

Big Lake Youth Basketball Association Traveling Team Playing Time Policy

1.0 Purpose

This policy establishes the guidelines by grade level regarding playing time for players participating on traveling teams sponsored by the Big Lake Youth Basketball Association (BLYBA).

2.0 Revision History

Revision	Description	Affected Section	Date
A	Release	All	08/27/11

3.0 Policy

It is the policy of the BLYBA that traveling basketball is a competitive program and wants its coaches to put their teams in a position to win basketball games. However, the BLYBA wants coaches to do so while making each player's basketball experience positive.

- 3.1 The BLYBA realizes that all participants share the same expense as part of the traveling team program. However, the ability to pay, does not guarantee equal playing time.
- 3.2 During the fall/winter basketball season (October through March) grades 4 through 8 Boys and Girls traveling teams shall follow the playing time guidelines below:
 - 3.2.1 4th Grade: All players will have equal playing time until the final four (4) minutes of the game. The last four (4) minutes of each game is the coach's discretion and is not included in the equal playing time, unless tournament rules specify otherwise.
 - 3.2.1.1 Coaches are encouraged to allow each player the opportunity to start and finish games throughout the season.
 - 3.2.1.2 All parents must recognize that strict adherence to the equal playing time guideline during a game cannot be guaranteed due to player substitution patterns, a player's foul situation, player injuries and other factors that the coach may encounter.
 - 3.2.2 Grades 5 through 8: All players shall play a minimum of one-fourth (1/4) of every game, unless tournament rules specify otherwise.
- 3.3 The BLYBA realizes players may not be able to attend every practice and game; therefore, some guidelines on attendance and absences have been developed. The following examples of excused and unexcused absences are only meant to

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be a guide, not a comprehensive list. Therefore, it will be the coach's discretion to determine on a case-by-case basis whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

3.3.1 Examples of excused absences are: death in the family, family emergency, illness or injury, family vacation (2 week advanced notice), community service, school/religious activities.

3.3.2 Examples of unexcused absences are: forgot, watching other sports activities, could not get a ride, habitually late for practice, or late for games.

3.3.3 The consequence for an unexcused absence is the player can have their playing time reduced in the next game. The coach has the discretion to determine the amount the playing time is reduced.

3.3.3.1 The coach must notify the player and parents/guardian of the reduced playing time prior to the game being played.

3.4 If a parent or player feels the playing time policy is not being followed by the coach, the Board of Directors asks the parents to use the "Grievance Policy" to resolve the issue.

3.5 During the spring/summer basketball season (April through September) grades 4 through 8 Boys and Girls traveling teams shall follow the playing time guidelines below:

3.5.1 The spring/summer basketball season is for highly competitive teams and playing time for all grade levels will be determined by the coach.

3.5.1.1 Coaches are strongly encouraged to communicate with parents before starting the season the playing time guidelines being used.

4.0 Definitions

4.1 None

5.0 Supporting Policies, Procedures, Forms

5.1 Grievance Policy