

Team Leveling for Basketball

This document is a tool that has been put together to help all basketball coaches in assessing what level their team should be placed. The best way to assess a team is to objectively look at the top three players on your team independently from other teams (remember there are could be multiple divisions of teams in each level).

Leveling Basketball Teams

1. Step One: Each County Program should have a call out.

A call out is a chance for the county to put out the word that they are beginning the process of registering any athlete or partner who would be interested in participating in basketball.

2. Step two: Assign athletes and partners to teams based upon equal ability levels. It is best to put teams together by ability level. This puts athletes together who play at the same level. It is also important to make sure you assign athletes to the appropriate skill in the sport. If an athlete fits the skills competition, don't try to force them to a 3-on-3 or 5-on-5 team just to fill out the roster. Put the athlete in the competition that best suits the athletes. Sometimes this is difficult due to programs only having one team or trying to add people to a team to help it function at a 5-on-5 or 3-on-3. Athletes who can play full court basketball should play 5-on-5. Athletes' that lack dribbling skills, can't play full court, etc., should play half court 3-on-3. The State Office is always available to help coaches assess their needs.

3. Step three: Assess each team.

Below you will find a tool that helps describe each level of team that plays on a 5-on-5 team. These athletes should also be able to play full court, 5-on-5 basketball. It is important to **look at your top 3 athletes/partners** when identifying the level of your team. These are the people that most likely drive your team. It is also important to keep in mind the activity of the "**Dominant Player**". This is the player who can elevate your team to another level.

4. Step four: Any type of team class change or Roster change is **available through the State Office ONLY!!!!**

Only the permission of the State office allows a team to change their team class or make a roster addition. Failure to do so could disqualify a team from participating in the State Tournament. If a request has been granted, the team must still play two games against **two** different teams with the changed team class or athlete(s).

ABILITY LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

Level 1 - Regulation Rules / High: plays by regulation rules; high to excellent skills and athleticism; implements strategies; can score from the perimeter; reacts to the way the other team plays; aggressive for loose balls, passes, and rebounds.

Level 2 - Regulation Rules / Above Average: plays by regulation rules; above average to average skills and athleticism; some strategy; most points scored within 15 feet of basket; some players aggressive for loose balls, passes, and rebounds.

Level 3 - Modified Rules / Average: frequent violations when held to letter of the rules; average skills and athleticism; limited strategy; usually driven by one (1) or two (2) players; most points scored near the basket; limited aggressiveness for loose ball, passes, and rebounds

Level 4 - Modified Rules / Low: frequent violations when held to letter of the rules; low skills and athleticism; little strategy; most points score on lay-ups; usually passive; does not adjust to the way the other team plays.