



WEST SALEM PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



TRAVELING TEAM POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The West Salem Park and Recreation Department offers individuals the opportunity to participate on traveling teams in a number of its youth sports programs. Traveling teams offer a competitive playing opportunity for participants with advanced skills and are an important part of the overall programming aspect of the West Salem Park and Recreation Department. Traveling teams compete against other schools, sport organizations, YMCA's, YWCA 's etc. in scheduled games and tournaments. Traveling teams require extra commitment and dedication to the team, as time dates, and location of practice, games and tournaments vary.

Participation on a traveling team is viewed as a privilege; therefore each participant should be willing to make sacrifices deemed necessary. Participants must accept the dedication and hard work that goes into a successful program and must be willing to follow the guidelines and rules of the program and team. The public is constantly observing all participants, and behavior of the participants is of significant importance.

The number of traveling teams and the number of players per traveling team will depend on a variety of factors, such as: facilities, budget, ability to give adequate individual attention to the participant, being able to have enough players for in-house leagues, and league/game division format.

Traveling teams require that each participant pay an additional fee for tournaments and insurance. Following is a general outline of the travel team structure.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide participants with a positive and fun experience.
2. To provide a challenging experience for individuals capable of playing at an advanced level of competition.
3. To provide participants the opportunity to develop skills.
4. To learn the importance of playing as a team.
5. To provide an opportunity for participants to learn the value of hard work, and the dedication required of being a member of a team.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

In order to represent the West Salem Park and Recreation Department on a traveling team, participants must meet specific requirements set forth by the West Salem Park and Recreation Department and also by the various leagues and / or tournaments that the department participates in. The guidelines listed below generally apply to all traveling teams.

1. Traveling teams are supported in part, through local tax dollars and are intended for individuals residing within the City of West Salem, or attending school within the School District of West Salem.
2. Individuals must be within the age or grade guidelines set forth by the department or league in which the team will be participating. Each sport may have different guidelines for age or grade eligibility.
3. All fees must be paid from previous programs to be eligible to participate in upcoming sport.
4. Participants must return all equipment and uniforms from the previous program to be eligible to participate in the upcoming sport.

5. It is the philosophy of the West Salem Park and Recreation Department that an individual participating on a traveling team has an obligation and commitment to his/her team, teammates, coaches, and organization. Therefore, individuals wishing to participate on a traveling team with the Park and Recreation Department and electing to participate in another program, of the same sport offered by another organization, club or school, and conducted during or overlapping with Recreation Department's program, should not participate on a traveling team. However, these participants may play in the in-house level if available.
6. Players are required to be able to participate in 75%-80% of practice, games and tournaments. It is understandable that unexpected situations (illness, family commitments, etc.) do occur which will cause an individual to miss a practice, game or tournament. However, individuals that will miss regularly (more than 15%-25% of the time) because of other school activities, clubs, choirs, vacation or other commitments should not participate on a traveling team.

EXPECTATIONS OF TRAVELING PARTICIPANTS:

Be committed to the team by attending 75% -85% of planned team activities.

Each player participating on a traveling team is expected to follow a high standard of appropriate behavior. Players are representing the Village of West Salem's Park and Recreation Department and the West Salem community. Therefore, players are expected to display the appropriate behavior that will make the community proud of the program. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and may result in playing time being reduced or a player being suspended from the program for a period of time.

Participants on traveling teams are usually provided a jersey or uniform and other equipment necessary to compete in an activity. It is expected that all uniforms and equipment are to be cared for properly. Many uniforms are donated by various businesses or service groups and are expecting them to be used for 3 to 4 years. Equipment and uniforms must:

- a. Be washed on a regular basis to prevent stains and odors from developing.
- b. Be worn *only* during games that the team is participating in.
- c. Not be worn during practice.
- d. Be returned immediately following the last game of the season. The additional traveling team fee does not pay for the uniform.
- e. Be returned prior to participating in upcoming programs.
- f. Be returned in good and usable condition. Holes and tears in seams should be mended.

Participants must maintain appropriate dress attire while attending programs. Attire with drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or sexual logos will not be acceptable.

TRAVELING TEAM PLAYING TIME:

Traveling team coaches are encouraged and asked to provide ample playing time for each player. Active participation in games and practices are stressed to the coaches. Players should receive ample playing time as long as the player is attending practices and games, working and giving good effort at practices, displaying appropriate behavior, and listening and following the directions of the coach or individuals in charge during practices and games. However, playing time may be reduced because of the following:

1. Lack of work ethic, misbehavior or poor sportsmanship. Acts of misbehavior include, but are not limited to: goofing around at practices/games, foul language, vandalism, stealing, not following directions of coaches, officials, school officials, or law enforcement officials.
2. Unexcused absences. Unexcused absences include but are not limited to: being constantly late, attending other functions not associated with the West Salem Park and Recreation Department. Excused absences should not reduce individuals playing time, unless the individual is constantly missing. However, the coach should be notified ahead of time. Excused absences include but are not limited to: illness or death in the family, unexpected emergencies or previously scheduled family activities/vacations.

Playing time may vary during tournaments. However, during non-tournament or league games, players should participate in each game.

PRACTICE/GAME TIME:

Traveling team practice and games demand a great deal of dedication from players. Practices and games usually vary from program to program with dates, times and locations usually changing. Length of practices and games varies 1-2 hours. Player must be prepared for possible last minute changes.

Coaches are asked to provide a schedule in advance; however, these may change due to circumstances beyond the control of the West Salem Park and Recreation Department.

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Event Cancellation Line 791-0023
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