



CHANGES PLANNED FOR VARSITY BASKETBALL STARTING THIS FALL

As we announced in late July, we are making changes to the manner in which we form our varsity basketball teams at St. Hubert's. Since that announcement, we have heard many positive comments and the response has been supportive.

After benchmarking other SSYO schools, it is clear that nearly every other school we play against forms teams according to skill level and experience, rather than creating even teams. At the same time, there are an ever-increasing number of tournament or travel team options for basketball players. And, we continue to lose players at an alarming rate to other programs. Last season, as an example, we lost 88% of our 8th grade girls who had played the previous season as 7th graders. These factors have led us to re-evaluate how we form our teams.

Having discussed our options with many parents, coaches and other athletic directors over the past few months, we've come to the following conclusion: Starting this fall at the Varsity (7th and 8th grade) level only, we will combine the two grades and evaluate players to create teams that place individuals at the most suitable level. Our Cub teams will continue to be divided equally, as we have always done. To be clear, these are not "tryouts" but rather evaluations. No player will ever be cut -- everyone who registers will be assigned to a team. Instead, players will be placed on a team by skill and experience level. The league has expanded its divisions within the Varsity level, providing greater flexibility to place teams at the most appropriate level.

So, here's the plan for the coming basketball season:

- The enclosed registration forms will be **due by Friday, Sept. 12.**
- Minnesota Developmental Basketball (MDB) will run two, two-hour evaluation sessions:
 - **Monday, September 22: 5:00-7:00 7th-8th Boys; 7:00-9:00 7th-8th Girls**
 - **Wednesday, September 24: 5:00-7:00 7th-8th Girls; 7:00-9:00 7th-8th Boys**
- Based on the evaluations and the number of players registered, the evaluators will form varsity teams and recommend their division level. The athletic directors will have final approval of teams and their respective division assignments.

Change can be challenging. We fully expect some people will want to keep things the way they have always been. We want to move our program forward and continue to improve it. This option will provide the best overall experience for our varsity basketball players at all skill levels, allowing them to play with and against players of similar abilities. We appreciate your continued support of our program.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have questions.

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