

Boys Suburban Amateur Basketball League

Team Formation/Eligibility Requirements 2025-26

The chart listed below should help you when forming your basketball teams this year. There have been many questions about where players can play; we hope this document will clarify things. These rules are designed to provide a fair playing field, to avoid recruiting and protect the interest of every team. Everything in this document is listed in the league bylaws under Article VIII, Eligibility.

To be eligible for the Suburban Amateur Basketball League (SABL), a player must live in one of the communities listed in the right-hand column and he must play for the team in the left-hand column. When Division Coordinators review the rosters, this chart will be used to verify the players. The eligible community would be the legal address for the player. Owning land in another eligible community, using a business address or another family member's address (non-parent) is not a way around the eligibility rules.

If a player lives in a Western Massachusetts community that does not have a Suburban Basketball team, he is ineligible to play for any league team. This will eliminate the recruiting of players.

City/Town	Eligible Towns
Agawam	Agawam, Feeding Hills
Amherst	Amherst, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury
Belchertown	Belchertown
Chicopee	Chicopee
East Longmeadow	East Longmeadow
Easthampton	Easthampton
Falcons	Hampden and Wilbraham
Frontier	Conway, Deerfield, South Deerfield, Sunderland, Whately
Gateway	Blanford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Worthington
Granby	Granby
Greenfield	Greenfield
Hadley	Hadley
Hatfield	Hatfield
Hampshire	Chesterfield, Goshen, Southampton, Westhampton, Williamsburg
Holyoke	Holyoke
Longmeadow	Longmeadow
Ludlow	Ludlow
Mohawk	Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, Shelburne
Monson	Monson
Northampton	Northampton
Palmer	Palmer
Pioneer	Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, Warwick
Quaboag	West Brookfield, Warren
South Hadley	South Hadley
Southwick	Granville, Southwick, Tolland
Tantasqua	Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales
Turners Falls	Erving, Gill, Montague, Turners Falls
Ware	Ware
West Springfield	West Springfield
Westfield	Westfield

If a player is cut from his community's team and he doesn't have any other options (divorced parents, school choice, etc...), he cannot play for a team in another community. He is ineligible to participate in Suburban Basketball unless his community's team takes him back. He would have to play for a recreation, CYO or school affiliated team this winter.

If a player is part of a school choice program and attends school in another community, he is eligible to play for either team. Example: If he lives in "A" and attends school in "B", he can play for either "A" or "B". Private and/or charter schools that might be in a team's recruiting area do not allow for that player to play for that Suburban team, only their legal residence or public high school would carry. Example: player lives in California and attends MacDuffie. They would not be eligible to play for Granby.

If a player's parents are divorced and live in two separate communities, that player can play for either town. That decision is up to the player, and they can only play for one team.

If a team consisting of multiple communities chooses to take players from only a select few of those communities that form their potential team; that is their option to do so. Players not selected are ineligible to participate unless someone from their community forms a team. Please be reminded that this is a competitive league, not a recreation level division. Example: Team Hartford is made of the following communities: Hartford, Enfield and Southington. Hartford can choose to only take players from Hartford and Enfield and leave Southington out. The only option Southington has is to form a team based out of Southington.

Players that are age and grade eligible qualify for their high school basketball varsity (new in 2022-23), JV or freshman teams can participate in the BSABL. League teams can make their own rules that prohibit participation in their own programs if they would like. Any child that makes his high school team must attend and play in a minimum of eight regular season Suburban games to be eligible for our postseason tournament. If he does not play eight or more games, he is ineligible for our postseason.

Players can only play for ONE Suburban team. If a community has multiple teams in the same age group, they can only play for one of those teams. Penalty is a forfeit for the secondary team he plays for (non-rostered). This is different than Roots Soccer for example where players can pass-card.

Players in 6th grade cannot play up in the 7/8th grade division unless there is no 5/6th grade team and you receive permission from the league.

The following pertains to the date of birth and grade requirements:

- To play in the 5/6th grade division, a player must be in the 4th, 5th or 6th grade and cannot turn 13 prior to September 1, 2025.
- To play in the 7/8th grade division, a player must be in the 7th or 8th grade and cannot turn 15 prior to September 1, 2025.
- Players in the 6th grade cannot play up in the 7/8th grade division.