

St. Jude Girls' Basketball



Tryout Guidelines

November 18, 2009

Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to document the tryout process to the St. Jude community. The hope is that by making everyone familiar with the process, a general understanding is gained, misunderstandings are avoided, and doubts concerning fairness are removed.

Tryout Pre-requisites

- In order to be eligible to play for a St. Jude sponsored basketball team, the individual or parent of the individual must be a registered member of the St. Jude parish. Any questions or discrepancies must be resolved through the parish office.
- Each player attending the tryouts will be required to check in with the coordinator to confirm proper registration. Proper registration is defined as a previously completed sign-up form and payment and is a pre-requisite to participation in the tryouts.

Tryout Dates

For the 2010 season, tryouts for competitive grades (5/6th and 7/8th) will be held on Monday, December 21st and Tuesday, December 22nd. All girls should try to attend both tryouts, but those wishing to play only on a B team need only attend one tryout. Every girl that hopes to play on an 'A' or 'B1' team must attend one tryout and should attend both. If a girl is prevented from attending both tryouts, e.g., due to injury, she will be placed on a team at the discretion of the evaluators based on existing knowledge of her ability.

Tryout Process

Registration

Each player attending a tryout will be required to check-in with the basketball coordinator prior to entering the gym. Once proper registration (completion of the St. Jude sign-up form and payment of the appropriate fees) has been confirmed, the player will be issued a number. The assigned number will be the player's number for all tryouts that they are asked to attend. Throughout the tryouts, players will be identified on the evaluation form by number and not name.

Evaluators

The coordinator will identify "qualified" evaluators – those with the experience and expertise necessary to judge basketball talent. None of the evaluators can have a daughter playing at the grade level they are evaluating (i.e., no parent evaluators). However, because scores on an evaluation sheet alone are not sufficient to make team assignments, input may be sought from coaches in previous years, which will likely include parents of girls in the grade being evaluated. The A and B1 non-parent coaches will be among the evaluators.

Plan

Either evaluators or players will be rotated through stations such that all evaluators get a chance to see all of the girls participate in all types of drills and competitions. Player skills will be rated on the numerical scale below through various drills, competitive activities, and games.

Scoring Legend

- 1 = Poor
- 2 = Below Average
- 3 = Average
- 4 = Above Average
- 5 = Excellent

At the end of the first tryout, all evaluation sheets will be collected by the basketball coordinator and kept until the second tryout.

Tryout Drills

Each player in attendance will be graded on the following items:

- Dribbling
- Passing
- Shooting
- Scrimmage performance

Players may receive written evaluator comments in categories such as

- Quickness
- Court Awareness
- Teamwork
- Size

At the conclusion of the second tryout session, all evaluation forms will be collected by the basketball coordinator. A suitable number of copies will be made so that each coach has a set corresponding to all players eligible for their team. The basketball coordinator will retain the original evaluation forms.

Team Selection Process

‘Select’ teams (A and B1)

‘Select’ teams exist for the 5/6th and 7/8th grade levels. The top players make the ‘A’ team. The next best set of players make the ‘B1’ team with extra consideration given to those that are in the younger grade as they are likely to form the core of the ‘A’ team the following year and thus will benefit from a year of preparation. The remaining players will be distributed on the ‘B’ teams to create evenly talented ‘B’ teams. The ‘A’ and ‘B1’ teams will be formed using the following process:

1. The basketball coordinator, based on league guidelines and number of participants, will determine the number of ‘select’ teams and will provide an estimate of the number of players to be carried on each team (the ultimate number on each team at the ‘A’ and ‘B1’ levels is up to the coach of that team). League (GWAC) rules require us to enter an ‘A’ team at both the 5/6th and 7/8th grades. The coordinator and coaches will determine if there is sufficient talent in a grade level to enter a ‘B1’ team. GWAC rules require us to enter at least one ‘B1’ team if we enter at least four teams at a grade level.
2. Only players that attended a tryout may be chosen for a ‘select’ team. A player missing both tryout sessions (except for those limited due to health considerations) or those signing-up after the tryouts are ineligible for a ‘select’ team but may play on a ‘B’ team.

3. All 'select' coaches at a given grade level will be given a copy of the tryout results (evaluation forms with names linked to the tryout number assigned).
4. In order of competitive level (first 'A' then 'B1'), the coach will choose all players needed to complete his/her team. No consideration should be given by the 'A' coach to the consequences of his/her selections to the make-up of the 'B1' team – this is to insure that the girls that have earned their way on to the 'A' team are not left off the team by issues unrelated to their ability to play on the 'A' team.
5. The following factors will be used to influence a coach's selection
 - a. Tryout Evaluation Form: The evaluation process is an important piece of information to a coach's decision but not the only piece. The tryout evaluation form provides an independent observers opinion on an individual's specific skill; it does not provide important details regarding non-skill attributes nor does it take into consideration a coach's style of play. For example, a coach with a pressing style of play may place a premium on quickness, speed, and/or endurance; or a player may lack specific skills but is considerably taller than anyone else. In both cases, the tryout evaluation form is a factor but not solely conclusive to a decision.
 - b. Player Distribution: A quality, competitive team must have players that collectively possess all basketball skills and attributes. For example, a quality competitive team cannot be comprised of all point guards. So, once a coach has enough point guards, his/her subsequent selection would be more heavily weighted to other skills and sizes.
 - c. Intangible skills: In addition to the tangible basketball skills, a coach must also consider intangible elements when finalizing his/her roster. Intangible attributes would include: coachability, competitiveness, performance under pressure, court awareness, and team chemistry.
 - d. Past performance: Two tryout sessions may provide an incomplete display of a player's skills; therefore, input from previous coaches might help fill out the details about a player's abilities. We also need to keep in mind that girl's abilities change from year to year and thus we should not put too much weight on past performance.
6. After the rosters of all 'select' teams are completed, the remaining players at each paired grade level (5/6th and 7/8th) become the pool of players for the 'B' teams. The process for choosing the 'B' teams can be found below.

'B' teams

'B' teams are formed at the 5/6th and 7/8th levels. If we are fortunate enough to have identified coaches for the 'B' teams by the end of tryouts, those coaches will take turns selecting players (a draft) to complete their rosters.

1. Each team's head coach and one assistant coach (assuming they have daughters) will set aside their daughter(s) for their team. A head coach cannot designate more than one assistant coach prior to the teams being formed. If the coach(es) do not have daughters playing for St. Jude, they can pick 1-2 girls from the pool of girls prior to the draft.

2. Each coach will be given a copy of the evaluation forms for all the players eligible to be selected to their respective teams.
3. The head coach or team representative will rotate picking a player from the pool. Once each team has chosen a player. The order is reversed and the next round of selection is completed. This will continue until all players have been divided between the teams. 'B' head coaches might consider basketball ability, friendships, carpools, and grade levels (you wouldn't want 9-5th graders and only 1-6th grader on a team) when making their selections.

In the absence of 'B' head coaches at the conclusion of tryouts, the coordinator and evaluators will assign girls to teams to create balanced teams in terms of ability, size, and grade.

Instructional teams

The 3rd and 4th grade teams play at the instructional level. This means that there is only a five-game regular season and wins and losses are not recorded. We will hold one practice in late January for all of the third graders and one practice for all of the fourth graders. Each team's head coach and one assistant coach (assuming they have daughters) will set aside their daughter(s) for their team. A head coach cannot designate more than one assistant coach prior to the teams being formed. If the coach(es) do not have daughters playing for St. Jude, they can pick 1-2 girls from the pool of girls prior to the draft. Based upon the basketball ability demonstrated at the one practice (and maybe the previous season) and also friendships and carpools, the head coaches will draft players with the intention to equalize the talent across the teams.

St. Jude Basketball Evaluation Sheet

Grade: _____ Date: _____ Evaluator Name: _____

Player	-----Skills-----				Overall A-B1-B	Notes (special considerations)
	Dribbling	Passing	Shooting	Scrimmage		
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Grade Scale: 1 = Poor; 2 = Below Average; 3 = Average; 4 = Above Average; 5 = Excellent