

COACH AND TEAMMATE REQUEST POLICY

Starting in the 2022-2023 season, players participating in age groups older than 5-6 (clinic) will not be allowed to request specific coaches or teammates (daughters will still be placed on their parent's team if that parent is a coach). This is a result of the significant difficulties that have been caused when trying to create balanced and equally competitive teams. This decision was not made lightly and have received considerable "feedback" from some coaches and parents.

In order to answer any questions you may have about why this decision was made and to address any concerns, please review the following comments and explanations.

That team was "stacked".

Despite best efforts to make teams even, when players are allowed to request coaches and teammates, some coaches do start to "put" teams together creating "stacked" teams. Not every coach will do this, in fact most coaches don't. But some do, even if unintentionally. If it is allowed for a coach to put together a team of friends from the neighborhood or school, how can it not be allowed for a coach to put together a team of "friends that all want to play together" on a team that the coach recruited. Or even a team that the kids themselves "recruited"? We can't.

Kids just want to play with their friends.

Yes, they do, and for the most part, they will. However, often kids who are friends tend to be at the same skill levels as each other. So better skilled athletes end up on a "stacked" team while the below average skilled athletes end up on a "non-stacked" team. This doesn't mean your child won't get to play on a team with friends, it just can't be requested.

But we would rather play together and lose than be on different teams.

Maybe so, but it is no fun getting beaten every game AND it is no fun beating up on a team that is horribly mismatched. All teams should be as even as possible. The program has a responsibility to try and make it fun for everyone, not just one or two groups.

We loved our coach from last year! Why can't we request he be our coach again?

Every year we have some outstanding coaches! Everyone loves them and wants to continue playing for him or her year after year. Teams that want to stay together usually stay together because they have a really good coach and because they have a really good coach, the DO tend to get better than other teams. Through no fault of the coach, they become a better team than all of the other teams.

Word gets around about the great coaches and then suddenly every kid is requesting to play on that coaches team, which is not feasible.

Additionally, not allowing coaches requests allows all kids to play with the outstanding coaches and not just limit it to who happened to be on his or her team first.

But the kids that want to play together are all average talent. We are not "stacked".

This may be true in the beginning but over time may no longer be the case. If a team starts off with average talent but then grows to be come above average, we would have to dismantle the team if we wanted to maintain parity amongst the teams.

My daughter needs to be on a specific player or friends team for transportation reasons.

Due to past situations where requests for transportation reasons have be made because of convience or in an effort to get two or more girls on the same team, we are not allowing for requests for transportation reasons. We understand that there are extreme circumstances where a player will be unable to make practices without carpooling and do not want to have any girls not be able to play because they do not have a ride to practice. We will consider requests when transportation issues are truly unique. However, the league cannot guarantee that the request can be accomodated. Additionally, while a request may be made, it does not guarantee your daughter and her friend will be on the same team. They may just practice on the same night.

You should have a draft system.

Unfortunately, the logistics of a draft are very difficult. It involves having evaluations and there just is not the support to be able to do proper evaluations which would lead to imbalanced teams. In addition, getting all coaches together would be incredibly difficult and coaches who were unable to make the draft would feel slighted.

Sports should be fun. If we don't get on this coaches team, our season will be ruined!

Yes, we have heard that. There are many rec programs that have never allowed requests and the kids have fun anyway. Our goal is to make sure everyone in our program has fun. We completely understand wanting to be on the same team as a friend, however, requests tend to lead to team imbalances and our responsibility is for all girls to have fun.

Summary

Ask yourself this question: if your preferred coach or teammate moved away or decided not to coach/play, would your child not play that sport again? She probably would and would most likely still have fun. She may still have friends on her team and if not, will have a great opportunity to make new friends.

We hope this helps to answer any questions you may have about this policy. Our goal is to see that everyone has a fun time playing rec basketball. Sometimes that means making some changes that some people will not like, but it is for the betterment of the overall program.