Dear Coaches,

Below are the club team rules that we want to set as blanket rules across the board for the club. These rules are intended to make your job easier and teams more manageable. I would like all coaches to implement these rules at the start of the season with their teams. Please hold a short meeting at the first training session next week for 5 minutes to set the ground rules. Make sure at least one parent is available, so everyone is clear on what is expected. While most of these rules should be applied to every team, some of you have inexperienced players and are familiar with your existing players and parents, so this approach may not suit everyone. However, this is the direction we want the club to go in.

1. If a player does not show up to training without notifying the coach, they will play extremely limited or no game time at all the next Saturday they show up. Players will be informed that if they miss training without a particularly good reason, they will miss the next game but are still expected to show up and support their teammates. Playing time on Saturday is earned through hard work, not expected. It is unfair for players who work hard to improve to receive the same playing time as those who do not.

Answer to parents complaining: Ask them how their child would feel if they were benched in favour of another child who attended all practices. We want to teach our kids the value of hard work, punctuality, and respect, which extends beyond basketball and prepares them for real-life situations.

1. If a child has been sick all day, please do not message five minutes before training to say they cannot attend. We need to know as soon as possible since we plan for training with all players present. Messaging five minutes before training is the same as not contacting us and not attending training.
2. When someone is talking, everyone else must listen and pay attention. If a ball bounces, there will be a penalty for the whole team. This rule promotes accountability for individual actions and emphasizes that in team sports, one player's behaviour affects everyone. This will also identify leaders on your team who are prepared to speak up and communicate, a valuable skill for life beyond basketball.
3. If we say, "get a quick drink" players have 30 seconds to get a sip of water and return to the court. If someone shoots a ball or does anything other than get a drink or use the restroom, there will be penalties. If one player does not listen to instructions, penalties will apply to the whole team. Listening and following instructions are important skills for jobs, school, and life, and we aim to teach these alongside basketball skills.
4. Looking at mom or dad during games while on the court will result in being sat on the bench next to the coach. It is important for parents to understand that their role is to support and cheer for the team. Coaching or talking to their kids from the sideline can hinder their development and confuse the child.

Children do not want to get in trouble or sit on the bench

during games, which will happen if parents confuse them. Even if a parent is at training and says, “but I know all the plays,” they may not know about recent changes, which can confuse the child and affect the entire team.

This is the start of creating a fun, strong, professional club. The image we want to create heavily relies on us as coaches. My goal is for us to be the best, which does not mean having the most teams or being the biggest club or winning the most finals. It means being seen as a very professional club that is respectful and courteous, good sports, and tough competitors. If anyone does not agree with this direction, that is okay, but this is the path we want to take the club. Some teams play for fun with their mates, and you know your teams best to gauge how much and how strictly to enforce these rules, but please ensure everyone understands our direction moving forward.

Kind Regards,

Brett McKean

Officer Basketball Operations

Top of Form