

St. Ignatius Wildcats

Boys' Basketball Handbook

Mission Statement

As an extension of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, a Roman Catholic community, and the Saint Ignatius Athletic Association, the boys' basketball program exists to supplement the Christian Values being taught to eligible boys of the parish through participation in basketball. Through generously giving of our time and talents, we strive to make quality instruction and resources available to every player. We will provide participants the opportunity to learn sportsmanship, build self confidence, and develop respect for themselves, their teammates, coaches, parents, and officials.

Guiding Principles

- It should be self evident from our conduct that we are a Roman Catholic organization
- Prayer is expected at practices, games and team events
- Provide an enjoyable, constructive outlet for our children
- Stress fundamental, skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship
- Compete to the best of our ability and accept the results
- Develop respect and appreciation of our God given talents and blessings
- We will follow rules provided by the St. Ignatius parish, Athletic Association, and the Western Basketball Conference

Signups

Signups will be open until the day before evaluations. The selection process and decision on numbers of teams and coaches dictates that late signups are not allowed. Exception to the late signup is if a grade needs additional players to even up teams.

Refunds will only be made in the event of an injury or in an exceptional circumstance at the discretion of the coordinator(s). Refunds will NEVER be made based on a player deciding NOT to play after team selections are made.

Uniforms

Each player will receive a uniform (jersey and shorts for 3rd-8th, a t shirt for 2nd). Uniforms will only be distributed to players who are in good standing by having turned in uniforms from other sports played at St Ignatius.

Uniforms must be returned in good condition and in a timely manner. Any unreturned, lost or damaged uniform will result in a \$80 fee (\$40 for jersey and \$40 for shorts) by the responsible parent/guardian.

Selection of Coaches

Based upon response and program needs, the pool of interested coaches will be reviewed and selected by the coordinator(s). Coordinator(s) will do their best to find the most technically qualified and competent coaches to provide the student athletes the best possible learning experience.

While we appreciate the time commitment a coach invests, there is no guarantee that an individual will be selected to coach the following year based on coaching a team the previous year. The criteria below will determine coach selection from year to year.

HEAD COACH and ASSISTANT COACH SELECTION

The Coordinator(s) will make the final decision regarding coaches, based upon the criteria below. This list is in no particular order:

- Completion of the required Archdiocesan Training and background check.
- Character and sportsmanship
- Knowledge of the sport fundamentals and rules
- Coaching experience
- Ability to communicate with children
- Time availability and dependability
- Ability to communicate with parents
- Fairness to children and the program
- Adherence to the Athletic Association policies
- Ability to follow rules

For 2nd-4th grade and for Division 3 (D3) teams, the children of the head coach and **one** assistant coach will be guaranteed to be on the team. Any additional coaches will be chosen after the teams have been determined.

An effort is made to have coaches not coach their own children on Division 1 (D1) and Division 2 (D2) teams. However, if qualified coaches are not found for those levels, an exception will be made at the discretion of the coordinator(s).

PLAYING TIME RECOMMENDATIONS

Grade	WBC – per Rulebook	St. Ignatius
3 rd -4 th	One continuous quarter	As equal as possible
5 th -6 th	One continuous quarter	One continuous quarter
7 th -8 th	Must make an appearance in the game	One quarter (does not have to be continuous)

Additional Playing Time Notes:

- Playing time other than the minimum is at the discretion of the head coach
- Players are expected to be at all practices and games and arrive on time. Players missing practices or games are not required to play the following game or games, this is determined at the discretion of the head coach.
- Players are expected to know roles and responsibilities as they relate to offense, defense.
- Playing time is directly commensurate with players' ability to know roles, responsibilities, and effort in practices and games.
- 3rd and 4th grades should split playing time as equally as possible among the players. This may not be the case in a single game, but should equal out on the whole for the season.

St. Ignatius Tournament

St Ignatius hosts the boys' basketball tournament that starts the weekend after Christmas and typically finishes the Sunday of Martin Luther King weekend.

This tournament is the primary reason basketball entry fees are so low. A significant portion of the annual revenue comes from the tournament. All teams from 3rd-8th grade will play at least one game. Parents are expected to work one or more shifts either at the front door or in the concession area.

Also critical to the success of the tournament is a free program that provides revenue through business sponsorships. The program is always looking for new sponsors – extra tournament entries are awarded to any teams who bring in new sponsors to the program.

TEAMS

2nd Grade – Instructional League Play

- St Bernard hosts an instructional league. While there is an official, a clock and score is kept, there are no expectations for winning or losing. The league follows the 3rd grade WBC rulebook. Skill development is the expectation at this level.
- Players are coached on positions
- Teams have one practice a week and one game at St Bernard on the weekends. Season normally starts the first weekend of January.
- Emphasis placed on basic skills such as:
 - Dribbling
 - Shooting
 - Passing
 - Rebounding
- St Bernard may host a one day mini-tournament. Teams should not be playing in any other tournaments.

Team Selection

- After a 1 hour evaluation session, players are drafted by head coaches in snaking draft fashion with the expectation that teams are split fairly. Coaches can select one assistant coach only and both coaches' children will be on that team. Additional assistants can be selected after the draft.

3rd and 4th Grade – Instructional League Play / Competitive Tournament Play

- Basketball rules are modified to encourage kids of all skill levels to compete.
- Emphasis placed on team play as well as individual basic skills such as:
 - Dribbling
 - Shooting
 - Passing
 - Rebounding
- Teams will be placed into tournaments during the season. Each team eligible for the league postseason tournament will participate.

Team Selection

- After a 1 hour evaluation session, players are drafted by head coaches in snaking draft fashion with the expectation that teams are split fairly. Coaches can select one assistant coach only and both coaches' children will be on that team. Additional assistants can be selected after the draft.

5th - 8th Grades

- Recreational and Competitive play
- Coaches **require** players to know roles and responsibilities as they relate to offense, defense
- Coaches **require** effort and discipline
- Coaches prepare players for high school basketball at the A and B high competition levels.
- Teams will be placed into 3 or more tournaments during the season. D1 teams typically play in more tournaments than other levels. Coaches may choose to participate in fewer tournaments. Each team eligible for the league postseason tournament will participate.

D1 and D2 Teams

- D1 and D2 teams are considered high competition or select teams for competitive play
- A player chosen for either D1 or D2 is expected to make this team their first extra curricular activity.
- Players selected on an D1 or D2 team DO NOT have the option to play down on a lower level. This is not fair to the team or to a player who was selected to a lower level and is now asked to "play up".

Team Selection Process

- Players are observed on various skills
 - Dribbling
 - Shooting
 - Passing
 - Rebounding
 - Speed/Athleticism
 - Defense
 - Aggressiveness
 - Effort
 - Coachability
- Players are placed on teams where they will have the most success.
- Evaluations will be conducted by the coordinator(s) with the assistance of the coaches, parents, and/or volunteers. A parent will not be involved in the evaluation his or her own child.
- Evaluation sessions are CLOSED to parents. Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the coordinator(s) (e.g. health concerns with a child).
- At the end of an initial 1 hour evaluation, a subset players will be invited back to a 2nd session. Players who are not invited back will be placed on a D3 team. However, being invited back does not guarantee placement on a D1 or D2 team.
- Players are encouraged to attend all try out times in order to be considered for high competition but must attend a minimum of one try out unless other arrangements are made with the coordinator(s).
 - Anyone missing the first session can attend the 2nd session.
- Injuries do not eliminate players from being placed on a high competition team. Injured players unable to try out will be placed on a team at the discretion of the coordinator(s) and will be based heavily on the input of coach(es) from the previous year.
- Final team assignments will be made by the coaches and coordinator(s).
- The assessment of coachability and game skills may be based on the prior season evaluation of players. “Knowing” a player’s skill level, attitude, and coachability from their previous year(s) of basketball is a factor in proper team placement.
- Team selection will occur after the final evaluation session.
- A coordinator or coach who is a parent with a child in the grade being selected will NOT be in the room at the time of selecting the team.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- Any player, coach, parent, or fan exhibiting unsportsmanlike behavior may be disciplined by the Athletic Association, Basketball Coordinator, or

league. Unsportsmanlike behavior simply stated is any behavior other than what is expected of a Roman Catholic citizen.

- Any player, coach, parent, or fan ejected from a game (league or non-league) may be disciplined by the Athletic Association and/or Basketball Coordinator. The penalty for St. Ignatius boys' basketball is automatically a one game suspension. Circumstances surrounding the incident may be discussed to either increase or decrease the suspension.
- Immediate notification to the Athletic Association president must occur should a player, coach, parent, or fan be unwilling to serve a suspension. The Athletic Association president and board will determine the next action.
- It is expected that the suspended individual issue an apology to all effected parties.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Coach

- Coach's perspective on the game of basketball
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the team
- Locations and times of all practices and games. (Note: Game dates/times are out of the control of coaches. Practice times are selected by the head coach and times are selected for the best fit into the coach's schedule).
- Team requirements
- Procedure should your child be injured
- Discipline that impacts athlete's playing time or position
- **Basketball is expected to be the first extra-curricular commitment for D1 and D2 levels**

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Appropriate Procedures for Discussing Concerns with the Head Coach

- Set up an appointment with the coach (contact the coordinator to set up the meeting if unable to reach the head coach)
- **Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution)**
- Discussions with coaches are on an individual basis, not by committee

- Playing time discussions are asked to be scheduled according to the above criteria with a **minimum of 24hours** following the activity / game in question.

If The Meeting with the Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution

- Call to set up an appointment with the coordinator(s)
- Determine the appropriate next step at this meeting