

AAU Washington Girls Basketball

P.O. Box 1344, Lynnwood, WA 98046-1344 * (425) 670-8877 also Fax (425) 670-8877

Washington Girls Basketball is a non-profit corporation * U.B.I. #601469769 * Fin #91-1591551

E-mail: GirlsBBall@msn.com Website: <http://www.washingtongirlsbasketball.com>

Dear Players, Fans, and Coaches:

We believe that youth sports, when properly run at all levels, are a healthy, fun, and positive aspect of a person's life. Imparting lifelong values, which are the behavioral foundation of our future leaders. Our goal is to run the best sports programs in the state. We insist that we have a clean positive atmosphere for our girls to play in. To this pursuit, we offer programs, which will embody this philosophy.

Because of this enormous responsibility we will set and enforce high standards. (Our youth learn by example) We will accomplish this by letting everyone know up front what is expected and by instantly and strictly dealing with problems when they occur.

You must at all times display sportsmanlike conduct. Any negative or derogatory statement will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. We have informed our officials, gym managers, etc... to be overly strict on this point. (Literally the development of our youth is at stake here)

We want to caution you; we will make an example of someone who slipped so that everyone will know that any unacceptable behavior in our gyms will, absolutely, not be tolerated. We cannot stop all unacceptable behavior but we can teach our youth the consequences of such behavior.

Any negative statement will result in a warning or ejection from the gym. If you receive a warning the next negative word out of your mouth will be cause for mandatory ejection from the gym. If this problem continues your team will be ejected from the league with no refund.

Please understand that this process can and probably will be implemented over a minor infraction. You have been warned up front and the intent of the rule is crystal clear. Realize that we teach by example and in the long run a few technical fouls or short-term embarrassment is a small price to pay to ensure you and more importantly your child has a healthy, safe and fun environment to play and develop in.

Finally, I realize the vast majority of people in our gym do conduct themselves admirably and I thank you. I also realize there is a difference between an emotional reaction to the game and unsportsmanlike conduct. "Ohhh that was all ball" is an emotional reaction. "What's wrong with you ref, that was a horrible call, you need glasses!" etc... is unsportsmanlike conduct.

Our youth learn by example and they will learn from their experience in our gyms. We all have the responsibility to see that they have a positive learning experience. Please at all times let us be a positive role model for these young, impressionable individuals.

Our youth on and off the court are what this is all about.

Thank you

Michael Hummel

Regarding Referees

Washington Girls Basketball uses only Washington state referees. These officials are veterans and are top rated. As such they deserve the respect they are due.

I ask your help in this area. Some of these officials will come do my games but refuse to do any other leagues because of the abuse they have to put up with. We have all seen what inexperienced officials can do to a game. We need these officials because they are critical to the atmosphere our girls need in these gyms.

Keep in mind they'll have a tough job to do. They have been known to miss a call or make a bad call or have a bad day. This is an area where we must, at all times exercise sportsmanlike conduct. At my request they will strongly enforce this. An emotional reaction to a referee's call is normal. To what degree or how that reaction is expressed determines unsportsmanlike conduct.

The officials are not in our gyms just to get a paycheck; they sincerely care about these kids and want to help. If they didn't, they wouldn't be here.

Regarding Teams

Our league philosophy is to see each player develop physically in knowledge and application of fundamental playing skills and develop psychologically in areas of self-esteem and self-worth. Therefore even though we have more talented players and a higher level of competition than recreational leagues, we do not keep win/loss records. These games should be considered scrimmages.

If your child is winning a game by 20 points, then this is a good time for her to start playing with her left hand or use new moves.

If she is loosing the ball, missing left handed lay-ins, traveling on a difficult spin move, praise her. Her self-esteem is in great shape. She is willing to make mistakes. By her effort she will improve and derive great self-worth provided she is having fun.

If your child is loosing a game by 20 points congratulate her that she's going against a tougher team and her athletic skills are being forced to improve in an attempt to stay with that team. All you need to do is praise her for the effort.

The ideal for her, obtained easily with the right thinking, is every team/player can be successful every game.

Note: It's easier to be successful on the downside of a 20-point game than the upside.

Regarding Success

In professional, college and yes, unfortunately but realistically, varsity sports, success is measured by the win/loss record. The score of the game isn't even a factor in measuring success in youth sports. Success in youth sports is having fun while developing psychologically and physically.

Only 5% of our youth will go on to play college sports and only 2% professional sports. That kind of makes the values gained (self-esteem, self-worth etc...) from youth sports very important for the other 95%. John Wooden, the winningest coach ever, when asked "What do you owe your success to?"

"Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming."