**A.5 Policy for Coach’s Substitution & Athlete Participation**

**Recommendations**

“The Barrie Royals Basketball Club’s information for the Coaching Staff and the

Policy for Coach’s Substitution & Athlete Participation Recommendations will be

as follows:

**A5.1 Rationale & Information For Coaches:**

The Club believes communication with parents and players is one of

the most important things a Coach will do all season.

Communication to players about playing time and where they fit in

the rotation on U 13 Teams and above is one of the most important factors of

their participation. Players have joined the Royals’ Club to play basketball.

Nothing can get a player and a parent more upset than a misunderstanding over

the amount of playing time provided by the Coach.

By having an open line of communication with players about their

strengths and skills that need to improve, the players will be aware of your expectations. **The Club recommends that a team parent meeting be held as soon as possible after tryouts in order for direct communication to occur. As well, the Club hopes that consistent, open communication between individual parents and individual athletes will occur throughout the playing season. Private discussions following the Rule of Two between Coach and individual parents and/or an individual athlete and/ or a letter are all encouraged and acceptable options of communication for Team Head Coaches.**

The Board of Directors will support you in decisions about playing

time. However it is the expectation that ALL players will play meaningful minutes

through the season. It might not be IN EVERY GAME as there are often

circumstances that warrant a player’s exclusion from court time. This might be

unjustified missed practices / games, a recent injury / illness, or discipline for

poor behaviour. As competitive Coaches it may be your judgement that the

particular competition is just too difficult for the player to be included in.

The Board strongly recommends that Coaches copy the Competition

Committee on any communication to parents regarding the Team playing time

structure. This will put us in the best position possible to support our Royals

Coaching Staff when concerns or conflicts do arise.

**Coach’s Substitution Policy & Athlete Participation Recommendations:**

1. **Teams U 10 to U 12:**  As Ontario Basketball Association has an “Equal Participation Rule” for these divisions and regulations governing game play, the Club expects that every Team Head Coach will adhere to both the philosophy of and the administration of the Rule in all games and tournament play.
2. **Teams U 13 to JUEL / JUNIOR:** As there is no minimum playing time designated for athletes in OBA/OBL games at these divisions, the Club is confident that every Team Head Coach will adhere to the philosophy of Barrie Royals Basketball in making substitution decisions in all games and tournament play.
3. **The Barrie Royals Basketball Club** supports a substitution policy which maximizes each athlete’s opportunity for development. We support Coaches who plan a schedule of competition whereby all players have the opportunity to start and finish game situations. This might be in either a mini-game, exhibition or tournament format.
4. **Teams U 13 to JUEL / JUNIOR:** The Board of Directors direct the Team Head Coaches to consider in-game substitutions dependent upon:
5. Readiness of the athlete for the competitive situation ( i.e. full-court pressure)
6. The calibre of and substitution patterns of the opponent within the actual game situation (i.e. 4th quarter, score, etc.)
7. The importance of the specific game result (i.e. exhibition game vs OBA medal game)
8. Practice attendance prior to an upcoming competition
9. Previous known or suspected injury and recovery from it.

**Summary:**

As stated above, the Club believes communication with parents and players is one of the most important things a Coach will do all season. Therefore,

the philosophy behind this Policy is outlined in A5.2 “**Information for Parents: Coach’s Substitution Policy & Athlete Participation Recommendations”**  which we hope you will share with your Parents group at the beginning of the season.

**A5.2 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS: Coach’s Substitution Policy & Athlete**

**Participation Recommendations:**

The Club believes it is very important that both the players and their parents understand Royals Basketball philosophy regarding Fair Play and playing time and the manner in which substitutions may be made during the season. Exhibition games are different from League games. These games are different from the OBL Championships and the OBA Ontario Cup Championships.

We believe that attendance at practices and training activities are as important as the games themselves. In fact, according to Sport Canada’s Long Term Athlete Development Model, at the younger age groups practices ARE more important. Athletes must be responsible in their attendance during the entire season of play. It is a Parent’s responsibility to assist their athlete in this endeavour.

Information about rules and regulations to consider:

1. Ontario Basketball has an “Equal Participation Rule” at the U 10 to U 12 divisions. For all levels below and including U 12, the games are structured based upon equal playing times for athletes for the entire game. This is monitored at the Scorer’s Table.
2. In all divisions U 13 and above, **substitution is at the sole discretion of the Head Coach.** There is no minimum playing time per game.
3. Barrie Royals Basketball Club supports participation recommendations that aim to maximize, where possible, playing time for all team members. We provide a Team budget which allows Coaches to schedule minis and exhibition games in addition to Tournament and/or League play.
4. The Barrie Royals Coaching Staff has been directed by the Board of Directors to consider substitutions dependent upon:
5. Readiness of the athlete for the competitive situation (i.e. full-court pressure)
6. The caliber and substitution patterns of the opponent within the actual game situation (i.e. 4th quarter, score)
7. The importance of the specific game result (i.e. exhibition game vs OBA medal game)
8. Practice attendance prior to an upcoming game, tournament or championship event
9. Previous known or suspected injury and recovery from it.
10. Barrie Royals Basketball Club believes that there may be times when the long term development of an athlete may be impacted by participation in a competition. Therefore, at the discretion of the Team’s Head Coach, an athlete who has missed two out of three practices leading up to one of the stated events, may not be invited to participate in that next competition. The rationale for this decision may be multi-faceted and can be contributed to: concerns over player safety, return to play guidelines, dedication to teamwork, readiness to participate and existing gaps in teaching and learning opportunities that have been designed to adequately prepare the team for the next competition.

The Club is confident the Coaches will work towards ensuring that

your child’s playing time is a positive experience. If you have any concern about your child’s playing time, please do not hesitate to contact the Team’s Head Coach. Concerns about playing time are to be resolved between player, coach and parent. **And, we request that the parents allow a minimum of 24 hours to elapse before expressing their comments and/or concerns with regard to their child’s playing time / substitution in games.**

The Club President, Vice President and or Team Head will be happy

to discuss and explain any of the OBA Rules and Regulations or the Club policies and recommendations with you.