

**St. Ignatius Wildcats**

**Girls' Basketball Handbook**

## **Mission Statement**

As an extension of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, a Roman Catholic community, and the Saint Ignatius Athletic Association, the girls' basketball program exists to supplement the Christian Values being taught to eligible girls 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 Girls Western Athletic Conference (GWAC)

## **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 girls' basketball is a two 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.

## **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 fingerprinting.
- 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
- Commitment and willingness to volunteer for extra GBB activities

As per GWAC regulations, 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.

## **PLAYING TIME RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>GWAC – per Rulebook</b>	<b>St. Ignatius</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>As equal as possible</b>	<b>As equal as possible</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Minimum of 1 quarter (does not have to be continuous)</b>	<b>Minimum of 1 quarter (does not have to be continuous)</b>

### **Additional Playing Time Notes:**

- **Playing time other than the minimum is at the discretion of the head coach. A coach may choose to play someone one entire quarter or spread that time among various quarters.**
- **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.**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades should split playing time as equally as possible among the players.**

# **TEAMS**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Instructional League Play / Competitive Tournament Play**

- Grade 3
- Players are coached on positions
- Emphasis placed on basic skills such as:
  - Dribbling
  - Shooting
  - Passing
  - Rebounding
- There are no officials for league play – league games officiated by coaches
- Tournament play has one referee
- No fast breaking, defense must remain inside 3 point line extended
- Copy of complete rule book available at [gwacsports.com](http://gwacsports.com)

### **Team Selection**

- Players are drafted by head coaches in round robin fashion.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Instructional League Play / Competitive Tournament Play**

- Grade 4
- Players are coached on positions
- Emphasis placed on basic skills such as:
  - Dribbling
  - Shooting
  - Passing
  - Rebounding
- One official for both league and tournament play
- Fast breaking allowed, defense must remain inside volleyball line extended
- Copy of complete rule book available at [gwacsports.com](http://gwacsports.com)

### **Team Selection**

- Players are drafted by head coaches in round robin fashion.

## **5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

- Grades 5 & 6
- Grades 7 & 8
- 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 B1 high competition levels.

### **“A” and “B1” Teams**

- “A” and “B1” teams are considered high competition or select teams for competitive play
- A player chosen for either “A” or “B1” is expected to make this team their first extra curricular activity. If unable to do so then the player/parent should notify the coordinator **before** try outs and request to be placed on a “B” level team.

### **Try-out Process**

- Players are observed on various skills
  - Dribbling
  - Shooting
  - Passing
  - Rebounding
  - Catching
  - Speed
  - Defense
  - Aggressiveness
  - Effort
  - Coachability
- Try-outs will be conducted by the coordinator(s) with assistance of the coaches, parents, and/or volunteers.
- 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).
- 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).
- 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.

## **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. 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grades tend to practice later 8:00 – 10:00 PM but this is not exclusive).
- Team requirements
- Procedure should your child be injured
- Discipline that impacts athlete's playing time or position
- **GBB is the first extra-curricular commitment for ""A" and "B1" levels**

## **Communication Coaches Expect From Parents**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- **GBB is the first extra-curricular commitment for ""A" and "B1" levels**
- 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