

# Masco Youth Basketball Program

## ***CONSTITUTION*** (updated 10/25/16)

### **Purpose**

Masco Youth Basketball (MYB) is open to boys and girls in grades 1 through 8 who live in Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield. The program strives to teach fundamentals, stress the benefits of teamwork, show good sportsmanship, and develop a passion for basketball. Our program provides an opportunity for enthusiastic participation at all levels of ability.

### **Basketball Board Structure**

Masco Youth Basketball shall be governed by a Basketball Board of Directors consisting of, among others, the following positions:

Basketball Director  
Boys Travel Director  
Girls Travel Director  
Boys Intramural Director  
Girls Intramural Director

The minimum number of Board members will be 6. The maximum number of Board members will be 10. All voting members will have one vote. Because MYB is part of the Boxford Athletic Association (BAA), at least one of the directors needs to be a member of the BAA. Subcommittees of non-voting members may be formed to oversee any annual/special events as determined by the voting members. In the event of a tie, the program director will cast the tiebreaker vote.

The Directors will conduct an organized program, providing: *administration, coordination of court times, equipment, coaching and instruction* for any eligible youth expressing an interest in basketball.

### **Duties of Basketball Board**

The Basketball Board of Directors will be accountable to perform the following tasks:

- Establish goals, plans and strategies to fulfill the *Purpose* as stated above
- Establish and monitor the operating policies of Masco Youth Basketball
- Establish and monitor the budget to ensure the financial well-being of the program
- Coordinate courts and provide equipment necessary for registered players and teams
- Provide training and educational opportunities for coaches, players and parents

- Recruit and approve volunteers to help run the program, including Coaches, and remove these volunteers, including Coaches, if necessary. (See Conduct section later in this document.)
- Serve as a Board of Appeals for any disputes, complaints, or problems

Any existing MYB Board member may nominate a potential new member to join the Board. New members must pass by a majority Board vote. Directors will be selected from the current Board members.

In the event of a mid-season resignation, the Basketball Director may appoint a replacement at the next regularly scheduled meeting, or a special meeting may be convened if considered necessary by the Basketball Directors.

Each Basketball Board member is required to be an active participant in the board dealings and operations of the basketball program. In the event that a board member can no longer make a full commitment, he/she will inform the Basketball Director that they can no longer honor the commitment to that position.

## **Basketball Board of Directors Rules of Operation**

- Board meetings shall take place at the discretion of the Basketball Director. Board members shall be given advance notice, either verbally or in writing.
- Voting shall take place only when a majority of Basketball Board Members is present.
- All items for the meeting agenda shall be submitted to the Basketball Director prior to the scheduled meeting. An agenda will be distributed to all members at the start of the meeting. Any items not on the agenda may be brought up under “new business”, and voted on the same evening.
- Accurate minutes of all meetings will be kept.
- In the event an in-person meeting is not practical or possible, an electronic (i.e. e-mail) vote is allowed.
- Any constitutional amendments or operating policy changes must be passed by a two-thirds vote of the member present of the Basketball Board of Directors. In addition, amendments must be in harmony with the Boxford Athletic Association By laws.

## **Program Schedule**

Registration will run for approximately 3 weeks, from mid-September to early October. The intramural season begins in mid November and usually ends around the first week of March. The intramural draft is held in late October or early November. The travel season runs from early November to mid-March. Tryouts are in October.

## **Program Structure**

### **INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL**

The intramural philosophy encourages participation, fun, and basic skill development. Every effort is made to provide evenly balanced teams. There will be separate intramural leagues for boys and girls. Coaches are asked to provide equitable playing time for all players. A coach may limit playing time of an individual player due to disciplinary reasons, but not for attendance issues. All disciplinary actions will be communicated to the parents of the player and the Age Group Coordinator (AGC). Teams will consist of 8 to 12 players.

**Grades 1 and 2** -- This age group exposes kids to basketball in a fun, non-competitive manner with coaches working with players on the fundamentals of the game. The AGC will create the teams, taking into account such factors as home town (strive for balanced distribution of players from Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield), availability and willingness of parents to coach, player size/aggressiveness, and parental requests (e.g. carpooling needs). Participants in these grade levels will use 8-foot high baskets and youth size basketballs. In the event the lower baskets are not available, the focus will shift to non-shooting skills. Games are kept to a minimum and there is no scorekeeping.

**Grades 3 and 4** -- This age group exposes kids to basketball in a fun, semi-competitive manner. The focus will be to develop basic basketball skills and team play. Games and practices will be on regulation 10-foot baskets, using smaller 28.5 basketballs. Teams are created by the AGC, taking into account such factors as home town (strive for balanced distribution of players from Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield), availability and willingness of parents to coach, player size/aggressiveness, and parental requests (e.g. carpooling needs). The primary objective of the team composition is to create evenly skilled teams so games are more competitive and a positive experience for everyone on the court. The season ends with a tournament.

**Grades 5 and 6** -- This age group emphasizes skill development and team play in a semi-competitive manner. Teams are created by draft, run by the AGC. Coaches take into account such factors as player skill level, size, and home town (strive for balanced distribution of players from Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield). The primary objective of the draft is to create evenly skilled teams so games are more competitive and a positive experience for everyone on the court. Some travel players also compete in this league and are distributed among all of the teams so that they are of equal strength. Official referees are provided. The season ends with a tournament.

**Grades 7 and 8** -- This age group emphasizes skill development and team play in a competitive manner. Teams are created by draft, run by the AGC. Coaches take into account such factors as player skill level and size. The primary objective of the draft is to create evenly skilled teams so games are more competitive and a positive experience for everyone on the court. Some travel players also compete in this league and are distributed among all of the teams so that they are of equal strength. Official referees are provided. The season ends with a tournament.

## **TRAVEL BASKETBALL**

Travel basketball is a competitive program for grades 5 through 8, designed to strengthen fundamentals, understand the concept of team play, and develop well-rounded players. Tryouts are in October. The season starts at the beginning of November and runs through mid-March. Teams usually practice two afternoons or evenings per week and typically have games on Saturday and/or Sunday.

## **Playing Time**

Coaches are required to observe the league guidelines for playing time or 8 minutes per game, whichever is higher. Overall, we strive for equitable playing time. In close games, the coach typically inserts the top 5 players during the final minutes of the game. The coach may limit playing time due to disciplinary reasons (disruptive behavior, attendance issues, etc.). All disciplinary actions will be communicated to the player's parents. Player selection is based on tryout performance and other factors such as prior coach evaluations, and is limited to 9-12 players per team. The tryout is administered by a minimum of 3 evaluators who do not have a child in the same grade they are evaluating. An additional fee is required for the travel program. All B+C-level travel players, and A-level Girls players, are encouraged to play on an intramural team, but it is not mandatory, provided they opt out in writing before the intramural draft. A-level Boys players are not permitted to play intramurals.

Girls compete in the *River Valley League* (A Teams) and the *North Shore League* (B+C Teams) and participate in other tournaments during the season.

Boys compete in the *Cape Ann Youth Basketball League* (A teams) and *Eastern League* (B+C Teams).

## Conduct

The Basketball Board of Directors shall have the authority to suspend, temporarily or permanently, the privileges of membership in Masco Youth Basketball for a member, player, or coach whose actions or conduct, whether on or off the court, are considered unsportsmanlike, unethical, or detrimental to the reputation or well-being of the basketball program or any of its members and are in conflict with the established Masco Youth Basketball Standards of Conduct. This document underscores a coach's responsibility to instill confidence and self-esteem in all players, regardless of ability or experience. The Standards of Conduct also provides specifics as to how coaches, parents and players should conduct themselves throughout the course of the basketball season.

## Coaching Guidelines

Coaching success is measured by the ability to work with the kids in a positive manner. It is not based on wins and losses. **The focus is on learning the game and having fun.** Volunteering as a coach carries with it a pledge to:

- Make it fun
- Teach fundamentals
- Stress teamwork
- Provide equitable playing time
- Avoid favoring his/her own child
- Be the example of sportsmanship
- Win with grace
- Lose with dignity
- Inspire the kids to do their best

## **Insurance Coverage**

- BAA provides insurance to players/coaches during program sanctioned practices and games only.
- BAA provides insurance to players/coaches during program sanctioned post-season practices and games only.

## **Grievance Policy**

Any person who believes that they or their child has been adversely affected by the failure of Masco Youth Basketball to follow its own By-laws, rules or procedures may request a formal review of the conduct or procedure. The request must be set forth in writing the specific conduct or violation and should be sent to:

Masco Youth Basketball  
PO Box 100  
Boxford MA 01921

Within 30 days a member of the Board, as designated by the Program Director, shall respond in writing. If the conduct is ongoing, the member shall make every attempt to respond as practicable. The Program Director may not designate his or herself. A copy of the complaint and response shall be given to each member of the Board three days before the response is mailed to the party. Any member of the Board may by written notice to the Director object to the response and the Director shall call a Special Meeting. Notice of the Special Meeting will be sent to the members of the Board by the Director and said meeting will be held within 10 days of the receipt of the objection.

Should the Director deem the allegations in the initial complaint to be ongoing and of a serious nature, the Director may call for an immediate meeting of the Board. The Director must send a copy of the complaint to all Board members, together with notice of the time of the meeting for the purpose of conducting a review of the allegations. Said review shall take place within 10 days of the receipt of the allegation by the Director.

The written response by the Board members shall further state that any person aggrieved by the decision may file an appeal to the Boxford Athletic Association (BAA) for reconsideration, stating the basis of the objection to the findings. The BAA's grievance policy shall then take effect.