

**BYLAWS OF
ROCKY HILL TRAVEL BASKETBALL
(Co-sponsored by Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation)
(Adopted 8/3/2021)**

Article I. Name

This organization will be known as Rocky Hill Travel Basketball

Article II. Membership

The membership of the organization will consist of players, head coaches, assistant coaches and other individuals on the Board of Directors and the Executive Board.

Article III. Objectives

The purpose of this organization will be to:

- A. Provide a forum for 4th (boys only based on demand and league availability, but subject to change in the event there is demand and league availability for girls so as to maintain gender equality) 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys and girls in Rocky Hill to compete against talented athletes from neighboring towns.
- B. Provide a safe, challenging and healthy environment to promote personal and athletic development for member athletes.
- C. Provide financial support through various fundraising efforts.
- D. Rocky Hill Travel Basketball is organized exclusively for charitable purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article IV. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will consist of head coaches and Executive Board members and will convene on an annual basis in September. On an annual basis, at the September meeting, the Board of Directors will nominate and elect candidates for head coach vacancies and Executive Board positions are for one year terms.

Article V. Executive Board

The Executive Board of the Association shall consist of: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Girls League Town Coordinator, Boys League Town Coordinator,

Secretary/Player Agent, Fundraising Director and Purchasing Agent. An individual may occupy more than 1 of these positions simultaneously.

Article VI. Voting Procedures

Issues to be resolved by the Board of Directors or the Executive Board must be approved by a majority vote. All voting shall be done by closed ballot. To represent a quorum, one more than half of the members must be present. In order to cast a vote, a member must participate in the meeting in person or through electronic means.

For issues voted upon by the Board of Directors, in the event there is an even number of members present and the vote is a tie, a re-vote will be conducted by only the Executive Board members to resolve the issue. In the event there is an even number of Executive Board members present and the re-vote also is a tie, the issue will be decided upon by the President.

Article VII. Meetings

At a minimum the Board of Directors will meet in September each year and the Executive Board will meet independently on an as needed basis.

Article VIII. Board of Director Responsibilities

Members of the Board of Directors will be responsible for the following activities:

- A. **Annual Selection of Head Coaches:** Interviews will be conducted at the September meeting. Members of the Board of Directors will elect head coaches based on their perception of the candidates coaching skills and ability to create a positive and healthy environment for young athletes. Applicants must submit a letter to the Parks and Recreation Department by August 20 listing their qualifications as a head travel basketball coach.
- B. **Tryouts:** Members of the Board of Directors will coordinate tryouts for all travel teams (unless a discretionary decision is made to take all 4th graders) and work with the Parks and Recreation Department to ensure that all interested athletes receive adequate notice.
 - 1. **Ratings:** Players will be evaluated at no less than 2 tryout sessions and will be assessed, using a scoring system of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest and 1 the lowest, on attitude, dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding, defensive skills, and overall performance during the scrimmages. The combined average score for the first 6 categories will constitute 50% of the overall rating and the overall scrimmage performance will constitute 50% of the overall rating. A basketball team

is made of players with, at times different skills, and which play different positions. A team is not comprised of ten centers, nor ten point guards and consideration may be given by the evaluators to the balance of players at all positions. Individual player ratings shall be kept confidential and saved for the duration of the season. However, a child's actual ratings may be disclosed and/or discussed with his or her parent or legal guardian upon request.

2. **Attendance:** To be considered for a travel team, players are required to attend both of the scheduled tryouts. However, if a potential player cannot attend either one or both tryout sessions for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness or family vacation, etc.) the player's parent(s) can request a separate tryout from the head coach, which must be conducted within 20 days of the last scheduled tryout session. In the interest of eliminating conflicts for potential players who are participating in fall sports, the Board of Directors will do its best to schedule both tryout sessions on days that work for the majority of players in each particular grade.

3. **Accommodations for injured players.**

- i. **Injured player at the time of tryout but not under a physician's care:** If a player has an injury at the time of the scheduled tryout that the Parent/Guardian feels would negatively impact the players performance at the time of the tryout the Parent/Guardian may petition the Executive Board to request a later tryout that must be conducted within ten (10) days from the date of the last scheduled tryout for the specific team.
- ii. **Injured player at the time of tryout under a physician's care:** If a player has an injury at the time of the scheduled tryout that will prevent them from participating in the tryout and they are under the care of a physician, the Parent/Guardian may petition the Executive Board to request a later tryout that must be scheduled by the head coach within ten (10) days from the date that that the player's physician provides written consent for the player to participate. The written petition must describe the extent of the injury and include an anticipated date that the player will be cleared to participate by their doctor.
- iii. An injured player may make the decision with their Parent/Guardian to participate in the scheduled tryout however, if in the Coach's opinion the players injury could negatively impact the performance of the player or the ability of other players to fully participate in the tryout, the Coach reserves the right to request that the injured player submit a written petition to the Executive Board requesting a later tryout.

- iv. Any player, as a result of an injury, wearing a protective device that would not be normally allowed under CIAC rules as they pertain to the sport of basketball will not be allowed to participate in the tryout. In such cases the Parent/Guardian must submit a written petition to the Executive Board to request a later tryout that must occur at the first practice for the specified team following the date that the protective device is no longer needed and the player has been cleared for participation. The written petition must include the anticipated date that the protective device will no longer be necessary and the player will be cleared by their physician to participate.
- v. The Executive Board will review each petition on its merits and render a decision on whether or not the player will be allowed to participate in a tryout at a later date during the season or have to wait until the following season.

- 4. Evaluators.** At each tryout session, the head coach will be assisted by at least 1 other coach from a different travel team or another Board of Director or Executive Board member to offer an additional objective opinion. As an alternative or supplement, the head coach may be assisted by an individual(s) who is not associated with the Rocky Hill Travel Basketball Association with the prior consent of the Executive Board of Directors. To obtain consent, a written request should be sent to the Executive Board at least 5 days in advance of the tryout date outlining the qualifications of the individual(s) that are being considered to help evaluate the players. **All evaluators are expected to attend both tryout sessions.**
- 5. Selection of Players.** Players should be selected for travel teams only if a coach believes the player has the ability to compete against the high level of talent that will be faced without loss of self-esteem and confidence. Selection and deselection decisions should be communicated by phone to a parent or guardian of each player attending the tryout or to the player directly. If a parent feels his/her child has been unfairly treated and is not willing to accept the coach's decision, the parent should be advised to present their complaint to the President who will at his/her discretion invite the parent(s) to present their case before the Executive Board. The Executive Board will review the grievance and vote on the player's status; however, the coach's decision should be overridden only when the Executive Board believes the judgment and/or impartiality of the coaches present was grossly impaired. To ensure adequate playing time it is recommended that the number of players selected be limited to 10 -12 players.

6. Grade Appropriate Play. All players must tryout for the team for the grade in which the player resides, with the limited exceptions for 5th grade play as defined by league rules. A player may tryout for the grade above his or hers only as an exception if both of the following criteria are met: 1) the grade in which the player resides will still have enough players to field a team pursuant to league rules **and** 2) no player in the grade above where the player wishes to tryout will be cut. Regardless of the player's performance and ranking at the tryout, the evaluators at the grade above reserve full discretion to have the player remain in his or her appropriate grade.

C. Execute Fundraising Programs. All Board members are required to participate in fundraising activities. It is the responsibility of the 6th grade boys coach and Board member to coordinate the annual execution of all the fundraising programs established by the Fundraising Director. This includes the pre-season fundraising campaign as well as our annual spring dinner/raffle/dance.

Article IX. Executive Board of Director Responsibilities

Members of the Executive Board of Directors will be responsible for the following activities:

- A. Removal of coaches.** The members of the Executive Board will act to remove coaches by a majority vote as a result of conduct inconsistent with the objectives of the association as outlined in Article III. and with that expected of coaches as outlined in Article X section A below.

- B. Scheduling Practices and Games.** The Executive Board will coordinate gym time and schedules for each travel team. Gym time will be allocated among the teams on an equal basis. A total schedule of 25 - 30 games is recommended but is left to the discretion of the coach.

- C. Obtaining Referees.** The Executive Board will schedule referees for all Home games.

- D. Handling of Administrative Duties.** The Executive Board will handle all administrative duties such as the collection of registration fees from Parks and Recreation, scheduling try outs, scheduling gym time, custodial fees and insurance. Other duties handled by other Executive Board members include the coordination of the purchase of team apparel including uniforms as needed.

E. **Review of Grievances.** Any complaints about the conduct of coaches or any member of the Association received by the Parks and Recreation Representative or any other Board member should be directed to the President. It will be the duty of the President to contact the complaining party to discuss the complaint within 5 days of its receipt and using his/her discretion, take the appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. If it is deemed that the conduct is of a serious nature, an Executive Board meeting will be called to determine the appropriate course of action. In addition, it will be the duty of the President to resolve or bring before the Executive Board any complaints resulting from player selection decisions as per Article VIII paragraph B section 5.

F. **Approval of Assistant Coaches.** Assistant coaches are selected by the head coach but must be initially approved by the Executive Board. This shall be accomplished by the head coach submitting the candidates' qualifications to the Executive Board in writing and the Executive Board casting a vote after conducting a thorough review of the potential coach's qualifications and character.

G. **Amend the by-laws as deemed necessary from time to time by a majority vote of the Executive Board.**

D. **Establish Fundraising Programs.** Members of the Executive Board (namely the Fundraising Director) will establish fundraising activities to offset the operating expenses of the Association. All income generated by fund raising activities will be allocated evenly to each travel team.

Article X. Codes of Conduct

A. COACHES:

1. All coaches are expected to set an example for their players. They must handle themselves with a high degree of self-control at all times. Player's parents and referees should be treated with respect.
2. The primary goal of each coach should be to get the best out of each player in terms of both personal and athletic development. This objective should be balanced with that of fielding a competitive team and creating a challenging environment for talented athletes.
3. **In the spirit of this balance, all players who demonstrate a positive attitude and strong work ethic, and also demonstrate a strong commitment to the team by consistently attending practices and games, must play a portion of each half in every game. In 4th grade, assuming attendance, positive attitude and work ethic, all players will**

essentially play the same amount of time in a given game and over the course of the season. Coaches on any team accepting more than 10 players may, at the coach's discretion and with approval from the Executive Board, set a rotation of some or all players playing in games so as to include more than 10 players on a team. In 4th grade, because up to 20 players are accepted, such a rotation is pre-approved and any such rotation will be handled equally as to all players.

4. Head coaches will be responsible for selecting their assistants as well as volunteers to handle the scorebook and clock. Assistant coaches should abide by the same conduct standards expected of head coaches.
5. Each Head Coach and Assistant Coach will be required to receive, review and sign the Rocky Hill Travel Basketball Association Code of Conduct – Coaches. A copy of the executed Code of Conduct must be forwarded to the Executive Board. Coaches can not participate unless and until the Code of Conduct has been signed.
6. Head coaches and all assistant coaches are expected to be dressed in appropriate coaching attire at both practices and games. Particularly for games, coaches are expected to wear Rocky Hill Travel Basketball shirts distributed by the Association at both home and away games.

B. PLAYERS/PARENT(S)/GUARDIANS

1. All Players/Parents/Guardians shall receive a Code of Conduct that **MUST BE** signed and returned to the Coach **BEFORE** the first scheduled practice. Failure to sign and return the Player and Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct shall prevent the Player from participating on the team until such time as the signed Code of Conduct has been returned.

Article XI. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

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