

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP GIRLS BASKETBALL LEAGUE

BYLAWS

The Rockaway Township Girls Basketball League (the Rockaway Twp Girls League), in association with Rockaway Township (the Township), is governed by the bylaws stipulated herein. These bylaws are divided into the following sections:

1. Organization
2. Operation
3. Policy
4. Disputes
5. Rules

ORGANIZATION

1. The Rockaway Twp Girls League is comprised of two programs: the **In-House Recreation Program** and the **Travel Program**

2. Specific to the In-House Recreation Program

- a. The **In-House Recreation Program** is comprised of four divisions:
 - Third and Fourth Graders referred to as 'Rookie Division'
 - Fifth and Sixth Graders referred to as 'Junior Division'
 - Seventh and Eighth Graders referred to as 'Senior Division'
 - Ninth to Twelfth Graders referred to as 'High School Division'
- b. For all divisions, the total number of players and coaches will determine the number of teams.
- c. All coaches must be appointed by the Director and approved by the Board.
- d. Each team will be assigned one certified head coach and one certified assistant coach. After team selection, a second assistant coach may be assigned by the head coach.
- e. It is the program objective to limit the amount of players on a team to ten, but there may be more or less players on a team dependent on the number of registered players and the available coaches.
- f. The number of referees needed will be determined by the schedule and the amount of games.

3. Specific to the Travel Program

- a. The Travel Program is comprised of a minimum of two and a maximum of four teams:
 - Fifth and Sixth Graders referred to as 'Junior Varsity'
 - Eighth Graders and Seven Graders referred to as 'Varsity'
 - Seventh Graders only referred to as '7th Grade Travel' (optional year to year)
- b. The Travel Program shall participate in an organized new or established travel basketball league based on the desired level of play and scheduling requirements. The Travel Director will select the appropriate league and advise the Board of the rationale for joining. The bylaws herein will govern the operation of the Travel League to the extent they do not prohibit adherence to the selected travel basketball league rules and policies or High School rules. Eligibility of players will be determined by the selected leagues bylaws.
- c. Each Travel team will be assigned one certified head coach that is selected by the Travel Director. The Travel Head Coach will, in turn, select one or two certified assistant coach(s) after tryouts and team selection. The Head Coach's child is automatically selected to that team,
- d. The Travel Program has 'tryouts'. To be selected for a travel team, a player must be at a certain skill level consistent with the play required for a travel league. The Travel Program Director oversees the

player selection process. Any player that is not selected for a travel team will be permitted to register for the In-House Recreation Program.

- e. The 7th Grade Travel team will exist year to year at the discretion of the Travel Director. The decision to have the team or not will be based on the overall number of 7th grade players trying out for Travel and the talent skill level. A decision to form the team that year may not be made until after the tryouts have concluded.
- f. 7th Grade players who make the 'Varsity' team based on their try-out ranking will have the option of playing on the 'Varsity' team or playing on the '7th Grade Travel' team (in years when there is a separate 7th Grade team). The '7th Grade Travel' team shall be composed of 7th grade players who do not rank high enough to make the 'Varsity' team or those who make 'Varsity' and choose to play on the '7th Grade Travel' team. Tryouts determine ranking and some 7th graders may not make either team.

OPERATION

1. The Rockaway Twp Girls League shall be governed by an **Executive Board** (the Board). The Board shall be responsible for establishing, modifying, and documenting the policies, bylaws and rules of the Rockaway Twp Girls League. The Board shall resolve difficulties, disputes and protests brought to its attention through the proper channels described in the Disputes section. The Board shall examine the service and equipment needs of the Rockaway Twp Girls League and approve any proposed acquisitions. The Board shall adjudicate other matters as may properly fall within their jurisdiction.
2. The In-House and Travel Programs shall each have as its chief operating officer a Program Director. The two Program Directors shall appoint all Board positions. The Board shall consist of not more than seven members.
3. The Board will be composed of the following members: In-House Program Director, Travel Program Director, In-House Assistant Director, Travel Assistant Director, League Scheduling Coordinator, a selected Travel Representative and Treasurer. One of the members will be appointed Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board. A Program Director will be selected by the Board as Board Chair and shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

a. In-House and Travel Program Director

The Program Directors shall:

- i. Be responsible for the overall operation of their respective Programs
- ii. A Program Director will Chair and be responsible for the operation of the Board
- iii. Provide interface between the Rockaway Twp Girls League, the Township Recreation Department, and other Township and Board of Education departments as necessary
- iv. Administrate the financial condition of the League and recommend expenditures
- v. Be authorized to co-sign, with the Treasurer, bank checks for their respective league expenditures
- vi. Provide guidance to other members of the Board, coaches, and referees
- vii. By signature, authenticate Board documents, approvals and decisions
- viii. Be responsible for organizing teams and establishing practices and play that adhere to the policies in the Policy section
- ix. Be responsible for organizing any function that impacts the League or their Program as a unit
Solicit player membership in the League and assign coaches for their Programs
- x. Participate in fundraising activities
- xi. Oversee referee scheduling means and interface with the individuals responsible
- xii. Distribution, collection and reconciliation of the equipment
- xiii. For Travel Program Director only, be the liaison to the selected participating Travel League

b. In-House and Travel Assistant Program Director

The Assistant Program Director shall:

- i. Assist their respective Program Director in organizing membership
- ii. Participate in fund raising activities
- iii. Observe games in their Programs to assure consistency of the rules and spirit of the League
- iv. Make recommendations on the selection and procurement of uniforms and equipment
- v. Maintain appropriate records of receipts and disbursements and interface with the Treasurer
- vi. Assist their respective Program Director as necessary and function as the Program Director when the Program Director is unavailable
- vii. Administrate the 'Official Rules' and 'Bylaws'

c. League Scheduling Coordinator

The Scheduling Coordinator shall:

- i. Compile and coordinate all available gym times for the season
- ii. Schedule In-House practices, regular season games, make-up games if necessary and playoffs.
- iii. Interface with the Travel Director on the Travel Program needs
- iv. Maximize the use of all available gym time between the two Programs
- v. Provide notice to coaches when gym time is lost or changed
- vi. Maintain oversight of the RTGirlsHoops website

d. Travel Representative

The Travel Representative shall be selected by the Travel Director and:

- i. As a coach, parent of a player, or interested party, serve on the Board to assure the spirit of the league as a whole is maintained
- ii. Be involved with and represent aspects that specifically concern the Travel Program

e. League Treasurer

The League Treasurer shall:

- i. Have custody of the funds and securities for the League
- ii. Co-sign, with a Program Director, all bank checks
- iii. Maintain regular books of account
- iv. Report on the financial condition of the League at all Board meetings
- v. Participate in all fund raising activity decisions

4. It is recognized that an individual can hold more than one Board position. To constitute a Board, at a minimum, the Board must be comprised of the two Program Directors and three other Board Members. The Program Directors are appointed by the Rockaway Twp Recreation Department. All Board Members may serve as coaches or referees. A majority of Board Members is considered a Quorum. A Board member's term is for one year. Program Directors terms are automatically renewed until their resignation or removal. A Board member can be removed by a majority vote except for the Program Director's position. Removal of a Program Director requires a unanimous vote.
5. These Bylaws and all Rules may only be amended, altered or repealed by a majority of the Board. All aspects

- of the league operations, the Bylaws and its Rules must be in compliance with Rockaway Township Recreation policies and procedures.
6. For disbursement of funds, all checks shall require the signature of a Program Director and the Treasurer. All disbursements in excess of \$3,000 require approval of a majority of the Board.
 7. The following positions may be invited to the Board meetings as non-voting participants at the discretion of the Program Directors: Fund Raising Coordinator, Referee Coordinator, and League Coordinator(s).
 8. The Board appoints Committees which may be formed as needed. Committees can be composed of non-Board members. No Committee shall make, alter or repeal any Bylaw or Rule or grant a distribution of funds. The Board shall appoint (and remove) Committee Members. The 'In-House Recreation Committee' is recognized and is comprised of, at a minimum, the In-House Program Director, Assistant Director, Referee Coordinator, Scheduling Coordinator, and League Coordinator. The In-House Program Director will Chair the committee.
 9. A Committee shall be appointed to select annual scholarship recipients. The Board shall be notified of the selections prior to any public disclosures or communications. The Committee is responsible for maintaining consistency and fairness by adhering to an eligibility criteria and selection process.
 10. Coaches are responsible for adherence to the 'Bylaws', the 'Official Rules', and for establishing practices that adhere to the policies in the Policy section. Dismissal of a coach requires recommendation by the respective Program Director and the approval of a Board majority.
 11. In general, the Rockaway Girls League will seek players in August & September. For the Travel Program, tryouts will typically occur in late September or early October with teams being formed in early October. For the In-House Program, applications received up to the late September will be considered for admittance. In-House teams will be formed in October. Season practices will commence typically in late October with regular season games continuing until to the beginning of March. Any playoff games will occur after the regular season is completed. Gym availability may alter when the season begins or concludes.
 12. For all In-House Recreation divisions except High School, a player 'skill assessment' draft will occur typically in October. All applicants regardless of skill level will be placed on a team. The draft allows the coaches to assess all players in order to assure teams are reasonably balanced in skill level. Through a fair and unbiased process, coaches will alternatively select players for their team.
 - a. All players/applicants including daughters of coaches must go into the draft. Coaches and assistant coaches will have their child automatically assigned to their team. If an older sister is on a team, the younger sister in the same division may request to be on that team. This is known as the sibling 'Sister Rule.' Beyond these rules, no coach or individual can commit a player/applicant to a specific team.
 - b. To begin the draft, each team picks a number out of a hat to assign their draft order.
 - c. Next, a draft round # will be assigned to the children of coaches. This will occur through a general discussion among all the coaches. If necessary, a Board Member will assign the child's round #. The children of both coaches cannot be placed in the same round. For example, if they are both 1st rounders, they go on the record as a 1st and 2nd round pick.
 - d. An open discussion will occur for any players who missed the draft and what round they belong in. Coaches are free to select these players in any round
 - e. The draft is a ladder draft starting with the #1 pick and going to the bottom for odd rounds and starting at the bottom and going to #1 for even rounds. Teams do not get draft selections in the rounds where the coaches' children are placed. When a 'Sister Rule' player is chosen, the coaches have another discussion as to where the other sibling belongs. The team selecting the 1st sibling then takes both and does not have a draft selection in the round of the second sibling. The team can also decide to pass and choose someone else if there is no agreement on the round of the second sibling.
 - f. If the total player count will result in some teams having more players than other teams, the following applies. For an example of some teams having 10 and some teams having 9 players, the final round of the draft shall put 10 players on the teams that selected 1st. This provides the team that picked low in the draft a roster with fewer players,
 13. For the In-House High School Division, applications will be accepted until late November. Each player is permitted to put on the registration form the other players they would like to be placed with or the team they would like to play on. The spirit of this recreational league allows high school friends to be placed on the same teams. Typically after the Thanksgiving holiday, the coaches will assemble and select the teams. Coaches must assure there is a balance in the overall skill level between teams. The High School Coordinator is responsible to maintain a competitive league and approve final team rosters. Situations may arise where

numerous players may request to be on one team, but, that team may be, for example, too dominating. The Division and coaches will make all attempts to keep requested friends together, but it is recognized that it may not be possible.

14. For the Travel Program, a player 'selection' tryout will occur typically in October. All applicants regardless of skill level will be allowed to participate in the tryout. Due to the competitive nature of the Travel Program, only more skilled players will be selected for travels teams and 'cuts' should be expected. Through a fair and unbiased process overseen by the Travel Program Director, and Head Coaches, players will be evaluated and teams formed.
 - a. Selection of the Travel Teams will be based on the combined results of two separate nights of tryouts. If a player can only attend one night, they will be considered based on that one night's performance. A player unable to tryout due to illness or injury will be provided an opportunity to tryout at a later date. If this late tryout player makes the team, this selection may not eliminate another player who has previously been chosen.
 - b. The number of players taken on any travel team is at the sole discretion of the Head Coach. The format of tryouts is determined by the Head Coach with the consent of the Travel Director.
 - c. Tryouts will include, but not be limited to, evaluation of various basketball skills. The evaluation will also include an assessment of the player's overall athleticism, attitude, and coachability.
 - d. Evaluations at the tryouts will be performed by the head coach and at least two 'independent' evaluators. The Travel Director may also participate in tryout evaluations at his discretion. 'Independent' shall mean that the evaluator does not have a child trying out for that team. Less familiarity with the players trying out is encouraged. If for some reason a Head Coach has not been selected prior to try-outs, then the Travel Director will fill that role for the evaluations.
 - e. At the end of try-outs, each evaluator will provide a ranking of all players who participated. Each player will receive a number score based on each evaluator's ranking. For example, a player ranked #1 by an evaluator will receive 1 point. The results of all evaluators will then be combined for a final ranking. The lowest point total is ranked #1, second lowest #2 and so on.
15. Each coach shall be responsible to assign a non-playing individual to participate in keeping score and time; for Travel, the individual must be an adult. The In-House coach of the winning team shall be responsible for notifying their respective League Coordinator the game date, winning team, and score within 72 hours or, if Travel, the coach of the home team must send the game scores to their Travel League.

POLICY

1. The Rockaway Township Girls Basketball League is formed to provide girl athletes from Rockaway Township the opportunity to learn, play and compete in the sport of basketball.
2. The In-House Rookie Division is to provide learning opportunities for its players with less stress on competitiveness. The In-House Junior, Senior and High School Divisions will further the learning process of the younger Rookie Division and will provide for more strict enforcement of the rules as well as increased competitiveness.
3. Rockaway Borough players and coaches may register into the program. The 'In-House Recreation Committee' will determine an equitable registration fee and Borough schools' gym time allotment for the program's use. The gym time allotment must be agreed to prior to the season commencement by the Director of the Rockaway Borough Basketball Program. Rockaway Borough players will be placed into the draft and selected for teams in the same manner as if they are Township players.
4. The Travel Program is more competitive in nature than the In-House Program and requires a higher skill level.
5. For each of the Travel Program teams, up to 20% of the players on each team may be Rockaway Borough players that are new to the Travel Program. If a Rockaway Borough player is selected on a team in the previous year, that player may try out for the current year and, if selected for the new season's team, that player will not be included in the 20% Rockaway Borough allocation. That allocation maximum is for new Rockaway Borough players that were not on a Travel team in the previous year. If a situation arises where no Township players are cut and all are selected that tried out for that Travel team, then there is no limit for Borough players that can be placed on that team. In consideration of the Township's contribution to the Travel Program, Rockaway Borough players will pay a higher registration fee than Township players. Additionally, Rockaway Borough Basketball program will allocate at least one gym time slot per week and a portion of the

- proceeds from its fundraising efforts to the Township Travel Program. The Travel Program Director is responsible to assure the additional registration fee, gym time, and fundraising proceeds are fair consideration for covering the expense of the Borough players. [This provision expires on July 1, 2013 and requires Township Recreation Committee and the League's Board consent to authorize continuation.]
6. Referees are the extension of the Board on the basketball court. "On the court", they have the final say on the interpretation of the rules and the progress of any game.
 7. Unresolved difficulties arising "on the court" may be brought to the attention of the Board for resolution through channels outlined in the Disputes section.
 8. Unresolved difficulties arising off court (or when a referee is not present "on the court") may be brought to the attention of the Board for resolution through channels outlined in the Disputes section.
 9. Activities and practices counter to the bylaws shall not be tolerated. Any participant in Rockaway Twp Girls League activities not adhering to these bylaws is subject to punitive measures as decided by the Board; the maximum being expulsion and debarment.
 10. It is the policy of the Rockaway Twp Girls League to use positive incentive and reinforcement for the purposes of teaching the sport of basketball and providing an enjoyable experience for its players.
 11. The In-House Program believes that players join to participate in the sport of basketball and that participation in the sport is a more primary source of player enjoyment than winning.
 12. Coaches are required to ensure that team players are properly prepared for the activities of participation in the sport of basketball. The health and safety of the players is to be the coach's highest priority. All coaches must be properly certified by Rutgers. Coaches prior to the commencement of the season are responsible for getting all Code of Conduct forms signed. Travel Coaches will be expected to sign a specific Coaches Code of Conduct. Coaches are responsible for the security of all equipment. For Travel, the coaches are also responsible for the collection of uniforms at the conclusion of the season.
 13. It is desirable to play all games as scheduled. When this is not possible, it is desirable to reschedule the games unless games are cancelled due to inclement weather.
 - a. For the Travel Program, all game rescheduling is subject to the participating League's rules and guidelines.
 - b. For the In-House Program, weather cancellations may not be rescheduled unless a team has more than two games cancelled due to weather. The game(s) that will get rescheduled is(are) at the discretion of the league Scheduling Coordinator. Forfeiture of a game is undesirable and all efforts to prevent forfeiture are desirable. It is also not desirable to encourage a relaxed attitude among players and coaches relative to their responsibility to adhere to the schedule.
 14. While aggressive play is considered indicative of an enthusiastic attitude, extremes of this nature of play are detrimental to the sport. The referees are encouraged to prevent excessive aggressiveness that can escalate, create a hazard, or provide an unfair advantage for one team over another. The Rockaway Township 'Youth Sports Code of Conduct' will be enforced per the Township Department of Recreation requirements. The coaches, players, participants, referees, parents and other attendees must act in accordance.
 15. For the In-House Recreation Program, standings during or at the end of the season are not to be stressed as the end goal of playing. As stated previously, the goal of the Rockaway Girls In-House Program is the education in and enjoyment of the sport of basketball. Standings, however, encourage enthusiasm and a desire to improve as well as to provide a source of pride and enjoyment. Therefore, standings will be established and announced.
 - a. Standings will be based on an accumulation of points accrued over the regular season. Two game points will be awarded for each win and one game point will be awarded for each tie. At the end of the regular season, the team that has accrued the highest number of game points in each of the Divisions will be declared in 'first place'; the second highest points in 'second place'; etc. In the event of a tie in game points, head-to-head competition will be used. Then, if necessary, head-to-head point differential will be used (with a maximum per game differential of 15 points). The measure for breaking a tie that cannot be resolved otherwise will be with a coin toss.
 - b. The In-House Program Director and Scheduling Coordinator must submit the proposed playoff format to the Board.
 16. No player may participate in the In-House Program if that player participates in the Travel Program or school-sponsored High School Basketball during the same season.
 17. With a majority of the Board vote, on a season to season basis, the In-House Program may be expanded to include players from the surrounding towns. It is the responsibility of the Board to assure the league remains competitive and the best interests of the Rockaway Township players and the League are maintained at a high

level. Although exceptions can occur, the intent is for the In-House program to receive in consideration of allowing other town players into the Program proportional gym time allotments to their registration numbers and services, supplies and/or fees to be equitable to the Rockaway Twp player's fees. When playing in gyms at other towns, the Rockaway Twp In-House Rules shall be adhered to.

DISPUTES

1. Examples of disputes are:
 - a. Differences of opinion on interpretation of the bylaws.
 - b. Differences of opinion on the progress of a game.
 - c. Protests lodged on and during the progress of a game.
 - d. Inconsistencies between Rockaway Twp Girls League bylaws and their actual operation.
 - e. Practices occurring within the Rockaway Twp Girls League deemed by some parties as being unfair or biased.
2. Disputes occurring "on the court" are to be brought to the attention of the referee. The referee has the final decision on resolution "on the court". Any disputes resolved "on the court" shall be brought to the attention of the respective Program Director. The Program Director shall review all resolutions for consistency with these bylaws and decide if such resolutions need to be brought to the attention of the Board.
3. Disputes with "on the court" resolutions concerning the progress of the game must be lodged protests.
 - a. Protests must deal with the progress of the game during which the protest is lodged. It can deal with a call made by the referee, an interpretation of a rule, or other matter directly related to the progress of the game.
 - b. Protests must be lodged prior to the continuation of the game as indicated by the referee's signal.
 - c. Once lodged, a protest may not be withdrawn.
 - d. The attending referee must bring the protest to the attention of the Program Director who must then refer it to the Board.
4. Disputes with "on the court" resolutions not concerning the progress of the game and all other disputes will be handled as general disputes.
5. General disputes will be handled as follows:
 - a. Any or all of the parties in the dispute shall notify Board participants.
 - If a referee is involved, the referee is obligated to notify the Program Director.
 - Coaches shall notify their respective League Coordinator or the Program Director.
 - Players may bring protests to Coaches, the League Coordinator, the Assistant Program Director or the Program Director.
 - All disputes must be lodged within 24 hours and preferably in writing.
 - b. The Board participant shall refer the dispute to the attention of the Board
6. If required, a dispute hearing will be scheduled by the Board for all parties to relate their positions on the dispute. The Board will then meet in private to decide on the resolution. A majority vote is required to adjudicate a dispute.
7. If a protest is upheld at the discretion of the Board, the game will be considered to have been suspended at the point of the protest. The remainder of the game will be replayed under the conditions of resolution adjudicated by the Board.

RULES

1. The Board approved 'Rockaway Twp In-House Program' and 'Rockaway Twp Travel Program' Basketball Official Rules shall be adhered to.
2. For the In-House Program, all players must play a relatively equitable amount of time per the Official Rules. For the Travel Program, higher skilled players will get more playing time than the lesser skilled players. In Travel, there is no guarantee to the amount of a player's game playing time or, for that matter, any playing time

at all.

3. For In-House Program, notification of a desire to reschedule shall be made to the opposing coach no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled game time to provide time for the opposing coach to notify team players. The coach initiating the request to reschedule shall also subsequently notify the Scheduling Coordinator and the League Coordinator. Rescheduling is the responsibility of the initiating coach. Less than 24 hours notice may be considered a forfeit.
4. Each team must have at least one (1) certified coach present at the scheduled game time.
5. For the Travel Program, referee policies are established by the Travel League that is joined. For the In-House Program, if a referee fails to arrive within 15 minutes after the scheduled game time, the coaches of the two teams shall:
 - Take turns performing as referee, or
 - Obtain volunteer(s) from spectators to perform as referee. Referees so appointed shall have full "on the court" power of the referee as described in these bylaws, but are not obligated to comply with reporting requirements. The coaches shall be responsible for referee reporting requirements that include reporting protests.
6. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators. Any violation of the 'Youth Sports Code of Conduct' may result in ejection of the offending party and forfeiture. The attendant referee executes these actions.
7. The Board will periodically review all game In-House and Travel rules based on input from referees and coaches. The Program Directors will provide approved game Rules to all coaches and referees prior to the commencing of the season. It is understood that the Board can only review and make suggestions to the selected Travel League since the Board has no direct authority to make changes to those rules.
8. Rules are based on accepted girls' high school basketball rules.
9. Rules for League 'tournaments' are separate and must be approved by the Board. All coaches involved in the tournaments must receive the rules in advance.

APPROVED: RT GIRLS BBALL BOARD

DATE: July 14, 2016