

# BULLDAWGS



# BASKETBALL

*Handbook  
Updated 9-11-11*

**The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize both the parents and players with the BullDawgs Basketball Club, and to provide a better understanding. It is hoped that this handbook will answer many of the questions that may arise during the year. The rules outlined in this handbook must be followed and enforced to insure the success of the BullDawgs.**

- ◆ Profanity of any kind is not allowed and will not be tolerated before, during or after any activity
- ◆ Verbal and physical abuse is strictly prohibited.
- ◆ Parents are not allowed to taunt or conduct themselves in a manner meant to incite a reaction from opposing players, coaches, parents or officials and event staff.
- ◆ Parents are asked to cheer **for** the BullDawgs in a positive manner and **not against** opponents in a negative manner.
- ◆ Show respect to those around you.
- ◆ Support coaches and Team Managers.
- ◆ Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- ◆ Stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.

### **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

- ◆ Profanity of any kind is not allowed and will not be tolerated
- ◆ Fighting is strictly prohibited.
- ◆ Players are not allowed to taunt, trash talk or conduct themselves in a manner meant to incite a reaction from an opposing players, coaches, spectators or officials and event staff.
- ◆ Players are required to be in control of themselves during games.
- ◆ Players must practice good sportsmanship and maintain a positive attitude at all times.
- ◆ Be a team player and always support teammates with encouragement.
- ◆ Be aware of team schedule and attend all practices, games or other team events.
- ◆ Advise coaches immediately of any injury, however minor.
- ◆ Have fun and enjoy the game.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The BullDawgs Basketball Club is committed to good sportsmanship at all times. Players must represent themselves and the team in a positive and respectful manner. Parents are expected to set an example of proper conduct for players and those around them. Remember, the contest is only a game and not a matter of life or death for the player, coach, official spectator or parent. Any violation of these codes of conduct will result in a review of the circumstances by the Head Coach of the BullDawgs and may result in action including reprimand, suspension or dismissal from the team.

### **Program Philosophy**

The BullDawgs are a year round program that was created to help basketball players improve their basketball skills and gain playing experience at an advanced and challenging level. The emphasis of the program is to foster an environment where academic excellence is encouraged and expected and individual skill development is achieved. The BullDawgs strive to maintain a positive and productive program by focusing on and accomplishing the following goals:

- ✚ To provide each player an opportunity to develop and improve their basketball skills at the highest level possible.
- ✚ To promote sportsmanship, athletic excellence and team play.
- ✚ Develop strong citizenship and pride by maintaining an environment that emphasizes hard work, discipline and respect for the individual, the team, and the community.
- ✚ Expose players to new environments and experiences through tournament play.
- ✚ Provide strong adult coaches for role models.
- ✚ To improve each players self-esteem and academic progress.
- ✚ To foster a Team atmosphere in which **the good of the whole team** is valued as well as the needs of each individual.
- ✚ To develop leadership skills, physical, mental, social and emotional well being.
- ✚ To create teams that will be competitive at the local, state, and national level.
- ✚ Instill a solid work ethic in our players that will benefit them for years to come.
- ✚ Our program is dedicated to treating all athletes fairly. Playing basketball with the BullDawgs requires a strong commitment to the game, the program, coaches, and teammates.

### **Time Commitment**

The program is designed for players who desire to play a much higher level of competitive year round basketball, and who are willing to commit to a twice a week practice schedule and 6-8 tournaments during these seasons. **Those who play other sports or have other commitments during this time of year should consider this before trying out for the BullDawgs.** Players and his/her parents are expected to understand, and be willing to make, the time commitment required for program basketball as outlined in this handbook.

### **Financial Commitment**

Participation in the BullDawgs requires some financial responsibilities, but for the parent of a player who wants the training and experiences associated with competitive basketball, it is both beneficial and well worth the investment

## **Parent Support/Fundraising**

It is expected that each parent will support the BullDawgs program through the active participation and contribution of time for various tasks at hosted tournaments or fulfilling other time-related tasks that may arise. The season will provide plenty of fundraising opportunities and it is expected that all parents and players will support the BullDawgs by actively participating in these fund raising activities.

## **Team Operation & Administration**

Each team **MUST** have two positions to be filled by parents to help with the administration of the program. Each of these positions is extremely important to the success of the team and program. These are volunteer positions that require a considerable dedication of time. All players and parents will be expected to support the efforts of these individuals.

### ***Team Manager***

- Coordinates team activities.
- Along with the coach, will conduct parent meetings.
- Communicates and ensures that players and parents are informed of activities, practice times, and games.
- Organizes tournament schedule and related activities such as hotel arrangements, directions, registration for the tournament and assisting with travel arrangements for players if needed.
- Collection of all monies, registration, participation, practice and tournament fees.

### ***Team Fundraising***

- Organizes and coordinates program fundraising activities.
- Promotes participation of parents and players in fundraising activities organized by the Program.
- Encourages parents to help identify and solicit potential corporate sponsorships.



## Player, Coach and Parent Relationship

- ◆ Program basketball teaches many positive traits such as the cooperation and self-discipline.
- ◆ Parents must not issue instructions to the players that are contrary to those of the coach.
- ◆ Encourage their child to follow their coach's instructions and leave the instruction to the coach.
- ◆ Teach your child how to cope with the frustrations of dealing with the emotion-charged dynamic of a highly competitive team.
- ◆ Players must be taught cooperation, how to handle positive as well as negative feedback about their on-court performance with adversity, and how to graciously win or lose.

**Under no circumstances may a parent approach a coach with a complaint or an unsolicited evaluation of coaching philosophy. The program will not tolerate any form of verbal or physical abuse of coaches or players by parents, players, or spectators. If the guidelines of the organization are not followed, the player will be asked to leave the program.**

## Uniforms

Players will supply their own shoes and practice gear. All new players will be required to purchase their own uniform.



## **Program Affiliation**

The BullDawgs Basketball Club, coaches and players are members of the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union). The AAU is one of the largest sports organizations in the United States. The difference between AAU basketball and other basketball leagues is based on the use of full high school rules. No developmental limitations are placed on the game such as participation and no-press/fast-break rules. This promotes competitive play and the broadest exposure to fundamentals and advanced techniques of the game.

## **AAU Membership**

All players must have a current AAU “Added Benefits” membership in order to participate in any BullDawgs tryout, practice or game. AAU membership runs annually from September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>. The cost for the AAU “added benefit” membership is \$14.00 and the BullDawgs Basketball Program will not refund this fee under any circumstances.

## **Age Division**

The Age/Grade Divisions for competition for boys and girls shall be in accordance with AAU rules. The date to determine eligibility is September 1<sup>st</sup> for boys and July 1<sup>st</sup> for girls of the past year. Example: A player cannot play in the 12U division if they turn 13 before eligibility date. There is a grade exception rule that may apply to a player in a certain grade who may have a birthday before the eligibility date. It is mandatory that each player provide a copy of their birth certificate in order to play for the BullDawgs.

## **Academic Requirement**

The BullDawgs strongly encourages that all players maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA in school in order to remain eligible to participate in practices and tournaments. Failure to maintain the required GPA will result in suspension of certain team privileges from the team. All players will be required to sign the Academic Requirement Agreement and present their report cards periodically during the season for review as required by coaches.

**Tryouts/Selection**

**2.75 gpa**

**Process**

Players will be selected based on what the player does during the try out. Every effort will be made to ensure players have an opportunity to demonstrate their basketball abilities during the tryout period and will be evaluated on as ball handling, shooting, and passing along with demonstrating a positive attitude, work ethic, knowledge of the game and satisfactory academic performance. **If a player does not make one of the teams, he/she is encouraged to continue to develop their abilities and try out again in the future. It is the intention of the BullDawgs to have 9-12 players on the travel roster.**

## **Playing Time**

The BullDawgs play to win. Program basketball is competitive basketball and is designed for players who possess more advanced basketball skills and who desire a more challenging playing experiences. Over the course of the season each player will get a fair amount of playing time, but no attempt is made to give equal playing time and there is no promise of minimum playing time. **Playing time is earned, and this is an important consideration for any program basketball player. Playing time will depend on an objective evaluation of a number of factors such as practice attendance, attitude and effort, game match-ups, foul trouble, and basketball ability. Coaches have discretion over playing time, and nothing will detract from a tournament experience more than repeated playing time discussions.**

## **Practices**

All practices are scheduled in advance and players are expected to attend practices. Teams will practice at least once per week and each practice will last between 1 and 2 hours. Every effort will be made to follow practice schedules as closely as possible, however, things happen. Please be flexible and cooperative when practice schedules need to be changed. As there are school activities and other commitments, which may conflict with practice from time to time, coaches will work with players and parents individually in those cases. To emphasize player responsibility, **the player (and not the parent) who will miss a practice is expected to notify the coach ahead of time that he/she will miss practice and the reason why.** Program basketball players are expected to commit themselves to a rigorous practice schedule, and their team depends on them to do so. **Playing time will be affected by unexcused absences or tardiness.**

## Practice Rules

- ◆ No gum chewing during practice.
- ◆ No jewelry may be worn.
- ◆ Only water is allowed in the gym.
- ◆ Players must arrive on time & be picked up promptly at the end of practice.
- ◆ Parents are always welcome to watch practice, however, leave the coaching to the coach.
- ◆ Players must be in uniform.
- ◆ **No one other than players on the court**

## Tournaments

Tournaments provide teams the opportunity to play against high-level competition and the games are the payoff for all the hard work at practice. As is common with many of these tournaments, it may not be known until a day or two before the tournament where, when, and against whom the BullDawgs will play their first game. Parents and players are asked to be both patient and flexible. Tournament information will be passed along as soon as it is available. Tournaments generally can start on Friday or Saturday and end on Sunday. Typically, the results of games played will determine where, when, and against whom the BullDawgs play next. The team may play from two to four games in a tournament.

Players are expected to commit to 3-4 tournaments over the course of the program season. Some tournaments will be local (within the bay area) and others will be out-of-town (Sacramento, Reno, etc.) and may require an overnight stay. The coach and Team Manager will select the appropriate number and location of tournaments after receiving input from parents as to player availability for tournaments under consideration. Once a BullDawgs team tournament schedule is finalized, it is expected that players will attend all tournaments and be ready to play.



As it is the goal of each BullDawgs team to reach the AAU National Tournament, at least one AAU National Qualifier tournament will be scheduled. If the team qualifies for the AAU National Tournament, this will be an additional expense for the team.

## Travel Conduct & Rules

As mentioned, the team will be traveling to other cities to compete in tournaments, which will sometimes require an overnight stay. It is strongly recommend that parents travel with players. Additionally, unaccompanied players may have to make arrangements with another family for a ride and to share travel and lodging expenses.

Additional expenses will occur depending upon the number of out-of-town tournaments each team decides to enter. The BullDawgs will use group buying power to reduce these costs whenever possible. However, parents and players will be responsible for all travel expenses. **It is strongly suggested that potential travel costs be reviewed at the beginning of the season, and that parents begin to plan for these expenditures as early as possible.**

- Coaches depending on starting time for games the following morning may determine earlier curfew times.
- No person other than players, family members, coaches or chaperones is permitted inside a player's hotel room.
- Hotel room phone numbers are not to be given out to anyone except players, family members, coaches or chaperones.
- The coach makes hotel room assignments for players without parents and these players will be supervised by the head coach or assigned chaperones.
- Hotel rules must be followed at all times. Any type of loud or disruptive behavior that may disturb other hotel guests will not be tolerated.
- Direction of coaches or assigned chaperones must be followed at all times.
- When sharing a room, players are expected to be respectful and considerate to their teammates at all times.
- Players **MAY NOT** go anywhere alone. Players must receive permission from a parent, coach or chaperone to leave the team group and then must partner with other team members before leaving the group.

***“Our mission is to teach children using  
the most effective methods to  
help them be their  
best on the basketball court and beyond”***

### ***Goals***

***Enhance skills***

***Motivate***

***Increase activity levels.***

***Increase flexibility***

***Repetition of fundamentals.***

***Set personal fitness goals***

***Increase Strength***

***Build positive self-worth***

## **BULLDAWGS BASKETBALL PROGRAM HANDBOOK ACCEPTANCE**

### **FALL/WINTER    SPRING/SUMMER**

I acknowledge that I have received, read and discussed with my son/daughter the information in the BullDawgs Basketball Program Player Parent Handbook. I understand and agree to abide by the policies, rules and requirements as outlined in the handbook including Parent and Player Codes of Conduct; AAU "added benefits" membership and financial commitments. Furthermore, I understand that a player may not begin his/her season with the BullDawgs until all required forms are signed and submitted to the Team Manager

The BullDawgs Basketball Program requires that all players maintain a minimum 2.75 grade point average in school in order to remain eligible to participate in practices and tournaments. Failure to maintain the required GPA will result in reduced participation from the team. Any subsequent violations of this policy may result in permanent dismissal from the team. All players are required to present their report cards periodically during the season for review as required by coaches. This policy will be strictly enforced. The player and his/her parents must sign this agreement prior to participating in any BullDawgs practice or tournament

I understand that I must meet the academic standards set by the BullDawgs Basketball Program. If I fail to meet these standards, I also understand that I will be suspended for a period of not less than two weeks. I also understand that I must present my report card at my coach's request.

#### **Player/Club Attachment**

**"Players may compete only for the AAU club or organization with which they are attached, as provided by the AAU Code.**

**6.2.1 For team/club sports only. If an athlete participates in an AAU sanctioned league for one group member (club), that athlete may elect to affiliate immediately with a second group member (club) for the purpose of qualifying for an AAU National Championship. Participate may be simultaneous. A league is made up of teams/clubs that compete only among themselves for a defined period of time.**

**6.3 Transfers. An attached youth member may transfer to another club in the same sport under the following conditions:**

**6.3.1 If the youth member has not competed in any AAU sanctioned events in that Sport for a period of sixty (60) days.**

**6.3.2 When the transfer is for the purpose of competing with a team which has qualified for a National Championship as provided by National Sport Committee rules.**

**6.3.3 If the Registrar determines that the transfer is due to events outside the control of the athlete or that the transfer serves the best interest of the AAU.**

**I understand any violations of any of the above rules will automatically release me of the BullDawgs Basketball Club. I will return any and all uniforms and gear back to the BullDawgs. No refund of fees will be given.**