



## How to Select a Basketball System

### **Selecting the right Basketball Hoop:**

- A **Portable** system depends on a base filled with sand or water for stability. It will take up more space than an In-Ground system. The portable base rolls on wheels allowing players to position the basketball system in the desired location. Simply assemble, fill the base and play today. There is no fussing with concrete. Most portable systems can be Adjustable or Fixed-Height.
- Portable units feature a heavy-duty plastic base that must be filled at assembly with either water or sand. Properly filled, a portable unit should provide a minimum 200 pounds of pullover resistance. Some portable home basketball systems on the market today provide as little as 70 pounds of pullover resistance. Rugged play or strong winds can tip a system that doesn't provide adequate pullover protection.
- An **In-Ground** system is permanently cemented into the ground, so be sure to pick an ideal location. In-ground systems tend to be more rigid and take up less space than portables. In-Ground systems can be Adjustable or Fixed-Height.
- As the name indicates, an in-ground basketball system is anchored in the ground and encased with cement. The advantage of an in-ground system is its stability. Because of an in-ground unit's permanence, make sure you select an area that allows enough room for play and will not interfere with your day-to-day life. Don't install an in-ground system near trees or other shrubbery that may, over time, overgrow the unit. When purchasing an in-ground unit, make sure it comes with a plastic, non-corrosive ground sleeve or an anchor bolt mounting system. A ground sleeve will help ease unit assembly and will help protect the base of the pole from elements that could cause corrosion.

### **Choosing between an Adjustable In-Ground vs. a Fixed-Height In-Ground System:**

- An **Adjustable** system is desirable when used by younger players who vary in age or who enjoy lowering the basket to dunk.
- A **Fixed-Height** system will be more rigid, and is the best choice if daily height adjustments are not necessary.

### **Choosing Special Purpose Systems:**

- A **Wall-Mount** system can be mounted on the side of a house or garage. Wall-Mount systems generally include backboard, rim, net and mounting kit.
- **Playground** systems are built for rugged playground use.

### **Choosing Backboards:**

- **Glass** is used for all competition backboards in high school, college and pro arenas because a glass backboard gives the best ball rebound.

- **Clear Acrylic** backboards provide the look of glass at a more economical price. **Tinted Acrylic** is available on some systems.
- **Steel** backboards are vandal resistant.
- **Aluminum** and **Fiberglass** backboards have an extra measure of rust resistance.
- The rebound effect of acrylic, steel, aluminum or fiberglass backboards can vary significantly. **The thickness and weight of the backboard will in large measure determine the quality of the rebound effect**, with thicker and heavier backboards having the more authentic rebound effect. However, for gymnasium ball response, no backboard compares to glass.

### **Backboard Size:**

- Official gymnasium size backboards are 42® x 72® and are offered on the best systems.
- Backboard sizes are matched to a system's strength with larger backboards offered on the more rugged systems.

### **Choosing Poles:**

- An in-ground system with a **built-in anchor system** will allow pole removal if you need to relocate the system.
- Poles that are cemented directly into the ground cannot be relocated, unless the system offers an **optional ground sleeve**.
- **Stability** and **durability** of a pole varies depending on the thickness of the metal and size of the pole. Generally the most stable poles are thicker and larger in size. Single piece poles are generally more stable than multiple piece poles.

### **Choosing Safety Setback:**

- The distance between the pole and the backboard can range from 18®-66® between systems.
- If you have aggressive players, you should consider a larger safety setback.

### **Choosing Basketball System Accessories:**

**Pole Padding** or **Backboard Padding** for added safety.

**Ground Sleeves** to add portability to in-ground systems.