



RAYBA

ROGERS AREA YOUTH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, August 24th, 2008

Call to Order: 7:10 pm President Noel Samlaska

Attendees: Mark Donley, Mike Noto, Joel Tjeerdsma, Theresa Sjerven, Tammy Miller, Curt Sagehorn, Dave Kampsen, Lori Weinmann, Brian Holmes, Stephanie Anderson, Mike Mittelstaedt, John Trochil, Noel Samlaska

Board Meeting Dates: Next Board meeting is scheduled for November, 2008. During September and October, individual committees will be meeting to discuss current and upcoming events. If an additional full Board meeting is needed prior to November, one can be called.

Travel:

Note Writing Policy:

- Families can request that a player be removed from the A Team Roster consideration by submitting a note to RAYBA. Intent is kept private and only addressed if the player is being considered for the A team.

It was determined this policy/guidelines are very vague. It was also stated that the Top 5 players have to remain on the A Team Roster, but this is also, not in writing.

Parent Visitors attended that asked to approach the Board regarding the Note Writing Policy. Those in attendance were: Tom Hol, Linda Hol, Angie Samlaska, Tracy Dorr, Dan Weinmann, Scott Smothers.

Parents concerns:

Note writing hurts the program. The same ability and talent is not being placed on the A team. The A team then cannot compete appropriately in tournaments. If they are paying the money for a travel team, they want their girls playing with like abilities, or

otherwise, why not just charge the In House fees. They believe that player ranked #6 is much different than player ranked #13. If we are going to allow random letter writing, why have tryouts? This is allowing parents and coaches to pre-pick teams, which makes tryouts relatively ineffective. By allowing the letter writing we are not putting our best talent together to represent RAYBA/Rogers in other communities' tournaments. They also felt that this is a preparation for High School and College, which you don't get to pick where or who you play for, or what teammates you play with. They also wanted to bring forward that they could not think of one valid reason for note writing.

The visiting parents were thanked for bringing their concerns forward and exited the meeting.

Board Discussion:

Discussions were had on if this was an isolated issue, or if the Board had experienced concerns on this policy/guideline prior. It was brought forward that 2 years ago there was a similar issue with the 8th grade boys, and it was coach related. It was also brought to attention that there were 4 letters written last year by the girls' 6th grade team, which were not coach related.

The Travel Committee had discussed the following reasons for removing the guideline prior to tonight's Board Meeting:

- Difficult to control. What reasons are acceptable and which are unacceptable?
- Puts coaches and coordinator in a difficult position. Without specific guidelines around this, it is a judgment call for the coordinator which may be difficult for parents to understand.
- The Board needs to put a structure in place which is in the best interest of the kids in terms of developing their basketball skills and ability to compete at the highest level. Our guidelines will vary between House vs Travel; as do expectations of all participants (players/coaches/parents) when they step up to Travel basketball.
- Should our travel guidelines enable our coaches to field the most competitive teams? Allow the coaches (rather than the Board) to address the issues (by their player selection process or how they handle player/parent management).

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was brought to bring this issue to vote: The vote was to discontinue the acceptance of random note writing, except in the case of an extenuating circumstance. At this point, that parent must approach the Board @ info@rayba.org to present their case for review at least one week before travel try outs.

Board members voted: Yes = 11, No = 2. Motion Passed.

Independent/Sanctioned Evaluators

A request for approval and funding for Independent/sanctioned evaluators was brought forward by the Travel Committee.

Reasons to consider this approach:

- Remove as much of the “political” element from the evaluation process as possible
- Experienced evaluators and processes will improve likelihood of selecting top five

Reasons to stay with current level of evaluators

- Cost; as the quote recommends 1 evaluator per 10 players evaluated
- Is Rogers “deep” enough to justify this expense
- Will the findings and process be much different than current selection process

Committee recommends using 2 MYAS evaluators for 1 age/gender group this year

- Recommends 6th grade girls as “test group”
- Will have our evaluators complete evaluations as well and compare results
- Utilize outside resource to evaluate both groups
 - Prepare analysis for committee review
- Bring results to board for evaluation and discussion for future

Board Discussion:

Costs for these evaluators are \$35 to \$55 per evaluator per hour. The total cost for two evaluators will be approximately \$300. It was also recommended that we use both the 6th grade boys and 7th grade girls teams as the “test groups” for this evaluation.

Noel will be reaching out to other communities that have used these resources to get references on how they worked out for them.

A motion was brought to vote: Vote was unanimous – PASSED

Multiple Sports Guideline

At the previous Board meeting it was determined that we wanted to initiate the Multiple Sports Guideline. Board discussed that Travel Basketball must be priority for the athlete. Based on this decision, it was brought to the Board the following:

It is to the coaches discretion to deviate from the allocated play time for players that miss any practices or games. This information will be communicated to the travel coaches by the travel coordinators. If a parent approaches a coach with an issue with this rule, and it cannot be resolved at that level, the coach will approach the travel coordinator for assistance.

A motion was brought to vote: Vote was unanimous – PASSED

Travel A Coach Recommendations

All travel A coach interviews took place the week of August 18th. The Panel of 5 included, Noel Samlaska, Tammy Miller, Curt Sagehorn, Mike Noto and Girls High School Coach, Jeremy Digiovanni. The Travel Coordinators reached out to prior coaches' team members for additional input.

Jeremy Digiovanni asked not to be a part of the overall vote as he felt it was a conflict for his position. Tammy Miller, Girl's Travel Coordinator, did not participate in the interview for the 6A girl's coaching position.

The names listed below were unanimously voted in as the 2008 Travel A coaches:

5A Girls: Mike Dunham

5A Boys: Chris Darr

6A Girls: Tammy Miller

6A Boys: Dan Terres

7A Girls: John Nelson
7A Boys: Mike Bunkers
8A Girls: Applicants: Barry Sharp
8A Boys: Applicants: Larry Simpson

All candidates were to be contacted with the results on 8/25/08.

Travel Jersey Shorts

There were many complaints this past year from players, coaches, and parents that the travel jersey shorts restricted the ability of players to move around the court and effectively play the game of basketball.

Board Discussion: Theresa Sjerven, our Equipment Coordinator, looked into other travel jersey shorts that would not restrict play and would best match the jersey top. The board discussed having both the Travel 5th grade boys and girls order the new jersey (current top and new short). The older grade levels (6-8) would have the option and decision by each team to stay with the old shorts or move to the new shorts. It would have to be a unanimous decision by the whole team. Theresa presented the current short and three other options for the board to examine.

Motion was made. Unanimous vote: **PASSED**

House:

Girls's In House Evaluations are set for 9/6/08.

Volunteers need for Evaluation Day. (7:30am to Noon)

Mike, Curt, Tammy, Theresa, Lori, Dave and John will be there to help out the In House Coordinators

Mike Noto will coordinate lunch. Last year Broadway was used, but Davanni's has expressed an interest in helping out sporting events.

Current count on registrations and anticipated number of teams:

1st/2nd - 51 registrations, possible 8 teams

3rd/4th - 68 registrations, possible 10 teams

5th/6th - 45 registrations, possible 6 teams.

7th/8th/9th Grade In House Interest

There are currently 8 girls interested in this program along with a couple of parents to help coordinate.

We could possibly reach out to Ramsey, Elk River and Zimmerman to see if they want to partner with us in this category.

Theresa and Mike to discuss and write up how they in vision this league to look like and work, including registration and cost. This can then be presented to the Board to determine steps to move forward.

Remember Basketball Night

This event is scheduled for Monday, August 25th at the Rogers Middle School from 6pm to 8pm. This event is geared towards girls In House players to get warmed up for their upcoming evaluations.

Volunteers are needed to help with this. John, Steph, Theresa, Joel and Tammy can assist. We have 6 parent/past coach volunteers also.

School Open Houses

Noel passed around the volunteer list to fill to open spots to cover for the RAYBA tables at all the Elementary and Middle School Open Houses. End result was at least one volunteer was covering all timeslots for each school.

Theresa has the tablecloths needed and will give to the first person at each sight. Each sight will need Registration forms and RAYBA pamphlets. Parents can register and pay at these tables, but you can encourage them to register on line via RAYBA.org.

Scholarships

The Board needs to set guidelines around the Scholarship program. It was determined that scholarships would be offered for In House ball only. There will \$500.00 per girls in house and \$500.00 per boys in house available. This is on a first come/first serve basis. It will be a full registration fee scholarship. It was also determined that we can only offer 1 scholarship (1 registration fee) per family.

A motion was brought to vote: Vote was unanimous - PASSED

Community Education Update

The community education had planned to move to a new software for their scheduling. This has now been cancelled. Based on this decision, all requests have not been approved and they are scrambling to get all the schedules set up. At this time, our requests are still not approved. This information was brought to us by Joel not to panic us, but just bring awareness to the Board. He anticipates we should get everything we ask for and is hoping we will know by the end of this week.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:05 pm.