

IMMACULATE HEART of MARY

Basketball Coaches Guidelines

It is a privilege to be chosen as a volunteer coach in any sport at IHM. Basketball has the largest participation by our student athletes and coaches, and is the longest season in terms of duration. It is a great opportunity not only for coaches to teach children a sport, but also to clearly demonstrate that we are people of Christian character.

ALL BEHAVIOR BY COACHES SHOULD BE EXEMPLARY -as not only "the coach", but as a parent in our school/parish and of a child on your team or other teams. As a coach for IHM, you must take responsibility for your words and actions. Remember, you are a representative of IHM, and your actions impact how others view IHM.

Coaches at all levels should understand and support the objectives of the program.

Grades 3 through 6 – Objectives and Values

- a) Provide every child with the opportunity to participate on a team
- b) Build team unity
- c) Exhibit respect for coaches, referees and opponents and set an example of good sportsmanship - lead by example!
- d) Insure fair playing time for all players. Give all players a chance to earn maximum playing time.
- e) Properly teaching the fundamentals, rules and nuances of the game
- f) Simplify the game - do not over-complicate it!
- g) Teach players how to think for themselves during games and learn by their mistakes
- h) Teach players how to accept defeat with class and good sportsmanship

Grades 7 through 8 – Objectives and Values

- a) Provide every child with the opportunity to participate on a team
- b) Create a Select Team of the top players that will play at the highest level in CYO
- c) Build team unity
- d) Exhibit respect for coaches, referees and opponents and set an example of good sportsmanship
- e) Insure fair playing time for all players based on ability/talent, work ethic, attitude and team play
- f) Prepare players and parents for the possibility of high school athletics
- g) Play to win ... but not at the compromise of any of the values or objectives

Expectations of Coaches:

1. **Exhibit a positive attitude toward** and support of the programs objectives. This includes supporting all decisions regarding player drafts, team selections, coaching appointments, CYO scheduling, etc. Coaches should not undermine or disrespect CYO officials, referees, other coaches or players, or our Athletic Director and Sport Commissioners.
2. **Be well organized.** Prepare for each practice and game. Gym time is short. Please make the most of your time.
3. **Understand all responsibilities** of uniform and equipment use and returns, volunteer training (Virtus, etc), CYO Athletics rules and mission, program fundraising, Code of Conduct, and commitment of your time and talents.
4. **Do not tolerate coaching from the bleachers or any other disruptive behavior** by parents during games. If this occurs, it should be addressed immediately in a positive but firm manner, during a timeout or at halftime if necessary. Please enlist the help of the Commissioner, Athletic Director, or any Athletic Board member if

this persists on your team. Also remember that you, as a parent, should never coach your child from the bleachers on any other team or criticize referees from the stands.

5. **Respect referees and CYO directors.** There are many new officials and site directors involved with CYO. There will be bad calls every game. Please accept this going into each game and teach players how to handle it properly. Remind your players to worry about what they can control: their effort and their attitude.

6. **Parent involvement.** Hold a Parents Meeting during pre-season to present team rules and Code of Conduct. It is your obligation to select an assistant coach who does not have to be a parent. However, all assistants and team volunteers must be approved by the Sports Commissioners, and undergo all proper training/certification.

Coaching positions at IHM Parish are one-season volunteer appointments, selected and/or approved by the IHM Athletic Board.