

Patriot Basketball Coach/Player/Parent Covenant

Inclusion on a St. Louis Patriot basketball team roster constitutes an agreement by each coach, player and parent to abide by this Coach/Player/Parent covenant. Failure to fulfill these requirements may lead to suspension and/or dismissal from the team or other disciplinary action.

1. PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT. As a member of a St. Louis Patriots basketball team, each coach, player and parent should understand that participation is a privilege and a responsibility and not a right. Each coach & player agrees to assume the responsibilities set forth in this covenant and each parent to support its intent. Our desire is to glorify God by building competitive basketball teams made up of young men of strong Christian character. The Parent Board reserves the right to revoke the privilege of any coach or player to be a member of a team if the coach, player or parent does not exhibit appropriate conduct or otherwise fails to meet the obligations set forth in this covenant.

2. CONDUCT. As a member of a St. Louis Patriots Basketball Team, each coach, player and parent is expected to conduct themselves in a manner that glorifies God at all times. Each of us represents and serves as a reflection of the team, the Patriot family and the Lord and agrees to conduct himself responsibly both on and off the court, to display sportsmanship on the court and to demonstrate concern for the rights, safety and welfare of others off the court. All agree to treat coaches, teammates, competitors and referees with respect and courtesy. Behavior hindering our Christian testimony or showing disrespect toward other players, coaches, or referees demonstrates lack of self-control and will not be tolerated. The use of profanity or any controlled substance will be subject to discipline as determined by the coach. Should behavior continue to be inappropriate, the St. Louis Patriots Parent Board may seek the removal of the coach or player from the team. [See Disciplinary Action Below]

3. FAMILY / CHURCH / ACADEMICS, THEN BASKETBALL. Each player is expected to strive for spiritual & academic excellence as well as athletic. Family, church and academics take precedence over basketball. All players are encouraged to serve within their church and are expected to perform well academically. Should the player be unable to attend practice to complete church and/or academic responsibilities, the parent should communicate this directly to the coach. While these take priority, it is not acceptable to repeatedly miss practice due to these activities. Should a player be unable to perform at an acceptable level academically and athletically, the player should withdraw from the team until such time as the academic performance improves. This is a parental decision, however, the coach and team assume that each player will be present for all practices and games. Repeated absences could result in diminished playing time and potential dismissal at the discretion of the coach subject to the approval of the St. Louis Patriots Parent Board.

4. COMMITMENT. During basketball season, other than possibly church or academics, the team should take precedence over all other extra-curricular activities. The season runs from roughly mid-October through mid-March. Teams will play from 15 to 45 games in a season (including tournaments). Practice is a critical element of individual skill development and team success. Based on facility availability, JH teams will have roughly two events/week, JV teams three events/week, and Varsity teams four events/week. Practices are structured by the coach to improve individual skills, build team strategies and develop the sense of team. Each coach devotes a substantial amount of time in the design and delivery of each practice. Each coach is committed to teach the players as much as they can about the game of basketball so that each player can become the best that they are capable of being. Players agree to work hard at all times in an effort to learn as much as they can, to improve their individual skills and contribute to success of the team. While all players should have fun, that is not the only goal of the Patriots basketball program. This is an advanced basketball experience that requires the commitment and dedication on the part of players, their families, and the coaches. The objective of the basketball program is to develop advanced basketball skills within a highly competitive environment, while at the same time learning the values of hard work, preparation and teamwork. Ultimately, we strive to develop players and teams that will be competitive at a local, regional and national level.

5. ATTENDANCE. Attendance at each practice and all games is mandatory, unless communicated otherwise by the coaching staff. Players should arrive one half hour prior to scheduled game times unless otherwise instructed by the coaching staff and should be on time for practices. If a player is unable to attend a practice or game due to illness, vacation, family emergency, educational or church obligation, then it is the player's responsibility to notify the coach or assistant coach in advance if at all possible with the reason for absence. The coach will determine implications of absences as it relates to playing time.

6. PLAYING TIME. The amount of playing time during games is within the sole discretion of the coaching staff of the team. The teams are competitive and no player is guaranteed playing time. Each coach will make playing time decisions based on the game situation, players skills, abilities and attitudes. While striving to be competitive, we take an instructional approach for Junior High level teams, which means that all players should receive significant playing time – roughly 40-60% of the game time. At the Junior Varsity level, we move toward a more competitive approach, which means playing time will be commensurate with the specific game situation - roughly 20-80% of the game time. We strive to be as competitive as possible at the Varsity level. Typically 6-8 players will play in a highly competitive game with no guarantee that everyone will get into a game. Coaches will make every effort to maximize every player's opportunities in games that are less competitive.

9. DISCIPLINARY ACTION. Any tardiness or unexcused absences for practice or games will be addressed at the discretion of the coach. Repeated unexcused tardiness will result in treatment as an unexcused absence. Any absence mandated by a parent for disciplinary reasons (i.e. grounded) is treated as an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences may result in diminished playing time. Repeated unexcused absence may result in the player being benched for the next game. Continual unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the team.

8. PARENTS. Parents understand that they too represent our team, community and basketball program. Parents agree to encourage and cheer for the team in a positive fashion during the game and to refrain from rude or obnoxious behavior or comments toward the opposing team and officials. Parents should NEVER confront referees or other game personnel -- that is solely the province of the coaching staff. Parents should respect and support the decisions of the coach. Two parents are expected to cover the game clock and official scorebook for each home game. In the absence of volunteers, parents will be assigned these tasks on a rotating basis.

If a parent or player has an issue with a coach or other team related matter, they should FIRST speak directly and privately with the head coach at a time other than immediately prior to, during, or after a game. If the issue remains unresolved, the next line of communication is with a member of the St. Louis Patriots Parent Board. All issues should be addressed in an appropriate manner bearing in mind that the expertise and judgment of coaches should be respected particularly when it comes to positions and playing time.

9. ELEGIBILITY. The Patriots abide by the [NCHC Eligibility Guidelines](#) regarding home school student athletes. Age eligibility for varsity (18U), junior varsity (16U), and junior high (14U) is determined by the player's age on September 1 prior to the start of the basketball season. Athletes must declare their class at the start of each season and are entitled to a maximum of 4 years of high school eligibility beginning with the year they declare themselves a high school freshman.

10. FEES. Fees go principally toward payment of referees, gym rental, tournament fees, supplies, insurance, uniforms, and our end of year banquet. Uniforms will be returned at the end of the year. Individual teams may determine on their own to enter into additional tournaments or games which may result in a supplemental charge to members of that particular team. Player fees should be submitted prior to the first game, although an installment payment approach may be worked out with the Treasurer prior to the start of games. The Parent Board Chairman must approve any refund requests, however, refunds will NOT be made as a result of disciplinary actions.