



## 2009/2010 Boys Basketball Overview

**Goal:** The primary goal of the league is to develop your son's joy of basketball and improve his skills. We strive to create a team approach/spirit, improve understanding of the fundamentals and practice within healthy competition.

**Recreational League:** Our league has 2 conferences, Eastern and Western, per grade from 2-6. Each league attempts to match skill sets so all players have an enjoyable experience. The Eastern conference is more competitive than the Western.

**Junior High Recreational League:** The Junior High league attempts to match the skill sets of your 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys. This combined league has been a success and is growing each year.

**Travel League:** For those players interested and who demonstrate advanced basketball skills, a travel league exists for grades 4-6. Each grade will be split by the appropriate high school [HSE or Fishers] and within each grade there may be up to 3 different skill levels [typically A, B and C teams]. The evaluations will be performed by the HSE and Fishers high school coaches. The travel league will compete with nearby schools. Those players on the travel team will not play in the recreational league. To answers to some of your questions on the travel league please refer to FAQ at the end of this document.

**Registration:** Register at the S.P.O.R.T.S. office, through the mail or online. The registration form can be downloaded or register online from the S.P.O.R.T.S. website at [www.hsesports.org](http://www.hsesports.org). Registration for boy's basketball begins in May and closes in mid-September. After registration is closed, a waiting list will be started.

**Evaluations:** To participate in the travel league, you must attend evaluations conducted by either Fishers or HSE high school coaches...typically in mid September. For the recreational league, evaluations will be conducted by the basketball board in October.

**Time Commitment:** The recreational league runs from the beginning of November to the middle of March. Typically, the teams will practice 1 time per week and play games on Saturdays. Weekday practices are scheduled to begin and end somewhere within the 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. time frame. Days and times depend on gym availability. Saturday games begin and end somewhere within the 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. time frame. Practices and games will take place in Hamilton Southeastern school district gyms.

The Junior High league runs from beginning of January to the beginning of March. Typically, the teams will practice 1 time per week and play **two** games on Saturdays. Weekday practices are scheduled to begin and end somewhere within the 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. time frame. Days and times depend on gym availability. Saturday games begin and end somewhere within the 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. time frame. Practices and games will take place in Hamilton Southeastern school district gyms.

Travel basketball is demanding for the entire family. Teams will usually practice 2-3 times per week and play competitive games on Saturday at the Fieldhouse and a regular scheduled Travel game mid-afternoon on Sunday. It is often difficult to plan on going to Colts and Pacer games on a regular basis. Making a travel team is committing to this

schedule and all practices. We encourage you to only play this sport and not take on additional activities while playing for your travel team. This schedule runs from October thru late March.

**Team Selection:** Each team will have approximately 8 players. The teams are divided up equally by skill sets and into teams by the league commissioner. For the recreational league, the teams will NOT be divided based upon Fishers versus HSE high school boundaries.

**Cost:** Cost is \$100 per season for the recreational program. This cost covers jersey, S.P.O.R.T.S membership dues, insurance, officials, etc. The travel league may cost an additional amount to cover additional uniforms and gym time.

**Refund Policy:** While registration is still open, a full refund will be given to players that pull out of the league. After registration is closed, no refunds will be given.

**Coach Selection:** Parent coaches and independent coaches are utilized. The grade commissioner along with the basketball board will select the recreational league coaches. Both high schools provide additional assistance for the travel programs.

**Playing Time:** The recreational league intends to provide equal playing time for all players. The travel program is intended to be more competitive and playing time will vary based upon performance.

**General Rules:**

- Grades 2-6 will use 28.5 size balls while grades 7-8 will use a 29.5 size ball.
- League will provide a referee for games
- Grade 2 - will play on 9ft goals, remaining grades on 10ft goals.

## Travel League Frequently Asked Questions

### **Which travel programs will my son play on, HSE or FHS?**

The school boundaries for the current school year determine which travel program your son will participate. If your permanent residence resides within the Fishers High school (FHS) boundary, then your son will participate in the FHS travel program. If you reside in the Hamilton Southeastern High School (HSE) boundary, then your son will participate in the HSE travel program.

### **Does the travel team take the place of the intermediate school team?**

The intermediate school teams and the travel teams are mutually exclusive of one another. Your son may play for either of the two teams or both of them. The decision is totally up to the player and his parents. The travel program supports the intermediate school teams and will schedule its practices and games around the intermediate school schedule. There are no 5th grade school teams; they begin in the sixth grade.

### **How much does it cost to participate?**

The cost to participate is approximately \$175.00 per player plus the cost of a uniform. Uniform cost is approximately \$70.00. Costs may vary from year to year.

### **What type of time commitment can we expect for Travel Basketball?**

Travel basketball is demanding for the entire family. Teams will usually practice 2-3 times per week and play competitive games on Saturday at the Fieldhouse and a regular scheduled Travel game mid-afternoon on Sunday. It is often difficult to plan on going to Colts and Pacer games on a regular basis. Making a travel team is committing to this schedule and all practices. We encourage you to only play this sport and not take on additional activities while playing for your travel team. This schedule runs from October thru late March.

### **My son is not competitive and I just want him to play a lot, should he play on the travel team or in the recreational league?**

We always encourage boys to go out for the travel basketball team if they like competition and enjoy challenging practices. However, we do like to point out that travel basketball is significantly different than the recreational league. In addition to individual development, coaches are attempting to place the most competitive teams on the floor. There is definitely more emphasis placed on winning each game than in the recreational league. Often times, that means one boy may play more minutes per game than another boy. Equal playing time is not the top priority as is the case in the recreational league. With that being said, it is a developmental program and each boy will receive adequate playing time over the course of a season. Parents and players must consider if they want to play in this type of a format.

### **Does my son need to all three days of the travel camp?**

Every player needs to attend the camp in order to participate in the travel program. Attending all three days of the camp is highly recommended.

**Should I sign my son up for the recreational league if he is planning to play on a travel team?**

Yes. If your son makes a travel team, the money you paid towards the recreational league will be applied towards the travel fee. If your son does not get selected for the travel team, then he should participate in the recreational league evaluation which occur subsequent to the travel evaluations.

**How are coaches selected for the travel teams?**

At the parent meeting and the camp/evaluations, coaching applications will be made available. Anyone interested in coaching their son's travel team will complete a coaching application and submit it at the time of the travel camp. Coaches will be selected by the Boys Travel Committee after the boys have been assigned to teams. The selections will be made from the Coaching Applications submitted on your son's team.

**What will be discussed at the Parent Meeting? Is it important to attend?**

Yes, it is very important for all parents to attend. The High School Coach along with representatives from SPORTS will be there to explain the Travel Program, communicate important dates, and answer any questions. If it is simply not possible for you to attend, be sure to ask another parent to attend on your behalf and pick up the information that will be distributed. Attending the parent meeting does not result in a commitment by you and your son to participate. It is for informational purposes only.