

Central MA Youth Basketball League - Charter,
Guidelines, Rules

<u>I.</u>	<u>CMYBL (Central MA Youth Basketball League)</u>	2
<u>II.</u>	<u>CMYBL Mission Statement</u>	2
<u>III.</u>	<u>Titles, Names, and Definitions</u>	3
<u>IV.</u>	<u>History</u>	5
<u>V.</u>	<u>Player Eligibility Guidelines</u>	6
	<u>A. Grade and Age Chart (2006/07 season)</u>	6
	<u>B. Team / Player Residency Rules</u>	7
	<u>C. GOLDEN RULE</u>	7
	<u>D. EXCEPTIONS TO THE GOLDEN RULE</u>	7
	<u>1. PLAYER HAS DUAL RESIDENCY</u>	8
	<u>2. TOWN DOES NOT SUPPORT TRAVEL BASKETBALL</u>	8
	<u>3. TOWN SUPPORTS TRAVEL PROGRAM BUT NOT PLAYER'S GRADE/AGE DIVISION</u>	8
	<u>4. PLAYER ATTENDS SCHOOL OUT OF TOWN</u>	9
	<u>5. PLAYER CUT FROM A TEAM</u>	9
	<u>E. Player Eligibility Challenge</u>	93
<u>VI.</u>	<u>Game Rules</u>	10
	<u>A. Ball Size by Division</u>	10
	<u>B. Game Length</u>	10
	<u>C. Half Time</u>	10
	<u>D. Overtime</u>	10
	<u>E. Time Outs</u>	10
	<u>F. Player Fouls</u>	10
	<u>G. Bonus Free Throws</u>	10
	<u>H. Clock Operator</u>	10
	<u>I. Game Book / Scorekeepers</u>	11
	<u>J. Full Court Pressing</u>	11
	<u>K. Free Throw "Violation" Line</u>	11
	<u>L. Uniforms / Jerseys</u>	12
VII.	Violations and Penalties of Rules and Guidelines	15
VIII.	Sportsmanship	16
IX.	Appeal of any Penalty Handed Down	16
X.	Cancellation or Rescheduling of Games	16

I. CMYBL (Central Massachusetts Youth Basketball League)

This document defines and describes the charter of the CMYBL travel basketball league.

II. CMYBL Mission Statement

To provide youth basketball players, in grades 5 through 8, living within the central MA area, an opportunity to participate in a competitive but wholesome, well organized, structured, travel basketball league. A travel league that promotes inter-town play, good sportsmanship, fair play, and parity between players and teams; a program that serves as an extension, in all facets possible, to town, school, and regionally organized youth basketball programs.

From an organizational perspective, the primary goal of the CMYBL travel basketball league is to assist in the development of youth basketball players at the "local town level", thus serving, indirectly, as a feeder system for each town's local Middle and High School basketball programs.

From a coaching/parental perspective, the goal of the CMYBL travel basketball league is to provide a positive basketball experience for youth in as many communities as possible within the Central MA area, to enhance the development of youth through the sport of basketball, to enable youth to see the results of hard work and teamwork, and to help build personal character, with a focus on self esteem, self respect, and respect for others.

III. Titles, Names, and Definitions

CMYBL	Central MA Youth Basketball League. The acronym used to identify the league before it was subdivided into geographical sub-leagues. This acronym is often used when referring to the entire program or the league in general.
Commissioner	The person designated/assigned to manage, oversee, and make decisions regarding the operation of a particular CMYBL sub-league.
Div Coordinator	A volunteer coach or person responsible for collecting weekly scores from the winning teams within a division. Once collected, the Division Coordinator then forwards the scores (via email) to the league commissioner. The commissioner uses the information to update the division standings and posts the scores and standings on the league's website.
Divisions	Groups of teams, based upon gender (B=Boys, G=Girls) and grade (4,5,6,7,8) that play against one another during the regular season and playoffs. Example: B6 Division would consist of Boys 6 th grade teams; G7 Division would consist of Girls 7 th grade teams. In some cases, when a division has a small number of teams in a given year, grades may be combined into a single division. For instance, a G7/8 Division would consist of both girls 7 th and 8 th grade teams playing one another within the same division.
Large Town	A town, city, or organized regional program, with a population greater than 12,000. A group of teams participating in the "large town" league, which itself is a sub-division of the geographical area designated as the North Central MA Youth Basketball League. A program or team (regardless of size) that has demonstrated its ability (or desire) to compete against programs/teams of a larger size.
NCMYBL	North Central MA Youth Basketball League. The geographical area within Central MA, north of Rt. 9. The NCMYBL is further divided into two separate but cooperative sub-leagues; a small town league and a large town league. In general and historical terms, the NCMYBL is often referred to as CMYBL.
Regional Program	A basketball program consisting of two or more towns with boundaries generally defined by a regional or multi-town school system. NOTE: A Regional School system may also opt to have teams from individual towns within their region. Acton/Boxboro, Athol/Royalston, Groton/Dunstable Narragansett (Templeton/Phillipston/Baldwinville) Nashoba (Bolton/Lancaster/Stow)

North Middlesex (Ashby/Townsend/Pepperell)
Oakmont (Ashburnham/Westminster)
Quabbin (Barre/Hardwick/Hubbardston/New
Braintree/Oakham)

SCMYBL South Central MA Youth Basketball League. The
geographical area within Central MA, south of Rt. 9.
In general and historical terms, the SCMYBL is often
referred to as CMYBL.

Small Town A town, city, or organized regional program, with a
population less than 12,000. A group of teams
participating in the "small town" league, which itself
is a sub-division of the geographical area designated
as the North Central MA Youth Basketball League. A
program or team (regardless of size) that desires to
compete against programs/teams of a smaller size; e.g.
a B level team from a large town/program.

IV. History

The Central MA Youth Basketball League was founded in 1989.

In its inaugural year, 1989, the CMYBL league consisted of one division of boys 6th grade teams from Winchendon, Westminster, Leominster, North Middlesex, and Lancaster. As word about the league spread from town to neighboring town, the popularity and participation within the league grew at a very rapid pace, doubling in size year after year. By the fifth season the league had grown to serve 20 plus towns with close to 200 teams. Geographically, the league had expanded to include most of the central MA area from the New Hampshire border north, to the Connecticut border south, along Rt. 495 to the east, and Quabbin and Orange to the west.

Given the league's growth, in both the number of teams and the driving distances between participating towns, along with the difficulties experienced with trying to manage such a large program, at the close of the sixth season (1995/96) a decision was made to split the league into two geographical areas, the dividing line being Route 9. As a result, separate North and South CMYBL leagues were established. A few years later, due to the size disparity between towns and regional programs located within the North CMYBL region, the North CMYBL league was further sub-divided into two separate but cooperative leagues; one for small towns and one for large towns. Today, the 3 CMYBL leagues listed below operate to serve travel basketball within the Central MA area:

CMYBL Leagues and Commissioners

North CMYBL "Small Town":	Daryl Rupp (Winchendon)
North CMYBL "Large Town":	Josh Hammer (Acton-Boxborough)
South CMYBL:	Bob Doyon (Douglas)

In 2006, 30 plus towns/programs participated in the CMYBL travel basketball program. Yearly, approximately 275-300 teams and roughly 2500-3000 boys and girls participate in the CMYBL league, playing in separate 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade divisions. (NOTE: The South CMYBL league also supports a 4th grade division).

During its infancy, as the CMYBL league grew and matured, yearly meetings were held to discuss topics such as, player eligibility requirements, playing rules, general guidelines, and any issues that may have come up during the previous season. At these meetings, topics and issues were raised, discussion and debate was heard, and votes were taken (democratic open forum). All final decisions were based upon a unanimous vote by the various town/program coordinators and coaches who attended the meetings. The outcome and decisions made at these early meetings are what formulated the league into what it is today, and is the foundation upon which this CMYBL charter is based.

V. Player Eligibility Guidelines

Grade and Age Chart (2006/07 season)

B5/G5 MUST BE IN GRADE 5; 1 YR AGE WAIVER born/after AUG. 1, 1994

B6/G6 MUST BE IN GRADE 6; 1 YR AGE WAIVER born/after AUG. 1, 1993

B7/G7 MUST BE IN GRADE 7; 1 YR AGE WAIVER born/after AUG. 1, 1992

B8/G8 MUST BE IN GRADE 8; 1 YR AGE WIAVER born/after AUG. 1, 1991

*REVIEW PLAYER BIRTH CERTIFICATES DURING YOUR REGISTRATION PERIOD!

2006-07 Season - Grade / Age Chart											
SHADED AREA "Division's 1 YR AGE Waiver"											
Player MUST be in the Grade Specified											
Before the Age Waiver Can Be Applied											
Grade 5			Grade 5 Waiver			Grade 6			Grade 6 Waiver		
Aug	1995	5	Aug	1994	5	Aug	1994	6	Aug	1993	6
Sep	1995	5	Sep	1994	5	Sep	1994	6	Sep	1993	6
Oct	1995	5	Oct	1994	5	Oct	1994	6	Oct	1993	6
Nov	1995	5	Nov	1994	5	Nov	1994	6	Nov	1993	6
Dec	1995	5	Dec	1994	5	Dec	1994	6	Dec	1993	6
Jan	1996	5	Jan	1995	5	Jan	1995	6	Jan	1994	6
Feb	1996	5	Feb	1995	5	Feb	1995	6	Feb	1994	6
Mar	1996	5	Mar	1995	5	Mar	1995	6	Mar	1994	6
Apr	1996	5	Apr	1995	5	Apr	1995	6	Apr	1994	6
May	1996	5	May	1995	5	May	1995	6	May	1994	6
Jun	1996	5	Jun	1995	5	Jun	1995	6	Jun	1994	6
Jul	1996	5	Jul	1995	5	Jul	1995	6	Jul	1994	6
Grade 7											
Grade 7			Grade 7 Waiver			Grade 8			Grade 8 Waiver		
Aug	1993	7	Aug	1992	7	Aug	1992	8	Aug	1991	8
Sep	1993	7	Sep	1992	7	Sep	1992	8	Sep	1991	8
Oct	1993	7	Oct	1992	7	Oct	1992	8	Oct	1991	8
Nov	1993	7	Nov	1992	7	Nov	1992	8	Nov	1991	8
Dec	1993	7	Dec	1992	7	Dec	1992	8	Dec	1991	8
Jan	1994	7	Jan	1993	7	Jan	1993	8	Jan	1992	8
Feb	1994	7	Feb	1993	7	Feb	1993	8	Feb	1992	8
Mar	1994	7	Mar	1993	7	Mar	1993	8	Mar	1992	8
Apr	1994	7	Apr	1993	7	Apr	1993	8	Apr	1992	8
May	1994	7	May	1993	7	May	1993	8	May	1992	8
Jun	1994	7	Jun	1993	7	Jun	1993	8	Jun	1992	8

Jul	1994	7	Jul	1993	7	Jul	1993	8	Jul	1992	8
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- SCHOOL GRADE, "NOT AGE" is the primary criteria for building teams.
- PLAYER MUST BE IN THE GRADE SPECIFIED BEFORE THE 1 YR AGE WAIVER CRITERIA CAN BE APPLIED TO THAT PLAYER. You cannot include a player on your roster/team just because s/he fits the age criteria. Players must be in the proper grade BEFORE the 1 Yr age waiver criteria can be used for that division.
- If a player is in the proper grade, but the player's age exceeds the maximum age limit for that division (e.g. player is older than the division's 1 yr waiver criteria), the player will not be allowed to play in that division, no exceptions.
- You cannot bring players down from a higher grade to play in a lower grade division, no exceptions.
- For safety and liability reasons, players are allowed to play up one grade level only.
- If a player has been advanced a grade (academically) in school, you may request that the player be allowed to play in the grade the player would be in if s/he were not advanced.

Team / Player Residency Rules

As stated in the mission statement, the CMYBL program places a heavy emphasis on the development of the youth basketball player at the town / local program level, with a focus on maintaining town and regional program boundaries. For this reason, the CMYBL program does not invite or allow AAU type teams into the league. An AAU type team is defined as a team made up of players from multiple towns that don't fall within a region as defined by a regional school system.

Given the rise in players opting to take advantage of school choice opportunities, the increase in the number of players with dual residency, and a few over-zealous coaches trying to stack their teams with out of town players, a number of questions and issues have come up the past couple of years regarding what team/program a player is allowed to play for given where they live and what school they attend. The following guidelines have been created to address these questions.

NOTE: In the sections that follow, the term TOWN is synonymous with PROGRAM and/or REGIONAL PROGRAM.

GOLDEN RULE

Player must live a majority of the time in the town in which he/she participates.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE GOLDEN RULE

NOTE: If a player is to be added to your roster based upon one or more of the following exceptions, you must notify your league commissioner via phone or email your intent to do so (include info about the player

and the exception to be applied) before you can officially add the player to your roster.

Also, if the exception is approved, when you submit your official roster, you must identify "by number" the exception that applies to the player on the roster, adjacent to the player's name.

1. PLAYER HAS DUAL RESIDENCY

- If a player has two places of residency, the player must play for the town in which he/she lives the majority of the time.

Example: Player lives in Town A with parent/guardian X during the week, but lives in Town B with parent/guardian Y, on one or more weekends; Player must play with the Town A program.

- NOTE: If there is a question as to which residence the player "lives the majority of the time", the residence closest to the school the player attends will be considered the residence where the player lives the majority of the time.

2. TOWN DOES NOT SUPPORT TRAVEL BASKETBALL

- If the town in which a player lives the majority of the time does not support travel basketball, the player is allowed to participate on a team from a surrounding town, at the discretion of the surrounding town. Limit per team is 2.
- If a player has played on a team from a surrounding town for 2 or more seasons, and the town in which the player lives has subsequently decided to support travel basketball, the player has the OPTION of playing for either program.
- If a player has played on a team from a surrounding town for only 1 season, and the town in which the player lives has subsequently decided to support travel basketball, and offers a team for which the player is grade/age eligible, the player must play on the team offered by his/her town's program.

3. TOWN SUPPORTS TRAVEL PROGRAM BUT NOT PLAYER'S GRADE/AGE DIVISION

- If the town in which a player lives the majority of the time supports travel basketball, but does not offer a team in player's grade/age division, the player is allowed to participate on a team from a surrounding town, at the discretion of the surrounding town. Limit per team is 2.
- If a player has played on a team from a surrounding town for 2 or more seasons, and the town in which the player lives has subsequently decided to support a team for which the player is grade/age eligible, the player has the OPTION of playing for either program.
- If a player has played on a team from a surrounding town for only 1 season, and the town in which the player lives has subsequently decided to support a team for which the player is grade/age eligible, the player must play on the team offered by his/her town's program.

4. PLAYER ATTENDS SCHOOL OUT OF TOWN

- If a player attends a school that is outside the town in which he/she lives the majority of the time, and both the town of residency and the town where the school is located support travel basketball, and a team for which the player is grade/age eligible, the player has the OPTION of playing for either program, but not both at the same time.

5. PLAYER CUT FROM A TEAM

- If a player attends a tryout in any program and is cut/released from that program, the player is allowed to tryout and play for a surrounding town/program, at the discretion of the surrounding town/program. Limit per team is 2.

Player Eligibility Challenge

The CMYBL league operates on "an honor based system". The league commissioners do not collect birth certificates, proof of residence, or school / grade attended. Each town/program (coaches and coordinators) are responsible for making sure their players are legitimate under the guidelines. Rosters are mandatory and once submitted, serve as the "official record" for the team.

All rosters must include the player's full name, address, phone number, age, and date of birth. If the player exercised any of the exceptions listed in the previous section, the exception must be noted on the roster adjacent to the player's name. Teams are limited to 2 players total, under exceptions 2, 3, or 5.

Every program, coordinator and/or coach, has the right to inquire (politely challenge) the legitimacy of a player's residency, school attended, grade, and age/date of birth. If a challenge is made, it must be submitted to the league commissioner, in writing or via email, no less than 6 days prior to the player's next scheduled game. To meet the challenge, the coach of the player in question must produce the player's proof of residency (if the challenge is in regards to residency), proof of school attending (if questioned about the school the player attends or grade), and a valid birth certificate to the league commissioner prior to the team's next scheduled game (if the player's age is in question). The player in question will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game unless the challenge has been met; e.g. until the appropriate documentation has been presented. NOTE: As a suggestion, if there is a player in your program that you know/believe people will question/challenge, possibly because of the player's size or ability etc., it would be best if the required information were collected ahead of time and be made available (kept with the coach) for viewing on the spot.

VI. Game Rules

NOTE: Rules Not Listed in this section will to be administered/enforced in accordance with the High School Federation Rule Book applicable to the current Basketball season.

Ball Size by Division

B4, B5, G4, G5, G6, G7, G8 Divisions: Woman's Collegiate 28.5 Basketball
B6, B7, B8 Divisions: Men's Collegiate Regulation Size Basketball

Game Length

B5/G5 Minimum: Two 13-Minute Stop Clock Halves.
B6/G6 Minimum: Two 14-Minute Stop Clock Halves.
B7,B8,G7,G8 Fixed: Two 15-Minute Stop Clock Halves.

Note: If the host site has enough gym time available/scheduled, and BOTH coaches agree, and BOTH officials agree, the B5/G5 games may be increased by 1 minute per half. All parties must agree, including the officials.

Half Time

All Divisions: 5 Minutes in length.

Overtime

All Divisions: 3 Minutes Per Overtime. As many as needed until tie is broken, or both teams agree to end play as a tie game. If there is concern as to whether or not there will be enough gym time available to play the remaining games hosted on that particular day the host site administrator has the right to call the game after the 1st overtime.

Time Outs

4 Per Game. 1 Additional per Each Overtime. Timeouts DO Accumulate!

Player Fouls

Player is disqualified when charged with 5th personal foul.

Bonus Free Throws

Team will shoot 1 and 1 on opponent's 7th team foul per half.
Team will shoot 2 Free Throws on opponent's 10th team foul per half.

Clock Operator

Host site MUST supply clock operator for all games played at host site.

Game Book / Scorekeepers

BOTH teams MUST provide their own scorebook and scorebook keeper for their game. Scorebook keepers from both teams must sit together at the same table with the clock operator. During the game, scorekeepers must talk to one another to confer on baskets and fouls. They must also crosscheck each other's books at half time to validate correct score, player and team fouls. Before the start of the game, the official will designate which scorebook/scorebook keeper is responsible for the book of record/official book. Before the game, both scorebooks must contain the full names and numbers of all participants on each team.

Full Court Pressing

Full court press is allowed for all divisions for the entire game unless the team ahead matches and/or exceeds the point spread limit for their respective division:

G5/B5/G6 - 8 points, B6/G7/G8 - 10 points, B7/B8 - 12 points

PRESS RULE COMMENTS: COACHES are responsible for monitoring 'press point spreads' NOT THE OFFICIALS. COACHES should "cordially" communicate with each other on the sidelines when the press point spread has been reached. Coaches must verbally tell their players when the press point spread has been reached and to back off. Coaches should "cordially" bring it to the attention of the officials when pressing is or is not allowed. This is a special league rule, not something all officials are used to dealing with. Once the press point spread has been reached, the team ahead MUST allow the team behind to advance the ball into the front court without pressure (as a courtesy, and to eliminate controversy, it is suggested that once the press point spread has been reached, the team ahead play defense inside the 3 point line). If the team behind attempts to fast break up the court following a defensive rebound the team ahead has the right to defend the fast-break anywhere on the court, including the backcourt.

If the team ahead reaches the press point spread and subsequently violates the press restriction rule they will be penalized. The 1st violation is a warning, and if the ball is stolen, it will be given back to the team behind for a throw in. Subsequent violations are a Team Technical charged to both the player and the coach. Officials have the final say on all judgment calls regarding the implementation of the pressing rule.

Free Throw "Violation" Line

For games involving B4, B5, G4, G5, and G6 divisions, white athletic tape will be placed on the floor 13.5 ft. from the basket; that is, approximately 1.5 feet in front of the regulation free throw line. The tape will serve as the "violation line" when free throws are attempted. All free throw attempts must begin from behind the regulation 15 foot line however, for the divisions itemized above, the free throw shooter will be allowed to carry forward during the attempted free throw, BUT can not violate the white tape line before the ball hits the rim. The host site/team is responsible for putting the white tape at the designated spot prior to start of game. In some gyms, tape is not

allowed to be put on the floor. In this instance, the officials will have to use their judgment in determining if the free throw shooter is in violation following the attempt. That is, the shooter may carry over the regulation line during the attempt, but cannot make a forward movement towards the ball until the ball hits the rim.

Uniforms / Jerseys

In order for the officials to be able to distinguish players on opposite teams, each team must wear uniforms of contrasting colors. Basically, if the colors are too closely matched, the officials will not be able to tell the difference between the players on each team. It is highly suggested that teams purchase reversible colored jerseys with numbers on the front and back of both reversible sides. If before the start of the game the officials determine that uniform colors are not distinct enough, the host team is responsible for correcting the situation.

Violations regarding Uniform Colors and Number infractions are not enforced in this league. This does not apply to duplicate numbers on multiple jerseys. No two players on the same team are allowed to wear the same numbered jerseys during the game.

VII. Violations and penalties of rules/guidelines

A. Age/Residency- School Choice policies

Any representative of the league that willfully disregards the rules and guidelines set by the CMYBL may be suspended for up to one full year from time of offense. The commissioner of the league, in which violation took place, may impose any penalty that they feel fits the offense, up to the one-year suspension. The league commissioner may also suspend any program from participating in the CMYBL for up to one year if he feels that the town is continuously disregarding the rules/guidelines set forth by the CMYBL.

VIII. Sportsmanship

All coaches prior to the 1st game of the season must read and sign the coaches disciplinary form regarding sportsmanship. This form is for all head coaches in CMYBL. The policies for coaches regarding sportsmanship also pertain to all players. These penalties outlined in the disciplinary form are for all coaches and players. It is the responsibility of the head coach to ensure his assistant coaches and players understand the rules governing sportsmanship.

IX. Appeal of any penalty handed down

Any coach or player who feels a penalty to be too severe may request in writing the right to a hearing in front of 3 Board Members from towns not involved with any incident that may have led to the ruling. The commissioner shall schedule the hearing and run the hearing, but will not have any say in the final outcome at the hearing. The 3 member board may impose any penalty it feels fit, up to, but more, than what the commissioner has already ruled. The suspension for coaches and players ejected from games MAY NOT BE APPEALED.

X. Cancellation or Rescheduling of games

A. Cancellation of all games due to inclement weather will be the responsibility of the Commissioner with input from town reps as needed. When a cancellation takes place, it shall be announced via email. At that point it is the town reps responsibility to ensure all coaches know of the cancellation.

B. Any coach who fails to show up for a game that is properly scheduled and announced, shall be responsible for paying both referees. The team showing up for a game, that does not take place due to another team "no-showing," shall not be responsible for either referee fee if the game is not played on the scheduled date or time. If a team "no shows" an away game, that team could also be held responsible for paying the host gym site 1.5 hours of the hourly gym usage fee they are charged by their town. If a game is not played due to a mistake by the league, it will be the responsibility of the league commissioner to pay the ref fees.

C. Any game to be made up will be the responsibility of the 2 teams involved with help coordinating from the league commissioner.

D. If two teams decide they must to reschedule a game after the schedule has been published, input from the league commissioner is required. Just pulling a game from the schedule often will mean other games need to be moved around as well to eliminate a "hole" in the schedule that day. Referees will not sit around for an hour. If a viable option can be found to reschedule a game after the schedule has been published, the team who requested the schedule change will be responsible for paying the league \$15 to cover referee scheduling changes.

XI. CMYBL COACHES DISCIPLINARY ACTION SHEET

Coaches and assistants in South Central Mass Youth Basketball League should act in a professional manner throughout the season with parents, players, other coaches and most of all, referees.

Any coach that is ejected from a game must leave the gymnasium and building. This coach may not re-enter the gymnasium as long as the Officials are still on site.

A one game suspension shall be enforced for any coach who is ejected from the game. This coach shall NOT be allowed to coach or be present at the next scheduled LEAGUE game.

A full year suspension shall be enforced for the following:

- * Any coach that is ejected twice in the same season.
- * Any coach that refuses to leave the premises after an ejection.
- * Any coach, after being ejected, confronts the game Officials after the game has been completed. (Returning into building is automatic league suspension.)
- * Any coach who does not refrain from being present at next suspended game.
- * Any coach that throws a punch at any time during a league event, whether it is prior to or after a game shall be suspended until further review by league.
- * Any coach suspended may appeal to the league to have his case reviewed. The one game suspension for ejection may not be appealed.

I have read and understand the CMYBL League Charter.

Coach's Name: (please print): _____

Coach's signature: _____

Town: _____

Age/Division: _____