

Norwalk Youth Sports (NYS)

Introduction Info & Participation Agreement

2017 - 2018

Dear Parents, Coaches, & Players

For the 2017 – 2018 SEYO Basketball Season, the first league game will start at the beginning of December and ends late February for Winter (Juniors). Spring (Seniors) will begin March and end in May. Games are typically scheduled on Sundays from noon until 6:00 PM. Practices will generally be on Saturdays depending on your team's requested practice schedule.

Player and Parent Commitment

Please remember that when you decide to play basketball and join a NYS team, you and your child are making a commitment to a team. That commitment must be strong and you must take an active role in ensuring that you and your child participate to the best of your ability.

- **Commitment to the team.** Very important to ensure your child can attend the majority of practices and games for their development. Lack of commitment is not fair to other players and coaches on your team who are committed to the team.
- **Commitment to NYS.** NYS is based on volunteers and can only thrive with everyone's active participation. All families must participate in mandatory events as a team and volunteer to work as required. All teams/families must pay required fees/dues timely as required.
- **Commitment to SEJSCC.** Need family participation at the Cultural Festival and Center Bingo Nights.

If your family is frequently out of town or involved in other time consuming activities, please re-evaluate if NYS is appropriate and a match for your family. Lack of commitment is not fair to others on a team and will not be accepted by NYS if leading to problems on the team.

Team Participation

NYS teams participation period begins Sept 1st of the year and ends the following Aug 31st. Any team that begins the participation period in Sept must remain active through the end of August. All teams must participate in the NYS Pancake Breakfast, SEJSCC Bingo Nights, & through the SEJSCC Cultural Festival.

Failure to fully participate in the NYS Mandatory Events will result in fines, loss of gym time, & ultimately the non-release of players from NYS. Non-release of players from NYS results in players having to sit out 1 year before they can join other Japanese-American basketball teams.

Each team is required to "chair" different events each year to take the lead to ensure the events are coordinated and run correctly and efficiently. This provides leadership and direction for the other NYS teams to coordinate and participate at our NYS events.

SEYO League & Tournaments

SEYO League

For those who are new to the NYS organization, NYS is one of several organizations that form the SEYO League (South East Youth Organization). The SEYO League is the basis to manage an organized league to provide games (gyms, officials, scorekeepers), rules, while fostering basketball development along with sportsmanship and friendships. Each member organization is responsible for putting together its own teams, securing practice gyms, & buying uniforms. In addition, each member organization is responsible to hold an office within the SEYO cabinet/Board that is rotated each year.

The 2017 – 2018 Winter SEYO Basketball Season will have games on the following tentative dates: 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, & 2/18. Please plan your schedules accordingly.

Tournaments

Various tournaments are run by other Japanese American basketball organizations and are available for NYS teams to participate in throughout the year. The gyms can be located throughout Southern California, but can extend up to Northern/Central California or Las Vegas. The tournaments normally run from Friday night through Sunday or Memorial Day. The games can be as early as 9:00 AM or as late as 9:00 PM. Please insure that your team can commit to those game times and locations if you decide to participate in a tournament.

Participation in Leagues/Tournaments & Forfeits

The decision for NYS teams to participate in leagues and tournaments must be based on overall team families' commitments and assurance that teams will have an adequate amount of players for each and every game.

There must be enough commitment to field a team and at no time are forfeits allowed or acceptable for NYS teams. Every option and effort must be made to have at least 5 players to play in each game. Participating in the games are the purpose of these leagues and tournaments and the opposing teams are committed to participate.

Forfeits are not to be taken lightly and reflect badly on NYS and SEYO. NYS teams represent the NYS organization and any actions or problems directly affect our NYS organization. Forfeits can lead to teams not being invited/accepted to other tournaments/leagues so it is extremely important to prevent your team from ever being close to a forfeit. Again, families' commitments and expectation of participation should be required before signing up for any leagues/tournaments.

There could be extenuating circumstances that may create an unforeseen forfeit, but all other circumstances are not acceptable and players playing on a "club team" or being involved in other commitments (church, school, etc) are not acceptable excuses. Team commitment to play in the leagues/tournaments must take priority to prevent forfeits.

Any NYS team that forfeits any games in any leagues or tournaments (besides the normal large financial penalties) must inform the NYS CEC immediately and schedule a meeting to explain the situation. Further penalties from the CEC could include add'l fines, probation, and even the team being removed from NYS.

NYS Participation Requirements

NYS Annual Mandatory Events: these events are mandatory for every NYS team to participate in— failure of a NYS team or family to participate will result in fines, loss of gym time, & the non-release of players from NYS if the team is disbanding or player(s) are quitting.

- **SEJSCC Cultural Festival:** Center carnival with food, drink, displays, shows, games, etc. Largest fundraiser for Center and participation from all clubs is required. NYS has games, food fundraisers to support our NYS activities and the expenses to run the club. End of July-\$600 fine for team and/or loss of gym time.
- **SEJSCC Center Clean Up:** March/April & Aug-\$300 fine for team and/or loss of gym time.
- **NYS Pancake Breakfast/SEJSCC Boutique:** October-\$600 fine for team and/or loss of gym time.
 - One of only 2 NYS Fundraisers for year, encourage families to fully support ticket sales.
- **SEJSCC Bingo Nights-**\$300 fine for team and/or loss of gym time.
- **SEJSCC Annual Recognition Dinner:** April-\$300 fine for team and/or loss of gym time.
- **NYS Banquet:** March-\$300 fine for team and/or loss of gym time.

The fine or loss of gym time will be decided at NYS CEC's discretion.

SEYO Commissioning

Gym Commissioners are a voluntary position and each SEYO organization is required to commission a minimum of 2 SEYO leagues/divisions each season. NYS could be assigned this duty and the corresponding NYS teams would be required to participate. The selection is determined by the SEYO Board.

Miscellaneous Areas

Gym Cleanliness

NYS teams are responsible to keep the SEJSCC or outside practice gyms clean. All teams are required to pick up any trash including water bottles upon leaving. No shoe stickiness products are allowed to be used at any time while participating on a NYS team.

Help SEYO and all other leagues/tournaments keep our gym privileges. ALL TEAMS and their families are responsible for ensuring that the gym and the surrounding areas are litter free. This includes but not limited to the bleachers, bathrooms, walkways, & parking lots. A concerted effort by EVERYONE to pick up trash will help assure continued access to school gyms. SEYO has lost privileges to school gyms in the past due to failure to keep clean.

SEJSCC Gym

In order to maintain the quality of our gym floor, please follow the procedures below. Each and every NYS team/families are responsible to follow the below Center clean up procedures (not just the Coaches).

- Dry mop the entire gym floor if your team is the first team to practice for the day or are the last team at the end of the day if no other NYS or SEJSCC groups are using the gym.
- Upon completion of the dry mop if there is no further gym use, please spray the mop heads with the dust picking up liquid spray. Please insure no more gym use since it takes a few hours for the solution to dry and if used on the floor could actually make it slippery and difficult to remove.
- If there are other groups still using the gym that day, mop the floor but do not spray the mop heads.

Coaches Meetings/Parent Rep Meetings

Communication and attendance at monthly meetings are important for NYS to insure that all NYS Teams and Coaches are on the same page. If Coaches or Parent Reps are not in attendance for meetings then it presents problems when they are not aware of updates or problems that are being addressed in the meetings.

NYS teams need to insure that they send someone to each of the meetings. If there are other Assistant Coaches that can attend or other parents for the Parent Rep available, they need to attend. If possible, someone from that Team needs to attend.

If other Coaches fill in for the Head Coach of another Team, they need to sign in representing that Coach/Team. However, it is each Team's responsibility to get the updates from the meetings and to remain aware of all issues/updates. Failure to know about various updates/topics is not acceptable and there will be no leniency for Teams/Coaches that do not attend.

CEC will take roll and if teams miss more than 2 meetings (Coaches or Parent Rep) in a calendar year they will lose gym priority and fall to the bottom of the list during practice time allocation. If team is not practicing then they will fall to the bottom of the Pancake Breakfast/Festival job picking priority. Please do what you can to insure attendance and participation. The CEC is trying to limit the amount of meetings that are required, so your attendance is important.

Practice Gym Times and Gym Fees

Each NYS team is allowed to reserve practice time. With the amount of NYS teams, outside gyms are necessary to insure consistent practice time. Practice slots are reserved for 3 month quarters (Sept – Nov, Dec - Feb, Mar – May, June – Aug) and each gym may have weeks that they are closed or have other commitments. Gym time requests will be requested by the Gym Coordinator(s) with a submission deadline. Failure to provide timely practice time slots options (on time), may result in no practice time or very limited options.

Outside gym rentals are calculated based on overall NYS practice required time slots both at SEJSCC and outside time. Rental agreements are committed and thus NYS must pay for outside gyms for the entire quarter. Accordingly, NYS teams must pay gym fees for the entire quarter if they commit to a practice time slot (Head Coaches are responsible to consider all player conflicts when requesting practice time). Each NYS team is responsible for all current roster players to pay the quarterly gym fees whether or not they can practice. NYS will insure that each team is paying their gym fees in according to their current NYS roster.

The only exception to the gym fees will be for any player who has sustained a long term injury (3 months or longer) and cannot participate during the entire practice quarter. For these exceptions please make a note on the gym fees summary sheet and attach a corresponding doctor's note clearly showing the injury and time period of inactivity (must show "from-to" dates that falls outside the 3 month quarter). Please note that players cannot participate earlier than specified unless cleared by doctors with note that would supersede the original note. Short term injuries or weeks of non-use (vacations/school/church activities) are not allowable exceptions for waiving or reduction of fees. Gym fees are not refundable for any other circumstances.

Other extenuating circumstances can be submitted for the case by case review of the NYS CEC.

Team Uniforms

All NYS uniforms must have the NYS logo on the front of the jersey (both sides for reversible jerseys). For current teams, it would apply from your next set of new uniforms.

All new uniform orders need to be approved by the Steering Committee leader (Jason Ishibashi) **BEFORE** any orders can be placed to the vendor. Jason will approve the uniforms based on adherence to the SEYO/NYS uniform rules. Solid colors (correct colors), numbers' sizes, NYS logo, etc. requirements must be followed. Any uniforms not approved prior to ordering will be the team's responsibility if not in compliance and cannot be used for NYS team purposes. Replacement uniforms that are in compliance will be the sole responsibility of the team.

NYS Team Names

To be consistent for NYS affiliated teams, please use the naming of NYS teams as "NYS Abcdefg" for all documents and forms in regards to team name, especially in tournaments or other leagues. For liability purposes, please use on any official documentation submissions to outside organizations (tournaments/leagues) "Southeast Japanese School-NYS Abcdef" as the official team name. You can make a note on the document that the team name can be shown as "NYS Abcdef" but official paperwork should include the full name.

From 2015 and forward, NYS team names cannot be duplicated as long as another NYS team is still active in NYS. Further distinction by designating a number at the end is not acceptable (including any creative spellings). The duplicate team names create unnecessary confusion and misunderstandings of our teams internally within NYS.

NYS Sanctioned Participation

NYS teams are only sanctioned to play in the following leagues and tournaments. All other "club" or other league participation is not sanctioned and therefore participation is never allowed as NYS teams. Use of NYS team name and NYS uniforms are not allowed.

- SEYO League
- WPC (Wintersburg) & AFMC (Methodist) Summer/Fall leagues
- Asian Youth Sports Associations' invitational tournaments only. Tournaments include but not limited to VFW, Megalopolis, Wanjettes, South Bay FOR, West LA, Tigers, HDLV, DMI Tournament, etc.
- South Bay Youth (SBY) Basketball summer league
- South Bay Youth (SBY) Basketball fall league
- Nikkei games (3 on 3)
- Suburban Optimist Club Tri-Star Competition
- Yonsei Basketball
- SEYO Goodwill practice and games

Penalties for use of NYS team name or NYS uniforms (during team play outside of sanctioned events) are as follows:

1. 1st offense: \$500 fine & loss of gym time for the next practice quarter.
2. 2nd offense: NYS team expulsion and no player releases from NYS.

Timely Payment of Fees/Dues

The timely payment of SEJSCC membership dues, SEYO fees, NYS gym fees, Cultural Festival Won Ton donations, Pancake Breakfast tickets, Raffle tickets, etc. are important for NYS to maintain a cash flow. It insures that our payment commitments are met. Please adhere to the established due dates. Failure to meet the due dates will result in further fines and possible loss of gym time.

Raiding Players

The act of “raiding” players from other NYS or SEYO/Asian affiliated teams is not acceptable by NYS. Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, & Team Parent Reps cannot contact or initiate contact with other players or families from other teams to ask them to join their NYS team. If a player or family contacts the NYS team then it is OK to discuss future participation with the NYS team. Failure to follow these rules will include the possible suspension of the Coaches/Parent Rep for a specified period or the possible expulsion from NYS of those involved or the entire team.

This Participation Agreement is in effect starting September 1, 2017 for the 2017 - 2018 year.

I have read and understand the NYS Participation Agreement and will follow its specified rules. If our team or family fails to follow these rules and guidelines, any corresponding penalties will be enforced.

Team Name

Parent(s) Printed Name(s)

Signature(s)

Date

Player Printed Name

Signature

Date

Norwalk Youth Sports (NYS) Mission Statement

Norwalk Youth Sports provides opportunities for our youths to learn and develop sportsmanship, integrity, character, social skills, and life-long friendships. Through participation in Norwalk Youth Sports team programs and Community Center events, we strive to reach these goals and to build a sense of community among our families and friends.

Addendum

Procedures/requirements for adding of players or temporary guest players.

Adding of New Players

Any new player that wishes to join a NYS team needs to have the Head Coach or Parent Rep submit a “New Player Add Information Sheet” to one of the NYS SEYO representatives. However, prior to that submission, the Head Coach or Parent Rep needs to forward this Participation Agreement to the family to insure that the commitment beyond the basketball is made clear. (insure they understand that it is not just the basketball development, but the total commitment to the other activities, events, and more importantly the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship).

Since new players can impact the status of existing teams (positive or negatively), NYS CEC will review new player info and make a decision to allow the addition. Steps are below.

1. Head Coach or Parent Rep needs to provide and review the NYS Participation Agreement with the family of the proposed new player. Upon the family’s agreement to the terms of the Participation Agreement, the Head Coach/Parent Rep can begin to fill out the New Player Add Information Sheet.
2. Head Coach or Parent Rep needs to completely fill out the New Player Add Information Sheet. All requested fields must be filled out—including whether the player is an impact player. They need to submit to the NYS SEYO representatives for review.
3. The NYS SEYO reps will forward to the NYS CEC the New Player Add Information sheet for review.
4. The CEC will distribute the player name, hometown, and prior basketball playing history (also impact player designation) to the Head Coaches of the same age NYS teams for any comments/feedback.
5. If the player is coming from another SEYO organization or other So. Calif. Japanese-American basketball organization, further research on the player’s release or feedback may be involved.
6. Upon receiving all details and feedback, the CEC will make a decision and either the SEYO reps or CEC will let the Head Coach or Parent Rep know whether they can add the player or not.

As a general policy, NYS does not turn away players, but NYS reserves the right to reject a player add if that player will negatively impact a NYS team or our NYS organization. The mission of NYS is to allow its teams to field competitive, but fair teams that follow the spirit and purpose of the tournaments or leagues that they participate in. The “stacking” of NYS teams with the best players in an age group will not be allowed.

Once a new player is approved, the Head Coach is responsible to have the player and family sign the SEJSCC Liability Waiver, provide a copy of their proof of medical insurance, read and sign this Participation Agreement/NYS Standing Rules, pay the SEJSCC membership fees, & any gym fees.

Guest Players

NYS teams should determine whether to field teams in tournaments or leagues based on total player availability and commitment.

The temporary use of a player(s) in addition to your NYS team roster will be considered “Guest players” and there must be prior approval by the NYS CEC BEFORE submitting any rosters to any tournaments or

leagues. The exception is if a recent injury or other extenuating circumstance occurs to reduce the total amount of players to participate.

The request and “Request to Add Guest Player” form to add Guest player needs to be submitted to the CEC at least 45 days prior to the tournament or league application deadline in order to provide adequate time for review.

The mission of NYS is to allow its teams to field competitive but fair teams that follow the spirit and purpose of the tournaments or leagues that they participate in. The “stacking” of NYS teams with the best players in an age group will not be allowed.

NYS requirements to allow the addition of Guest players:

- Current NYS team has only 6 (or fewer) roster players available to play.
- Can only add enough Guest players to carry a maximum of 7 total players
- A tournament that is not a local tournament (outside of So. Calif.) may allow the additions beyond the NYS established limit (if tournament allows to add if only have 7 players then OK) to propose the addition of a Guest player.

NYS Mandated Priority for adding of Guest players:

1. If there are other NYS teams in the same grade level and they are not participating in the tournament, request to the Head Coach(es) of those teams for any players interested in playing. This alleviates the liability for non SEJSCC players and provides other NYS players the opportunity to participate in tournaments that their own team is not.
2. If no other NYS players are available, then next priority should be to look to other SEYO teams in the same grade level for any players interested in participating.
3. If no SEYO teams have players available, then the inquiry can be broadened to other teams from other Japanese American leagues such as CBO, CYC, JAO. Some examples are South Bay FOR, Mustangs, Venice, Tigers, Hollywood Dodgers, etc.
4. This last priority is reserved for only NYS “Senior level” teams. No NYS “Junior” teams are eligible to add these type of players. As a very last resort, the use of Outside players (meaning they currently are not playing on teams participating in the Japanese American basketball leagues) can be requested, but a lot more information and questions may be required to adequately judge the character of the player and their family. If the player has previously participated in Japanese American basketball leagues, but are currently not participating, that should be a preferred player to add. If the player has no prior experience participating in Japanese American basketball leagues, it may require both the CEC and SEJSCC Board having meetings with the player and parents to render an approval.

The SEJSCC Board of Directors must be informed of any Guest players that are referred to as “Outside players” for their reference and records.

Upon CEC approval of Guest players, Coaches and Parent Reps are responsible to have the non-NYS player/family sign the SEJSCC Liability Waiver form for the specified “from-to” participation period that should cover the practice time through the last day of the event. Also, proof of medical insurance (copy of medical insurance card) needs to be provided prior to the player participation. These documents need to be given (or arrangements made) to the NYS CEC before player participation can begin.

With the adding of Guest players comes responsibility. Please take this responsibility seriously since they will play on a NYS team. Ultimately they also represent our NYS organization (even if only temporarily).

- Coaches and team families are ultimately responsible for the overall behavior and participation of the player and his/her family.
 - This behavior includes fair play and sportsmanship on and off the court.
 - Any problems encountered will be the ultimate responsibility of the Head Coach and the team.
 - Any problems encountered (even if you think minor) must be reported to the NYS CEC immediately for review.
 - Possible penalties can include fines, probation, or even the team being removed from NYS.

NYS Players Participating on Other Teams

In the event that NYS players and their team are not participating in leagues or tournaments and are asked by another team to play, the following requests/notifications must be made.

- Player and or family must ask their Head Coach for a formal release to play (e-mail confirmation required as written approval if discussed in person).
- Upon getting approval from Head Coach, must forward the e-mail approval to NYS CEC for reference in case the borrowing organization or league/tournament asks to confirm the NYS approval.

Please note that the NYS CEC reserves the right to review/deny participation of a NYS player if the player creates a “stacked” team or an unfair situation for that division.

Participation in NYS Practices

There should be no kids participating regularly in NYS practices, besides the official players on a NYS team (and siblings). Only Center families are covered under the liability insurance.

Adding 1st Grade Players to 2nd Grade Team:

If there is interest in adding 1st graders to a 2nd grade team after the SEYO season, the CEC strongly discourages this practice for any player (regardless of their basketball abilities). The CEC will not allow the 1st grader to join a team until they are officially in the 2nd grade (Fall of the new school year).

Once a player is in 2nd grade, it is up to the Head Coach, Ass’t Coaches, & Parents to decide if a player can play up on an older team. The NYS CEC will only allow 1 “grade jump” for players until they are in the Spring Senior SEYO season.