



Eligibility

2025-2026 Winter Series

Player Eligibility is based solely off a player's current grade level, playing in their correct grade level or higher and being placed on the official roster prior to tip off, of the 1st game.

- ✓ All players must participate in their respective grade level or higher
- ✓ All players must be placed on that team's official roster prior to tip off, of their first game
- ✓ For example:
 - A current 6th grader is **ELIGIBLE** to play on the 6th grade, 7th grade and 8th grade teams
 - The same player is **NOT ELIGIBLE** to play on 3rd grade, 4th grade & 5th grade teams
- ✓ In case of a protest our Evolution Staff will review the team's official roster:
 - To ensure the player in question is on the official roster
 - To ensure the player in question was added prior to tip off of the first game
 - If the player in question isn't on the roster or have been added after tip off of the first game, the protest will be awarded
 - In case of an awarded protest, the team found violating our eligibility rules will forfeit any wins they may have secured

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PROOF OF PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Team Responsibility, **proof of player eligibility is the responsibility of the team manager or coach.**
2. Evolution Basketball Inc will not check eligibility prior to Winter Series events.
3. However, **a coach must be able to provide documents of grade and age eligibility** in the event of a protest by another team or if requested by Evolution Basketball Inc prior to or any time during an event.
4. As a condition of participation, **each team is required to have grade documentation available for each player** for review at any time during an event. Proof of grade age must be available for review by Evolution Basketball Inc representatives at all events. Failure to have such information available at the event may result in player ineligibility, game forfeiture, and/or team removal from the event.
5. Acceptable Forms of Documentation: **Acceptable proof of grade would be a clean copy of any school documentation reflecting the player's current or immediately preceding school year such as a progress report, report card or school ID.** Digital documentation may be an acceptable subject to review by Evolution Basketball Inc representatives.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PROTEST PROCEDURE

Scope: The following Player Eligibility Protest procedure applies to all Evolution Basketball Inc events.

Who Can Protest: Player Eligibility Protests can be **submitted only by the head coach or a club director/manager of a team participating in the same division as the team with the player(s) whose eligibility is being challenged.** For a team to submit a Protest, the team must demonstrate to the Site Director that the protesting team has eligibility documentation for its players available for review by the Site Director. A team is NOT allowed to protest the eligibility of a player from another team without having the eligibility documentation for its players.

WHAT CAN BE PROTESTED:

- ✓ Player is not grade eligible
- ✓ Player is playing on two teams or more in same division

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WHEN CAN A PROTEST BE MADE:

- ✓ **Pre-Game Protest:** A protest of player's eligibility **can be made at any time prior to** a game. Any Pre-Game Protest should be submitted as soon as possible so that it may be considered in a timely manner.
- ✓ **Post-Game Protest:** Any post-game protest of player's eligibility **must be made within 30 minutes of the conclusion of a game** between the protesting team and the team with the player(s) whose eligibility is being challenged.
- ✓ **Protest Denied:** Player eligibility protests will be automatically denied if they do not meet either the Pre or Post Game Protest Limits, no exceptions.
- ✓ **How to File Protest:** **All protests must be submitted via email along with \$50 cash protest fee to the Tournament Director.** The Protest Fee is refundable only if the matter is ruled in the favor of the protesting party. If the Protest is not upheld, the Protest Fee is forfeited. All forfeited protest fees will be applied to charitable activities of Evolution Basketball Inc which include support of youth sports teams and activities.

Protest Upheld: If a player is ruled ineligible, the player will be prohibited from participating in the remaining games of the event. If a Post-Game Protest is upheld, that game will be forfeited by the team with the ineligible player. No prior games will be forfeited as teams participating in prior games will have waived their protest opportunity by failing to timely submit an Eligibility Protest. The team will be allowed to continue to participate in the event without the ineligible player(s). The Protest Fee will be refunded to the protesting team for each protest upheld.

Protest Denied: If the Player Eligibility Protest is denied, the Protest Fee is forfeited.

Player Reinstatement. If a player is ruled ineligible for the sole reason that the team did not have any eligibility documentation for the player, the player can subsequently be ruled eligible if such documentation is later provided. The reinstatement is for competition after the documentation being provided and no prior action will be modified or set aside.

Ruling Binding. Any Player Eligibility Protest ruling made by Evolution Basketball Inc is binding upon all coaches, players, and attendees of the event. There is NO appeal of any upholding or denial of a Player Eligibility Protest.

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