

West Orange Travel Basketball Frequently Asked Questions
West Orange Recreation Department

- **What are the procedures required to tryout?**

Interested student athletes must register in advance through Community Pass (www.westotsnge.org/rec) Candidates then must attend a minimum of one tryout however it is strongly encouraged that they attend all sessions. In some instances, players who make the first cut will be asked to attend a mandatory boot camp style evaluation session. No personal basketballs are permitted in the gym during any tryout.

- **What if I am injured or ill and cannot attend tryouts?**

Players who are injured and/or ill must register for the tryouts. After registering for the tryouts, they must contact the Recreation Department in writing to inform them that they are injured/ill and unable to attend the tryouts. Only individuals who satisfy both requirements will be considered for a supplemental tryout. Players who do not register or notify the Recreation Department in writing prior to the tryout will not be considered for the team. It is recommended that injured players attend the tryout even if they cannot participate.

- **Where and when do travel basketball teams play?**

Winter: The 3rd/4th Grade teams compete in the Wayne PAL League. All games are played at the Wayne PAL on the weekends. The 5th through 8th Grade teams play in the Suburban League against other local Recreation Department sponsored teams. In the winter, teams will play approximately 10-16 games.

Summer: All teams play in the West Orange Summer Basketball League which draws teams from throughout north Jersey. There are no away games. Grade level is based on the grade the child will be entering in the next school year. This is an abbreviated five week program; therefore, teams only play between 6-9 games

Are there any travel level programs in the fall or spring?

These months are considered to be “out of season.” Some coaches may opt to extend their season by joining a league or tournament(s). This is completely up to the coach. We believe that the players, especially the younger ones, should play multiple sports and encourage the deferment of a “specialized sport” until the child is older. This is, of course, a parental decision.

- **When does the team practice?**

Practices are scheduled based upon the coaching staff's and facility availability. All practices are held in West Orange.

- **Are there any playing time requirements?**

There are no playing time requirements. The coaching staff determines playing time based upon talent, ability, enthusiasm and attendance.

- **What is the expected commitment level for the travel basketball program?**

Student-athletes are expected to fully commit to this program and attend all practices and games. The travel basketball program is expected to take first priority over other sports and programs during the season.

- **What is the policy regarding playing up?**

It is a long standing Recreation Department policy that student-athletes participating in the Travel Basketball program play with their own class/grade in school. For example, 5th graders play with 5th graders, 6th graders play with 6th graders, etc. The only exception to this policy is if there is an insufficient number of players from a grade. Players from a lower grade may then, based upon coach recommendation, be asked to play up. Parental and/or coach requests for players to play above their grade level will not be considered. If the player shortage occurs with the youngest age group (currently 3rd grade) a supplemental tryout will be scheduled for 2nd graders.

Student-athletes who are selected for the team will be required to complete the registration process and pay the registration fee. In the winter, the registration fee includes a uniform that the Recreation Department provides to all players. It must be returned at the conclusion of the season. In the summer players receive a cotton T-shirt style jersey which is theirs to keep. There are no hidden or secondary costs.

- **When are uniforms distributed?**

Winter: The coaching staff of the team will coordinate a uniform distribution date with the Recreation Department. If you are unable to attend on that date, please contact the Recreation Department at 973-325-4150 to set up an appointment to receive your uniform. Appointments are only accepted once the initial distribution date has passed. Uniforms will only be distributed to players who have completed the registration process.

Summer: The coaching staff will distribute the jerseys at a practice prior to the opening game.

- **Who coaches the teams and how are they chosen?**

All of the coaches are volunteers who have a background in the sport of basketball. Head coaches are chosen by the Rec staff. Assistant coaches are chosen by the head coaches. All coaches are required to complete a Volunteer Application.

- **What if I have a question that is not listed here?**

Please contact the Recreation Department at 973-325-4150 or recreation@westorange.org.