

02 May 2024

All Gauteng Schools and Clubs
By Email

**RE: GAUTENG U18 BASKETBALL TRIALS FOR THE IPT
TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD IN JUNE/JULY 2024 IN
JOHANNESBURG**

Dear All

On Tuesday, 30 April 2024, Basketball South Africa (BSA) issued the attached circular with regards to the u18 Inter Provincial Tournament (IPT) to be hosted in Johannesburg from 1-5 July 2024.

The Johannesburg Basketball Association (JBA) has approached the other Gauteng Districts and have volunteered to administer the selection process for the Gauteng Squad to represent Gauteng at the IPT's.

This letter serves to invite potential participants to indicate their availability for the trials as well as to set out the trial procedures. The trials will be run over 2 days at St Benedicts, Ekurhuleni and will run from 9:00 until 18:00 on 18-19 March 2024. The boys' trials will start at 9:00 on Saturday and the girls trials will start at 9:00 on Sunday.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hik5ux5J1zfVNYkC8>

As per the BSA notice, the IPT's will be open to all players who meet the following criteria:

- South African Citizen
- Girls and Boys born 1 January 2007 and not later than 31 December 2008

We thus invite all eligible players in Gauteng to register for and attend the trials as per the criteria. Whilst the trials are open to all, we will ask that you have a discussion with your coach regarding your chances of

being selected and that you only participate if a reasonable chance exists for your selection.

Pre-Registration

All participants must pre-register for the trials. This can be done via the link as below:

<https://forms.gle/yhcJjSr3y9hC1j5W8>

There will be no on-site registrations and registrations close on Wednesday, 15 May 2024. No late registrations will be considered.

Trail Venue

Trials will be held at an outdoor facility in Ekurhuleni. As the trials will be in autumn, there is little chance of weather disruptions due to thunder storms.

The venue will be confirmed shortly.

Trials Procedure

The Boys trials will start on Saturday at 9:00 sharp. Depending on the number of participants, this may be extended to Sunday but this will be advised on the day to the remaining participants and will be on an invitational basis only.

No coaches will be allowed to assist the participants on the day of the trials. Any coaches that do accompany their players will be asked to refrain from any form of coaching during the process - inclusive of commentary thereof.

Registration Phase

On-site registration will commence 30 minutes prior to the start of the trials (8:30). Each player shall be required to check in based on their pre-registration - which will confirm their personal details along with showing the convener their documentation (this documentation will not be collected at this time but shall consist of a certified copy of the

players Identity Document along with a letter from their school principal confirming that they are enrolled in the school and what age they are). Should the documentation not be available, the player shall not be allowed to check in. Certified copies of the documentation are acceptable provided the certification date is within the last 3 months. Check-in will close 5 minutes pre the commencement of the trials - i.e. 8:55. No player shall be allowed to join the trials after check-in closes!!

Each player will be assigned a number based on their check-in time and will be issued with a number tag that is to be pinned to their vest. Players are required to ensure that they keep their numbers on display throughout the day and that they do not swap numbers for any reason whatsoever.

No player shall be selected on name but shall be selected purely on their number - which will be assigned randomly to a player based on when they checked in earlier that day. This will ensure that there can be no selection bias through a pre-determined discussion by coaches with selectors.

Initial Phase:

The selectors will give each player the opportunity to play in a 10 minute scrimmage. The teams will be decided purely on the number that the player is wearing. Thus, players 1-5 will play a scrimmage against players 6-10. This will continue until such time that all the players that have checked in have played a 10 minute scrimmage.

It is important to note that at this stage, the selectors will be looking for the players that they want to put through to the next round. While it may seem counter intuitive, a player will make it through to the next round despite potentially not touching the ball for the entire 10 minutes. The selectors are not interested in seeing ball-hogs and/or glory-boys but want to see the level of game play that each participant has.

Players will be assessed on the following criteria:

- General approach to the game (level of energy, commitment, teamwork and determination)

- Offensive skills (ball carry, positional setup, screens, shooting)
- Defensive skills
- Communication and Leadership
- Attitude

Above all, basketball is a team sport and how you interact with your team is of much more importance than the amount of trash talk and scoring that you do. It is also important to see how participants fare in conditions that they may not be used to - this eliminates the participants who are only there because they play in a good team.

The selectors may advance all 10 players from an individual scrimmage or none from that scrimmage. That will be entirely up to the discretion of the selectors.

At the end of the Initial Phase, the convenor of selectors will announce the numbers who have made it through to the next phase of selection. All other participants will be eliminated at this point and can go home but may stay to watch the rest of the proceedings if they so choose.

Phase 2:

The selectors will sort the participants into their preferred positions and constitute teams of their choosing. These selector constituted teams will then scrimmage (again for 10 minutes) while the selectors observe. All remaining participants will get to play in these scrimmages until such time that the selectors are satisfied that they have seen all of the participants play in their preferred positions.

Depending on the number of players per position, players may play multiple games during this phase (for example, there are usually very few centers - so they get a lot of game time). This is not indicative of any final selections.

The selectors have complete discretion to mix up teams at this point and may interrupt games to assess something specific. For instance, a participant may have indicated a preference as a shooting guard but the selectors wants to assess them as a small forward. This change will be communicated onto the court and the participants will be expected

to make the adjustment to their positional play in order to ensure the selectors can then assess what they want to see.

At the end of Phase 2, the convenor of selectors will announce the numbers who have made it through to the next phase of selection. All other participants will be eliminated at this point and can go home but may stay to watch the rest of the proceedings if they so choose.

Phase 3:

The process as outlined in Phase 2 will continue with the selectors making more adjustments to the teams and positions until they are satisfied with the end result. The participants will be expected to perform at their peak throughout the process and ensure that they show the selectors what they are capable of - especially during the championship minutes.

Conclusion:

At the end of the day selectors will select the best 20 players who will form the initial Gauteng Squad. This will be whittled down to the 12 traveling players to travel to Bloemfontein via the practice process to be held.

At this stage, the convener will collect from each player their documents and this selection will be confirmed via a letter to the player subsequent to the trials.

Selectors

It is of utmost importance that the selections for this event is free of any form of bias and as such, we shall endeavour to use selectors that have little to no involvement with age-group basketball. This ensures that all players are assessed free from any form of pre-determined or other bias.

The format is a simple one in that players are able to demonstrate their on-court level of game-play in order to impress the selectors. It is thus important that participants put their best foot forward in the 10 minutes that they are afforded in the initial phase.

Provincial Coaches and Managers

There has currently been no Provincial Coaches or Managers selected and if any are selected in the interim, they will not be included in the selection process. There is thus no imperative to choose a team based on a coach but rather to choose the best team to represent Gauteng.

Whichever coach is selected shall be presented with the best team in Gauteng and must thus ensure that they are up to the task of coaching a team that has a potential diversity of participants.

The coach will work with the Head of Selectors to finalise the travelling 12 players from the squad of 20 players as selected.

Participation Costs

Participation in the trials is free to participants.

Whilst there is no cost of touring, there will be a cost for procuring kit and for assisting with the hosting fees for the event. These costs must be covered by the participant group and we would like to make sure that all trialists understand this up front. While the JBA will endeavor to procure funding from both government and sponsors for this event, this is not guaranteed and as such, we would like to highlight this cost factor up front.

For previous Gauteng teams, the parent group came together for the event and secured the funding through a number of different avenues (company sponsorship, basketball club and association help, loans, friends and family) and ensured that the cost was covered.

We would like to ensure that all participants understand that if they are selected, that there will be a financial obligation that has to be met - if not by them personally then by a benefactor or sponsor. The responsibility to secure this funding does not vest with the JBA as the administrative party but with the participants and their parents/legal guardians.

Once selected, letters will be sent to each participant regarding the cost factor - which must be accepted and returned.



Should there be any queries with regards to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary General on sg@johannesburgbasketball.co.za with your query.

Yours sincerely

K Phiri

Secretary General – Johannesburg Basketball Association