refer to Fairness Committees established rating and team selection/drafting system.

**Basketball:** Tryouts in early fall (when gym time permits) or open gyms where all grade level rec. coaches provide feedback on players. Coaches will also reference previous season rating.

In the event time does not permit or gym time is unavailable the selection process will refer to Fairness Committees established rating system from the previous season. New Fairness Committee evaluation system to be in place for the start of the 2020 season.

\*All children's parents are asked if their child would be interested in travel. This invite does not guarantee a spot on a travel but an invitation to be selected.

\*Any roster exceptions require sport specific committee approval.

\*Sports specific commissioners are to weigh in on drafts and/or ratings.

### **Teams Size:**

**Basketball:** 7 player min-10 player max

**Baseball:** 10 player min-12 player max

**Softball:** 10 player min-12 player max

*Exceptions are permitted with sport specific committee approval.*

\* In the event there are not enough children to make a full team, out-of-town children are allowed to participate. However, the team must maintain a majority of Park Ridge children.

Should a team have an "interested" number (1-2) of players that exceeds the standard roster limits for that sport (with not enough players to form a second or intermediate team at that participation level), those additional players that didn't make the travel team will be placed on the roster and designated "preferred alternates". As such, those players (not to exceed 3 players) will have the opportunity to practice with the team during that season, and serve as first call-ups should extra players be needed for a specific game or tournament.

**Basketball Addendum:** In the event there are 11 players interested in playing on a grade specific team, the team max will be 9 players. The 2 additional players will be designated "preferred alternates". As such, those players will not be charged regular season travel costs but have the opportunity to practice with the team during that season and serve as first call-ups should extra players be needed for a specific game or tournament. If 1 of the 9 players on the travel team is unable to attend a game or tournament the coach is required to call up both "preferred alternate" players giving the team 10 players in total. When players are called up, they are entitled to the 25% minimum playtime requirement.

### **Second Team Creation for a Grade Level**

When the number of children interested in playing travel is greater than 51% of the minimum allowed on a travel team, a second team can be created. The teams will be set up by skill level. The top-rated players will be placed on the "A" level team while the remainder will create a "B" level team using team construction guidelines set forth above.

A 2nd team is created when the following criteria are met:

- Volunteer coach steps up for 2<sup>nd</sup> team.
- There are at least 51% of the minimum children required to form a team interested in playing.
  - Second team must maintain a Park Ridge majority.
  - Allow out of town children to participate to create a 2<sup>nd</sup> Team if needed.

### **Requirements to Play**

Children must participate in regular season recreation program to be eligible to participate on travel teams. Exceptions granted via sport specific committee with the sport specific committee having the right to push decision to the Board of Trustees. Travel Teams are evaluated every year.

### **Game Playtime Requirements**

**Basketball:** 25% game minimum/1 quarter (time do not have to be consecutive minutes)

**Baseball/Softball:** All children must have at least 1 at-bat and cannot sit more than 3 innings in a game.

\*Playtime requirements stay the same for playoffs and tournament game.

### **Travel Coaches**

All recreation head coaches of the current season are given the first opportunity to coach a travel team. If multiple coaches come forward, coaches will be given the option to co-coach or create an annual rotation with the caveat that the child makes the travel team the following year. If coaches cannot agree, selection will be made by sports specific committee vote and then evaluated by the Fairness Committee. The Fairness Committee has the right to overturn the sports specific committees ruling based on the fairness guidelines. In the event no recreation coaches come forward an email will be sent to all the parents of the grade requesting volunteers.

### **Tournament Play**

When PRAA sponsored teams are entered into tournaments, they must adhere to the following:

- The player rosters used for the tournament team **MUST** be the same roster as the current season's Travel Team. Deviations from this roster (including additions, subtractions, or substitutions) are **NOT** allowed unless a current player is unavailable to play due to illness, injury, or prior commitments.
- Out of town players (excluding OLMA students) are **NOT** allowed to participate without PRAA Board of Trustee approval and registration on the PRAA website. This is also subject to the rules of the specific tournament.