

Jackson Youth Basketball Assoc., Inc.

POLAR BEAR TRAVEL PROGRAM GRADES 3-6 2009-2010

A. PHILOSOPHY

The Jackson Polar Bear Youth Travel Program is created to identify and further develop players in grades 3-6 at a high level of basketball. The main objectives are to: (1) play against strong competition; (2) enhance the player's skills by participating in additional games and practices; and (3) introduce the offensive and defensive philosophies of the Jackson High School Basketball program.

The following policies are enacted for the 2009-2010 season to aid in the development of the player and the Jackson Basketball program as a whole.

B. TRAVEL TEAMS

There will be *three (3) 6th-grade teams*, two (2) 5th-grade teams, two (2) 4th-grade teams, and one (1) 3rd-grade team. JYBA travel teams will be comprised of boys only.

C. TRAVEL TEAM SELECTION

1. The Head Basketball Coach will appoint an independent panel to select the travel teams for grades 4-6. This evaluation panel will not be otherwise affiliated with the Jackson Basketball program.

The panel that will evaluate and choose the 3rd grade travel team will consist of the head coaches of the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade travel teams (or their proxy) and the travel director(s).

2. Tryouts for each grade level will be one (1) hour in length.
3. If a player was on a travel team the previous year, a star (*) will be placed next to that player's name on the player list used by the evaluation panel. (This will act as the equivalent of a returning letterman at the high school level.) However, there is no guarantee the player will be renamed to a travel team.

4. Tryouts for each grade level will be run by the Head Basketball Coach and his staff. Only the evaluation panel, travel director, JYBA Board Members, and travel team head coaches will be permitted in the gym during tryouts. No parents will be permitted to observe.

5. *The evaluation panel will select 24 players in 6th grade. The panel will select the top 16 players and the next 8 players.*

The panel will select between 16 and 20 players in each of 4th grade and 5th grade. The panel reserves the right to select fewer than 20 players in 4th and 5th grade.

The final lists will be approved by the Head Basketball Coach.

6. The evaluation panel will select 10 to 12 players in 3rd grade. The panel reserves the right to select fewer than 10 players. The final list will be approved by the Head Basketball Coach.
7. An interested player may try out for a travel team at one (1) grade level above his. However, to be selected to that travel team, the player must be in the top six (6) players of the higher grade level as determined by the evaluation panel. *Exception: A 2nd-grader trying out for the 3rd grade team must be in the top three (3) players in the higher grade level to be selected.*
 - a. If a younger player is selected to participate in the higher grade level, an extra player in the higher grade level will be chosen. The player moving up will NOT take a spot from another player in that grade level.
 - b. A younger player trying out for an older team must also attend the tryout for his grade.
8. Criteria for selection to a travel team includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Each player must be a member in good standing of the JYBA;
 - b. Each player must live within the Jackson Local School District or the geographic limits of Jackson Township;
 - c. Basketball skills;
 - d. Conditioning;
 - e. Athleticism;
 - f. Willingness to commit;
 - g. Coachability;
 - h. Academic eligibility as defined by the Jackson Local School District;
 - i. Attitude;

- j. Work ethic;
- k. Sportsmanship: players will be held to the highest standards of conduct on and off the floor.

The Head Basketball Coach may set additional basketball-related criteria at his discretion.

D. TRAVEL TEAM COACHES

1. Travel team head coaches will be selected by the Head Basketball Coach. He will select two (2) coaches each for 4th grade and 5th grade, and three (3) coaches for 6th grade. He will select one (1) coach for 3rd grade. Once teams are divided, the travel team head coaches will choose their assistant coaches subject to approval by the Head Basketball Coach.
2. Travel team head coaches will have their son on their team (if applicable). If a travel head coach's son is not on the final list as selected by the evaluation panel, he will be kept as an additional player and will not take the place of another selected player.
3. Travel team coaches are not paid by the JYBA.

E. TRAVEL TEAM BREAKDOWN

1. Once the evaluation panel selects the players in each grade level, the travel head coaches for that grade level will meet and divide the two teams as equally as possible. In 6th grade, the coaches will divide the top 16 players as equally as possible. These teams will be designated as "Jackson Purple" and "Jackson Gold."

2. *A developmental team shall be created at the 6th grade level. This team will consist of players 17 through 24 as evaluated at tryouts. The purpose of this team will be to provide additional players an opportunity to experience travel basketball and allow for further development of these players' skills in preparation for participation in the middle school program. This team will be designated as "Jackson White."*

3. A moderator selected by the Head Basketball Coach may be present during the division of the travel teams at each grade level to assist as needed.
4. Travel coaches will consider extenuating circumstances during the division of travel teams. The moderator must be made aware of any of these circumstances and will ensure that no coach or parent is manipulating the system.

F. TRAVEL TEAM PRACTICES

1. Practice times for each grade level will be scheduled by the JYBA scheduling coordinators. Additional practice times must be scheduled through the coordinators to secure a gym permit.
2. Travel teams in each grade level — 4th, 5th, and 6th grade — MUST practice together. No exceptions! Coaches should develop a practice plan for the mutual benefit of each team with the majority of practice time being held together. Teams may separate for individual work during practice, but that should be for no more than half of each practice. Teams are permitted to schedule separate scrimmages against outside competition.
3. In the months of November and December, the 5th and 6th grade teams will participate in a Skills Clinic once a week to further develop their basketball ability. Attendance at the Skills Clinic is not mandatory. Beginning in January, all travel teams will incorporate at least 30 minutes of skill work into every practice.

G. PLAYING TIME

Playing time is not guaranteed, may not be equal, and is at the discretion of the travel coaches.

H. LEAGUES AND TOURNAMENTS

1. (a.) The purple and gold travel teams in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade will participate in one (1) travel league and five (5) tournaments, one of which will be the Polar Bear Classic. (b.) *The white team in 6th grade will participate in one (1) travel league and three (3) tournaments, one of which will be the Polar Bear Classic.* (c.) The 3rd grade travel team will participate in one (1) travel league and four (4) tournaments, one of which will be the Polar Bear Classic.
2. These tournaments will be selected by the travel coaches in conjunction with the travel director, and will be approved by the JYBA board.
 - a. Travel coaches in each grade will meet to determine which leagues and tournaments to attend. If possible, purple and gold teams should not enter the same league (unless the league agrees not to schedule the teams against each other) or the same tournament on the same weekend (with the exception of the Polar Bear Classic).

b. The 6th grade white team should attempt to enter into a lower division of a major tournament or travel league, or minor tournaments commensurate with the purpose of this team.

I. COSTS AND FUNDRAISERS

1. There is no additional fee to participate on a travel team. The JYBA will incur the cost of travel team uniforms and registration fees for sanctioned leagues and tournaments (see Section H above).
2. Hotel expenses and travel costs will be borne by each family. All travel teams will endeavor to stay at the same hotel for out-of-town tournaments.
3. All travel players must participate in one fundraiser — the Holiday Hoop-la. Players in grades 4-6 are required to raise a minimum of \$100. Players in grade 3 are required to raise a minimum of \$75. More information will be distributed in December.
4. Travel team parents will be expected to volunteer their time to sell 50-50 tickets during at least one high school home game during the 2009-2010 season. More information will be distributed in November.

J. TRAVEL TEAM UNIFORMS AND DONATIONS

Travel teams at each grade level will receive the same uniforms, practice gear, travel gear, etc. Any donations must not be limited to one team. Donations must be opened up to the entire grade level, for example, uniforms, warm-ups, t-shirts, shorts, coaches' apparel, etc.

K. NON-JYBA SANCTIONED TEAMS

1. Players are encouraged to participate on AAU teams, summer leagues, fall leagues, or other teams following the conclusion of the JYBA-sponsored travel season. The participation on any AAU, summer, or fall team is not sanctioned by the JYBA. Coaches may select any player for any team in conjunction with OHSAA rules for these teams.

2. The JYBA neither supports nor prohibits participation on non-JYBA sanctioned teams during the JYBA travel season. However, these teams should not interfere with any JYBA-sanctioned travel team or in-house team, and the above rules will apply to the JYBA-sanctioned travel teams at all times.

L. COMMUNICATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. If any question or issue arises during the season regarding the above policies, a player or parent must first contact their coach and attempt to resolve the problem.
2. If no solution can be reached, the parent and/or coach must contact the travel director who will attempt to resolve the problem.
3. If a particular problem requires the attention of the Head Basketball Coach, the travel director will contact the Head Basketball Coach directly to address it. At no time should a parent contact the Head Basketball Coach directly without first going through the preceding channels.
4. Any parent or coach circumventing this procedure or otherwise violating any of the above policies may be subject to having his/her son removed from the travel team.

Travel Director for the 2009-2010 season is:

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**GO BEARS
ONE HEARTBEAT**

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