



1 WELCOME

The Hermiston AAU Basketball Club would like to welcome you to our boys and girls basketball program. This program was started in the fall of 2006, as a group of AAU teams in the Hermiston area found the need to organize and give all children an avenue to play ball.

We envisioned a program with more AAU players and more teams at every grade level; more structured and organized participation; coaches with a better skill set and more training; promotion for the entire Hermiston Basketball Program. The Hermiston AAU Basketball Club program will encourage coaches to take time during practice to teach and lecture on such things as: Positive Attitudes, Personal Commitment, Teamwork, Determination, Respect, Honesty, Academics, Citizenship and much more.

We hope the program will grow in the years to come. We are starting with 14 teams and our goal is to have 4 or more teams for every grade level for both boys and girls.

The Hermiston AAU Basketball Club hopes all of the players will walk away from our program, not only better basketball players, but also better citizens within our community. We thank you for your participation, support and dedication to our program!

THE HERMISTON AAU BASKETBALL CLUB

2 TEAM PHILOSOPHY

The Hermiston AAU Basketball Club believes, for any athlete to be successful in life and in sports, that the athlete must dedicate themselves to their family, to their academics, to their team and to their self-improvement. We do not prioritize these commitments for the players, but we provide the players with guidelines so that each player can establish a level of dedication that the individual feels is necessary for them to be successful on and off the athletic court. Many guidelines have been developed and are continually modified so that the players can mature and develop their own personalities and skills.

The following are some of the guidelines that have been established and will be discussed in more detail in the handbook:

- Each player must maintain a predetermined grade point average set by each coach.
- Each player must attend practices, games, fund raising activities and team activities.
- Each player must respect and show respect for their teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, family and peers.
- Each player must represent the community of Hermiston in a positive manner.

These guidelines are presented in no particular order, but we feel that if these guidelines are followed and the players are committed to our program, we will develop superb athletes, basketball players and good citizens for our community.

3 EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is a true statement to say, “That you will play in game situations in the same manner and with the same intensity as you play in practice”. Therefore the coaches will expect each player to show up for practices as if they were going to be playing in a league or tournament game.

Players will wear the proper athletic gear, **NO** jewelry (rings, watches, earrings and hairpins) will be permitted, fingernails trimmed (they will be periodically checked by coaches), and no gum chewing will be allowed. Gum is both dangerous and messy on the gym floor. If players have ankle, knee or other trouble areas, they need to make sure that they purchase the appropriate athletic support equipment they need so that they are not re-injured during practice sessions.

Attendance will be taken and recorded for each practice, game, fund raising event, and team activity. Missed practices and events could directly effect playing time. Repetitive tardiness will not be tolerated unless prearranged. If a player is to miss practice for whatever reason, please make every attempt to notify the coach so that necessary adjustments can be made to their practice schedule.

a. RESPECT/ BEHAVIOR/ ATTITUDE

There will be a no tolerance policy for the following items:

- Unsportsmanlike conduct by players or parents.
- Players will not show disrespect to officials, opponents, peers, parents or the coaching staff.
- There will be no use of profanity at practice or during games.
- Vandalism at practice or during league and tournament games.
- Defiance towards coaches.
- Practices are not a social event, extra talking and conversation during drills and while the coach is talking will not be tolerated.
- Discipline problems at school. If a player is being disciplined at school (i.e.: three-day suspension etc.) they will not be able to play in any weekend tournament games.
- Use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco are strictly prohibited.

Penalties will be applied for players not following these guidelines. Penalties could consist of: running at practices, reduced playing time, not starting or not playing in the next game, loss of gym time for the entire team or being removed from the Hermiston AAU Basketball Club.

b. HERMISTON AAU BASKETBALL CLUB TEAMS WILL STRESS

- Sportsmanship by all players, coaches, and parents and family members.
- Fundamental development, both in basketball and good citizenship.
- Players are expected to be on time or early for practices and games.
- Player's work ethic, on and off the floor.
- Player self-discipline.
- Uniforms will be kept clean and presentable for all games. Wash & hang dry! Club uniforms are not to be worn, except at AAU tournament or league games.
- Players will be well mannered and presentable at all games and tournaments.

Remember, being a part of any program is a privilege not a right!

4. PLAYERS GRADES

All players belonging to the Hermiston AAU Basketball Club will be required to maintain a specified grade point average (GPA). The Club places great emphasis on maintaining grades while participating in our basketball program. (The grade point

average of the team can be used successfully during fund raising events!) The player's required GPA will be determined by the coach of each team.

Players may be required to provide their coaches with a copy of each quarter's report card. This copy and the player's grades will be maintained on file by each team's coach and will be held confidential.

The following is the guideline on how grades may be used for player participation. We feel guidelines are necessary so that it will be clear to all players and their parents what the penalties will be for falling below the required GPA.

How Grades will be used to Determine Eligibility

- Quarter GPA's will be used throughout the school year for determining eligibility. For summer eligibility, the last quarter GPA or the school year total GPA will be used (which ever is higher).
- Each penalty listed will remain in effect for the duration of the quarter following the quarter that the player falls below the required GPA. If the school year GPA and the last quarter's grades both fall below the predetermined GPA, the penalty will remain in effect for the summer and first school quarter of the following year.

Players Grade Below Predetermined Average for 1 Quarter

Penalty:

- Player will not start any league or tournament games.
- Player will not play in the 1st quarter of any game.

Players Grade Below Predetermined Average for 2 Consecutive Quarters

Penalty:

- Player will not be allowed to participate in league or tournament play.
- Player must continue to attend all practices and fund raising events.
- The player's position on the team will not be compromised unless multiple players fall below the required GPA. If the situation arises that we must add players to the roster, the coaches may decide to do so. In this situation, the suspended players will be required to earn back their position on the team.
- Practice and fund raising event attendance will be recorded as usual. Due to the financial and time considerations, we will not require that the players attend tournaments that they are not allowed to participate.
- If the player misses multiple practices and fund raising events during the suspension period, the player could be asked to step down from the team.

Players Grade Below Predetermined Average for 3 Consecutive Quarters

Penalty:

- Player will be asked to step down from the team.

5 ROSTER SIZE, STARTER SELECTION AND PLAYING TIME

The teams will maintain a roster of eight to ten participating players, on rare occasion, with the coaches approval, a larger roster may be necessary to allow all players the opportunity to be placed on a team. More than ten creates problems getting all players playing time during league and tournament games. Less than eight creates problems for scrimmaging at practice. Tryouts may be held in the early fall of each new season, if the player roster falls less than ten or at the coaches or Club's discretion.

Playing time may not be equal and will be determined by the coach. Playing time will be based on many factors, such as: attendance, attitude (positive or negative), participation during practice, performance and skill level. This is something you should address with your coach BEFORE the season begins, so you have a clear understanding of his/her philosophy. AAU can be a competitive sport and as such, as a club – we do NOT guarantee playing time or how coaches determine who has earned playing time or starting positions.

6 PRACTICE, LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

Practice sessions will be held approximately twice per week, based on gym availability. Each practice session will be approximately 1 1/2 hours long, depending on coach availability. Practice starts at the time designated by the coach. The players should be ready to play at that time, not 5 minutes late. Arrive to practice 5-10 minutes early to put on shoes and equipment.

It will be left up to the coaching staff and with parent involvement to decide how many and which tournaments the team will play. There are many tournaments that are held throughout the year. At the beginning of each new season, the AAU league publishes a listing of available tournaments, location, fees and age groups. The tournament list will be handed out to each parent for review. Based on financial constraints, the team may or may not decide to play in these. Hermiston hosts FOUR annual tournaments that will provide your team with the ability to play with no travel expenses.

7 PARENT EXPECTATIONS

The coaching staff appreciates all the help we can get, but we must insist that the coach's decision are respected and followed by everyone. Please review items 1-14 on the concepts of an "Ideal Parent".

1. Support your child and attend as many games as possible.
2. Avoid putting pressure on your child to *start, score, or be the star of the team*.
3. Support the coach in public around other parents and fans.
4. Avoid speaking negatively about the coach in front of your child. It may create a major barrier in the child's hope for improvement in the sport.
5. Understand the purpose of athletics. It exists as an integral part of developing character and an educational mission. Participation in athletics is a privilege not a right.
6. Serve as a good role model for the students, athletes, and other fans. *This will help show your character and emphasis how important character is.*
7. Appreciate the educational opportunity that your child is receiving in the program. This includes the enormous time provided by the coaches and volunteers to make the program work.
8. Serve as a beacon of good sportsmanship.
9. Show respect to everyone involved in the game - Coaches, athletes, fans, and officials.
10. Talk to the coach if you have a concern with the program. Not your child!
11. Avoid disparaging comments about any player on the team. If you don't have something good to say, keep it to yourself.
12. Express concerns and questions in a courteous, civil manner and at the right/proper time.
13. Understand that the goals of the team and Hermiston AAU Basketball Club program are built around the team concept not your child.
14. Avoid constant and chronic complaining.

“YOUNG PEOPLE NEED MODELS, NOT CRITICS”

JOHN WOODEN

Parents are always welcome to attend and watch practices sessions, but it is recommended that this be only periodically. We have found that players will look to the sidelines for parental approval or recognition, instead of the coaches. In addition, siblings, friends and relatives are not allowed at practice due to the noise and disruption it causes.

The coaches would also like the involvement of parents in managing the team in the following areas:

- **Team Parent** - Looks into motel accommodation for out of town tournaments, helps research and register the team for tournaments, helps organize team activities, etc.
- **News Bulletin** - Provides news letters to team members.

8 FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

The cost of running an active AAU team ranges from \$1200-2000/year or more. This depends on how many tournaments the team decides to play in, and if the team needs to replace club equipment, or purchase gear or shooting shirts or any other extra expenses.

All parents/players will be required to participate in any fundraisers approved by the team and the club.

The cost of each tournament fee is approximately \$200-300 for the team. Teams may hold fund raising activities such as: car washes, garage sales, raffle and bake sales.

Teams MUST seek Club approval before planning any fundraising events.

In addition to team fundraisers, all players and parents will be required to volunteer at our FOUR annual AAU tournaments each year. Each team will be required to oversee a gym; duties will include manning the door to charge admission and sell concessions, keeping area clean and tidy, monitor the games, and/or helping in other such ways as determined by the 3-on-3 Committee. The profits from the tournaments are used to fund AAU team tournament allowances, general club expenses and HHS basketball programs.

Parents will be expected to pay a club due each year of approximately \$90/player; the membership fee will be used to purchase uniforms and/or other equipment that each team may need, purchase player and coaches AAU cards, and provide the team with an allowance for tournament registration. Other tournament fees, travel and accommodation expenses are the responsibility of the parents or fund raising activities of the teams. The coach/team parent will talk to each player's parent prior to tournaments to collect the necessary money needed to send in with the player roster.

The uniforms that are supplied by the club *will stay with the Hermiston AAU Basketball Club* and will be passed down to other teams and players over the years.

Since the Hermiston AAU Basketball Club is a non-profit organization, individuals or businesses who donate to the Hermiston AAU Basketball Club may receive a tax deduction (please check with your tax professional). Donations accepted by the club will go to the club general account to offset expenses for all teams and general needs (we do not accept donations earmarked for a specific team).