



PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Program Overview

Our program is for players looking for a more competitive basketball experience and a chance to compete against teams from various communities throughout the area. **Volunteer Coaches are required for each team!**

Teams practice on weeknights twice a week for 1-1.5 hours per night. Games played mostly on Saturdays and/or Sundays. An occasional weeknight game could be scheduled if needed.

Boys teams will play in the [Chicagoland Feeder League](#). Most games & end of the season tournament will be at a neutral site (likely in the Deerfield/Northbrook area).

Girls teams will play in the [DuPage Youth Travel Basketball League](#). Girls teams will play half road games and half home games plus an end of the season tournament at a neutral site.

Players who play in the Patriots Travel Basketball program are NOT required to play in the MPPD House Basketball League.

Patriots Travel Basketball Program Structure

Age Requirement:	<p>Patriot teams are organized by the grade the player is currently in during that school year. Teams will be offered in the following grades:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">BOYS</th> <th style="text-align: center;">GIRLS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3rd grade</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3rd grade</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4th grade</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4th grade</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5th grade</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5th grade</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In years where enough participants try out, a 2nd team per grade level could be created.</p>	BOYS	GIRLS	3rd grade	3rd grade	4th grade	4th grade	5th grade	5th grade
BOYS	GIRLS								
3rd grade	3rd grade								
4th grade	4th grade								
5th grade	5th grade								
Tryouts:	Tryouts will be held in September or October of each year. Players need to only attend one (1) of the two (2) try out dates.								
Time Commitment:	<p>The Patriots travel teams play at a higher level of competition and require a strong commitment from both player and family. The Patriots basketball season runs from October - March. Teams will begin practices, twice a week, in mid to late October. Games will begin as early as December.</p> <p>Mt. Prospect Park District Patriots Travel Basketball players are expected to be committed to being a Patriot! Attendance for practices and games could be used as a factor in future year's tryouts and consideration.</p>								
Fees:	The 2023-2024 season player fee is \$525.00. This fee covers uniforms, officials, scorekeepers, league fees, 1 in season tournament & 2 Performance Training sessions (with ARC Performance Training).								
Playing Time:	There is no guarantee of minimum playing time on Patriots Basketball teams but coaches are expected to play all players in attendance for a game.								
Questions:	Visit Patriots website or contact MPPD Athletic Staff at 847-640-1000.								

HOW PLAYERS ARE CHOSEN AND CRITERIA USED IN FORMING TEAMS:

- 3rd - 5th grade players who are interested in the Patriots program must tryout. Tryout dates, times and locations will be communicated on the Patriots Basketball website as well as the MPPD fall brochure. Extenuating circumstances, such as injury or illness during the tryout period, must be communicated to the Mt. Prospect Park District so that a player can be evaluated at some other time, **if possible**.
- Tryouts at each grade level will be conducted by evaluators who do not have children trying out for a team.
- Tryouts will test the individual skills of each player in any or all of the following areas:
 1. Defensive Form
 2. Ball Handling
 3. Passing
 4. Rebounding/Box Out
 5. Shooting
 6. Game PlayAttitude and effort will also be taken into account during the tryout.
- Attendance at practices/games & commitment to the team could also be a factor in determining who makes the team.
- The number of players chosen for a team and the number of teams at each grade level will be predicated on the skill level of those trying out annually.

HOW COACHES ARE CHOSEN AND CRITERIA USED:

Anyone interested in coaching a Patriots team should contact the [Athletic Manager](#) prior to the tryout date(s).

- Head & Assistant Coaches will be determined **after** evaluations are completed. Anyone interested in managing/coaching should not assume their child(ren) are guaranteed placement on a Patriot team; child(ren) of coaches must have the ability to be selected for a team independent of whether or not their parent has shown interest in coaching.
- All Head & Assistant Coaches must complete the MPPD volunteer application form and are subject to a background check.
- Head & Assistant Coaches are required to complete an online coach's training.
- Head & Assistant Coaches must be able to demonstrate competency regarding knowledge of basketball and have sufficient time to devote to coaching the Patriots team.
- Head & Assistant Coaches must be able to demonstrate proficiency in their ability to:
 - a. teach fundamentals and mechanics of basketball to players; and
 - b. have the proper temperament to both teach basketball and serve as a role model for managing issues on the court during games
- End of season surveys to travel parents are of great utility in determining the effectiveness of a travel coach and whether the coach should be considered as a travel coach for the following year(s).

OBJECTIVES AND CONCLUSIONS:

- The philosophy of travel play is to field the most competitive team possible.
- Travel is not a continuation of house league play. Trying out does not mean that a player is automatically selected for a travel team.
- The Patriots teams will be competing against quality competition from other programs, while developing good sportsmanship and respect for all players, coaches, umpires, and parents for all teams.
- We hope that any questions or concerns are addressed by the above information. Any other questions should be directed to the Mt. Prospect Park District prior to tryouts.