

## **2009-2010 State Travel League Playoff Invitational Tournament (Updated January 4th, 2010)**

**Introduction:** The 2009-2010 Playoff Tournament is the first of its kind, where travel leagues across Massachusetts will send their representative teams to compete against teams from the other travel leagues to determine a statewide champion. Currently, 13 leagues have been invited with only one league declining, due to a date conflict with their league playoff. Note this is for teams that participate in a winter travel league, and NOT for AAU teams.

**Format:** Single Elimination

**Team Entry Fee:** \$75 per team.

**Admission.** A \$5 admission will be charged for each day for spectators.

**Awards:** Team awards will be given to the champions and finalists in each division. Individual awards will be provided to the champions.

**Dates:** March 14<sup>th</sup>-March 21<sup>st</sup>.

All final games will be March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Semifinals will be March 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>.

Quarterfinals will be scheduled March 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.

Preliminary (playin) games will be scheduled March 14<sup>th</sup>. (Preliminary games are games that reduce the remaining field to 8 teams. The scheduling of these games may be other than March 14<sup>th</sup>, depending upon team availability. Consideration will be given to teams traveling long distances; i.e. Western Mass).

**Location:** Mass Premier Courts, 97 Green Street (Route106), Foxboro, Ma. 02035.

**Tournament Divisions:** There will be 12 divisions of play, with 2 divisions in each of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, boys and girls. Generally, there will be a 'large' town division and a 'small' town division at each grade level. The large and small town designations, WHILE NOT 100% absolute, are intended to allow teams from the smaller communities to compete against other small towns. Each league is structured uniquely and differently from every other league, and as such, the tournament berths take into consideration league structure, number of teams in each league, and size of communities that make up the league.

**Automatic tournament berths:** The following shows the automatic berths extended to each league:

## **GIRLS DIVISIONS**

**6<sup>th</sup> grade girls Large Town Division: (7).** Cape Cod, North Central Mass Large, North Shore Girls, Metrowest(2), River Valley, South Shore Girls Large Division.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade girls Small Town Division: (5).** North Central Mass Small, Metrowest, South Central Mass(2), South Shore Girls Small Town Division.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade girls Large Town Division: (7).** Cape Cod, North Central Mass Large, North Shore Girls, Metrowest(2), River Valley, South Shore Girls Large Division.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade girls Small Town Division: (5).** , North Central Mass Small, Metrowest, South Central Mass(2), South Shore Girls Small Town Division.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade girls Large Town Division: (9).** Cape Cod, North Central Mass Large, North Shore Girls, Metrowest(2), River Valley, South Shore Girls Large Division.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade girls Small Town Division: (5).** North Central Mass Small, Metrowest, South Central Mass(2), South Shore Girls Small Town Division.

## **BOYS DIVISIONS**

**6<sup>th</sup> grade boys Large Town Division: (8).** Cape Ann, Cape Cod(2), Merrimack Valley(2), North Central Mass Large, Metrowest(2).

**6<sup>th</sup> grade boys Small Town Division: (5).** Eastern, South Central Mass (2), Metrowest, North Central Mass Small Division

**7<sup>th</sup> grade boys Large Town Division: (8).** Cape Ann, Cape Cod(2), Merrimack Valley(2), North Central Mass Large, Metrowest(2).

**7<sup>th</sup> grade boys Small Town Division: (5).** Eastern, South Central Mass (2), Metrowest, North Central Mass Small Division

**8<sup>th</sup> grade boys Large Town Division: (10).** Cape Ann, Cape Cod(2), Merrimack Valley(2), North Central Mass Large, Metrowest(2), Western Mass.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade boys Small Town Division: (5).** Eastern, South Central Mass (2), Metrowest, North Central Mass Small Division

**At Large Berths:** Additional tourney berths may be requested by the travel league commissioners, and will be granted based on the competitiveness of the team and the availability of room in a bracket. In particular, the goal is to have at least 8 teams in each bracket, so there is additional room in all small town brackets and girls 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade

large town brackets. Commissioners, please contact Mike Kirby at [metrohoop@aol.com](mailto:metrohoop@aol.com) if you would like consideration for additional teams from your league.

**Selection of teams:** The league commissioners will determine the team(s) that go to the tournament from their league. While the expectation is that the team that wins the league playoff will be the team that is entered, it is up to the discretion of the league to determine its participant(s). If the league's first choice is not available, the league will choose which alternate team will be entered into the tournament.

**Playing Rules:**

**Game Ball:** 28.5" ball in all girls divisions and boys 6<sup>th</sup> grade division. 29.5" ball for boys 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**MIAA high school rules**, with the exception that a team with a 20 point or greater lead will not be allowed to press.

**Length of game:** 4 quarters of 8 minute, stop time. On days where double headers are scheduled, the games will be reduced to 7 minute, stop time quarters. However, if championship games are scheduled the same day as the semifinals, the championship games will remain the full 8 minute quarters.

**Seedings:** Seedings of each division will be random, with the following exception. If a league has two entries in a bracket, the top team will be seeded randomly at the upper end of the bracket, while the second team will be seeded lower than the first team from each league, and placed in a bracket opposite the first team in that bracket. (In other words, the second seeds will not be paired against the first team in their league until the final round).