

Parent/Player Manual 2011-2012

Travel Basketball



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Welcome!

Welcome to the Grayslake Park District's Travel Basketball Program. We want to congratulate you and wish you the best in the upcoming season. The staff is excited and looks forward to achieving success through teamwork, dedication and enthusiasm. We will improve individual skills that your child knows and teach them new techniques to improve their quality of team play. The goal of the Travel Sports program is to provide the highest quality programming as well as the best competition available.

This manual has been written by the Park District staff to answer current questions you may have, as well as working as a reference for future questions. Our staff has gone to great lengths to cover every aspect of our Travel Basketball program, including philosophy, policies, team information, conduct rules, equipment, uniforms, communication procedures and first aid. It is important to read and understand all sections of this manual. If there are any questions that are not answered in this manual, please do not hesitate to call Tracy Putkonen at 847-223-7529.

Competitive Travel Sports Philosophy

The philosophy of the Travel Sports program has been refined to ensure the highest quality of instruction and competition for those who are chosen to participate on a team. **We provide an advanced level of competition for those who excel at basketball and need competition that is comparable to their level of play.** We have discussed philosophy changes with our coaching staff and believe these improvements will benefit the players both instructionally and competitively. It is this commitment to the program by Park District staff, Grayslake High School District 127 Coaches, players and parents that will make the difference in our pursuit of excellence in Travel Sports.

It is important to understand that Travel Sports transcends typical league play taking it to a more competitive level that requires individual attention and discipline to the team. To put it simply, by playing against players who are equal or superior in skill level, we will improve our teams' quality of play.

The difference of this philosophy, compared to the past philosophy, is that the most effective players will receive more of the playing time; therefore there will be no minimum time of guaranteed play. **We formulate these teams to play at levels that will promote strong competition and we want to field the most skilled team possible.** It is the Park District's goal to create a strong team affiliation through improved quality of play. We want to promote dedication to the sport. This will provide the players with excellent examples of what is necessary to attain a goal: **commitment and dedication.**

The Travel Basketball program offers the highest quality equipment and experienced coaching that will ultimately improve the performance of all players. We are not trying to penalize less skilled players, but trying to improve the level of play for the team as a whole.

The Competitive Travel Sports Philosophy reaffirms the Park District's commitment to provide the highest quality in sports programming.

Coaches Complaint Procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a mechanism for reporting, reviewing and reacting to concerns and complaints regarding the youth basketball coaches. The intent is to raise the standard of service to youth in sports through the enforcement of the "Coaches' Code of Conduct."

The Code of Conduct defines the expectations for adults serving as coaches in youth sports and provides the tools to be used, when necessary, to check behavior and to respond with resolve to protect all children from the psychological, emotional, physical or social abuses that can be perpetrated against them by youth sport coaches.

Complaints may be made by anyone in the community (i.e., coaches, parents, players, spectators, referees, Park District staff, etc.). All complaints shall be in writing and signed when filed with staff. Upon receipt of a complaint concerning a coach, staff will meet to review the complaint and determine the course of action to be taken and promptly notify the coach involved that a complaint has been lodged against him.

Any coach who does not attend the prearranged meeting with staff (without prior notice) will be terminated from coaching.

The meeting is not intended to judge a person's character but to determine whether or not there was a violation of the Code of Ethics or Rules. The meeting will focus only on the facts of what happened to give rise to the complaint and to determine the seriousness of the violation, if, in fact, a violation in fact occurred. And, finally, whether or not this individual should be coaching children in our sports program.

The meeting will only address whether or not the coach violated the Code of Ethics or Rules. Therefore, only those who can provide direct testimony to the facts may speak. Character witnesses would not be appropriate at the hearing.

This is the final appeal step. The decision is final.

In the interest of time or severity of the offense, the Park District may waive the complaint procedure and take immediate action.

Policies

A. Punctuality

Staff should arrive 15 minutes before the start of each practice or 15 minutes before the arrival of their players. Coaches set their practice times before the start of each season and will try to stay with these times throughout the season. Coaches start and end their practice promptly. Players are expected to arrive five minutes before the actual time of practice. Players are required to be at designated game locations **30 minutes** before game time. This provides players with proper warm-up time to avoid injury. The game times will dictate the arrival time required of the players at both home and away sites. It is very important to arrive at the time assigned by the coach.

B. Player Pick-Up

It is each player's responsibility to arrange for transportation to and from every practice and game site. It is also the player's responsibility to be picked up immediately after each practice and game. Coaches have been instructed to stay at the game/practice site until all players are picked-up. The coaching staff will keep records of players who are continually being picked up late. The Supervisor will contact the parents who neglect this rule and the following disciplinary action will be taken. **Staff members and volunteer coaches have other commitments outside of their coaching duties; the Park District expects the parents to show respect to staff and coaches by being prompt when picking-up their athletes.**

C. Automobile Use

The Park District staff and volunteers **are not allowed** to drive program participants in their own personal automobiles. Liability is a prime concern and does not extend to coverage in personal automobiles. The responsibility lies with the parents for transporting their athletes to and from sporting events.

D. Discipline

One of the major lessons in sports is discipline. Coaches have been instructed to maintain discipline and control at all times during practices and games. The Park District expects all players to treat all coaches with the utmost respect. They are expected to address their coach as "Coach" or "Mr./Mrs. _____." Staff or Coaches will file an Incident Report on players who constantly disrupt their practice plans. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in any Park District Travel Sport. Coaches have the Supervisor's support in cutting playing time for players who cannot conduct themselves in a proper manner on or off the court. Coaches, in return, will demonstrate respect toward players, coaches, officials and their parents at all times. **By players, parents and coaches working together, this program will be an enjoyable learning experience for all.**

E. SPORTSMANSHIP

Each coach is responsible for the actions of their fans, players and assistant coaches.

Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. If an assistant coach, player or fan is ejected from participating or watching a game by the official, the head coach will have to leave the game as well and the head coach will not be allowed to coach in the next game.

Team Information

A. Registration Requirements

The registration fee for the 2011-2012 season will be \$400, plus cost of uniform, \$100 (if needed). **No refunds** of league fees will be made for any reason, except medical injury that prohibits the player from participating on the team (with a doctor's note).

B. Practice Information

The travel program usually involves 2-4 days of basketball per week. Those days may be in the form of games or practices, or a combination of the two. The coaching staff will determine the dates, times and locations of practices and games, and will communicate these schedules to the team in a timely manner. The schedules will also be updated on the Grayslake Park District website, www.glpd.com, as soon as they are known.

C. Player Conflicts

As this is a select program, the Park District and Coaches expect total commitment to the team. The only excused absences are sickness, family emergencies, religious education or school-required events. For any missed practices or games, the parent must call the coach. Please note that the responsibility of communicating absences is the responsibility of the parent.

D. Playing Time

Participation and success in practice is rewarded with playing time in games. Playing time is not guaranteed; however, Coaches strive to involve every player in each game. Coaches will attempt to be fair with regard to playing time. The Grayslake Park District makes no guarantees about minimum playing time. The Coaches will decide who starts and how much time each player will play. A number of factors will be taken into consideration in determining the amount of playtime a player receives. These factors include, but are not limited to: attendance at practices and games, attitude at practices and games, and playing ability.

E. Game Days And Times

The Grayslake Park District will send out game schedules as soon as they are complete. Please note that many teams (including Grayslake teams) borrow/rent gym space from local gyms; schedules are subject to change (and often do). We will notify coaches as soon as possible when changes occur.

Most home games start at 6:00pm on weeknights; home weekend games will usually be played on Sunday afternoons. ****However, teams will need to be available at all times.***

F. Parent Volunteers

Parent Volunteers are used to run the score clock/book throughout the season and to help staff the concession stand during the Grayslake Park District Basketball Tournament. Please let your child's coach know if you are available to help at games. A Volunteer list will be sent out in February to sign up to help in the concession stand during the Grayslake Invitational Basketball Tournament. This tournament is the main fundraiser for the Travel Basketball Program – parents are expected to volunteer during the tournament.

Uniforms

A. Uniform Requirements

Every player is required to wear a full and matching uniform during all league games and tournaments. A full uniform consists of a home/away jersey with number and team shorts.

Uniform Cost: Approximately \$100, depending on what the athlete needs.

Players may not wear watches or any jewelry during games or practices. The referee's decision on what apparel can be worn is final.

B. Uniform Replacement Procedures

What If I Lose My Uniform?

If a participant's jersey or shorts are lost or stolen, it is the responsibility of the participant's parents to contact the coach for a replacement. A fee will be charged for the replacement.

Leagues

A. Girls League

Grayslake Central and Grayslake North Girls will both participate in the Northern Illinois Girls Feeder Basketball Association (NIGFBA). All Game Schedules and directions to game sites will be posted on the NIGFBA website (www.nigfba.com). The Park District will pass schedules out to coaches when they are complete.

B. Boys League

Grayslake Central and Grayslake North Boys will both participate in the Northern Illinois Boys Feeder Basketball Conference (NIBFBC). The Park District will pass schedules out to coaches when they are complete.

First Aid

A. Supplies

Each coach will be furnished with a first aid kit and one case of ice packs. The ice packs are to be used for minor bumps and bruises, not for cooling down. Remember ice packs are not a substitute for regular ice. Any injuries, other than minor, will be treated as an emergency and 911 will be called.

B. First Aid Procedures

If a player, parent, spectator or coach is injured or requires first aid at a practice or a game, an Accident Report Form must be completed and turned into the Athletic Supervisor.

Grayslake Park District Coaching Communication Policy Travel Basketball Program

- In a continuing effort to improve program efficiencies and effectiveness, Parents shall not approach the Coach or Team Manager for a minimum of 3 hours following a game. Parents shall not approach or congregate around the team immediately after a game, during the time when the Coach is meeting with the team.
- Parents may contact Coaches after the 3 hours to discuss following concerns:
 1. The mental and physical well being of your son/daughter.
 2. Ways to help your child improve.
 3. Concerns about your child's behavior.
- Issues not appropriate to discuss with Coaches:
 1. Playing Time.
 2. Team Strategy.
 3. Play calling.
 4. Other team players.

Failure to abide by the rules will result in the player's removal from the team.

The only questions that parents should ask are: directions to games and time/place of practices. Parents are responsible for notifying the coach if a player will be absent from a practice or a game.

The Grayslake Park District has chosen Travel Basketball Coaches to train, motivate, field the strongest team and (most importantly) make all decisions regarding substitutions.

Important Phone Numbers

Who Do I Contact If There Is An Emergency Or Conflict?

Certain situations will arise during the season that will warrant necessary contact of specific Park District personnel. The following chain of command has been devised to assist you in directing any emergencies, conflicts, questions, etc., to the right person(s) and in the proper sequence. Any general questions should be directed to your coach.

Staff:

Grayslake Park District: (847) 223-7529
Tracy Putkonen, Recreation Supervisor
(847) 223-7529 work
(847) 707-5797 cell
tputkonen@glpd.com

Nate Flannery, Athletic Supervisor
(847) 223-7529 work
(847) 707-5798 cell
nflannery@glpd.com

Parent's Code of Ethics:

I/We the Parents/Guardians of _____ pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following the Parent's Code of Ethics.

I WILL....

- Be encouraging, supportive and affirmative towards my child's play, and his/her teammates' play, and off the court.
- Place the emotional well being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.
- Insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.
- Support and respect coaches, team manager, trainer and members of the team.
- Respect the officials and accept their decisions and calls.
- Demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- Remember that the game is for youth, not adults.
- Do my best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- Ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- Promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience within my personal constraints by assisting with coaching, being a respectful fan, or whatever I am capable of doing.
- Maintain communication with the coach regarding my child's progress or participation, at appropriate mutually agreeable times and preferably via email.
- Refrain from discussions of any concerns not addressed with the coach, team manager or with the Park District to other parents until issue is fully resolved.
- Fulfill my financial obligation to the Park District in a timely manner to avoid interruption in my child's participation.
- Comply will all rules, policies and procedures of the team and Park District.
- Ensure that all visiting spectators attending a game with me adhere to this code of conduct.
- Volunteer my services and talents to the team and Park District when possible, if the coach, team manager or Park District requests help.

FURTHER, I WILL NOT...

1. Engage in loud, disrespectful or hostile comments directed toward any official.
2. Engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach player or parent.
3. Coach or criticize any player, including my own.

I understand that failure to comply with the Code of Ethics policy may lead to disciplinary action being taken against me, family members, guests and/or my child. Such disciplinary action may include suspensions or expulsion from the program with no refund of program fees.

Player's Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experiences and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Player's Code of Ethics pledge:

I WILL....

- Encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
 - Attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot.
 - Do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
 - Treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race; sex, creed or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
 - Encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
 - Do my very best in school.
 - Remember that sports participation is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
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- I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun.
 - I deserve to play in an environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

I understand that failure to comply with the Code of Ethics policy may lead to disciplinary action being taken against me. Such disciplinary action may include suspensions or expulsion from the program with no refund of program fees.

We have read, understand and accept the above Parent/Player Manual and agree to maintain the highest level of ethics and sportsmanship towards players, officials, opponents, coaches and administrators.

Player Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Parents/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Grade: _____

Gender: _____

Feeder School (check one): Central _____ North _____