

# **Appleton East Youth Basketball Association (AEYBA)**

## **Team Expectations**

**Commitment.** It all starts with commitment. All players are expected to be at all practices and assigned games. Practices are twice each week for at least 1½ hours. Players must be at practice to develop individual and team skills. If a player is not at practice, they are not able to be “in sync” with the team. While missing practice is detrimental to an individual player’s development, it also hurts the team’s growth. Playing time at every level is dependent upon effort in practice. It is unrealistic to give significant playing time to a player who does not attend practice. Doing so is not in the best interest of the Team, or its growth. Again, attendance and effort at every practice are critical for both the individual and the Team.

**Practices.** We practice as an entire grade at the same time. Practices focus on individual and team skill building. To accomplish this the coaching staff will incorporate individual and team drills. These practices tend to be significantly more focused than middle school or recreational practices. The expectation is that each player comes mentally and physically ready to practice. If your child is unable to attend it is important to let the coach know so they can plan the practice accordingly.

**Tournaments.** Tournament games are generally one day a weekend and scheduled any time from Saturday morning to Sunday evening. Most weekends the teams will have 3 games scheduled. While most games will be within an hour drive, in some instances you may have to travel outside of that radius.

**Coaches.** Coaching is done by parent and community volunteers at all levels. If you have a concern about a coach, reread AEYBA Team Expectations. Do not contact the coach until at least 24 hours have passed since the issue in question so there is a cooling off period. After 24 hours, call the coach and discuss your concerns. If the situation in question is still unresolved then please reach out to the AEYBA board. The board will look to resolve the concern but will not substitute their judgment over the coaches.

**Cost.** The cost to participate is dependent on grade level and staggered accordingly. The fee is utilized to cover the operating costs of the organization. The money that is collected in fees combines with money from our host dates to cover all players tournaments, practice times, and uniforms. We are one of the few organizations that doesn’t require outside fundraising to cover our costs.

## **Philosophy**

AEYBA has different philosophies at different grade levels. The younger grades (2-4) are focused more on building fundamental individual and team skills. The older grades (5-8) evolve and build on these skills in a more competitive environment. The overarching goal is to develop a winning, team basketball philosophy.

- **Grades 2-4**

- Fundamentals will be a major focus for these individuals. The skills being taught and learned should be scalable so the drills can be advantageous for the advanced student as well as the novice/beginner student. As the students progress and grow through these grade levels, the level of complexity will increase and the focus will be on teaching the kids how to compete. If there are enough participants for multiple teams, all teams will be evenly divided. However,

there may be situations where teams are split along skill lines to ensure that kids are playing the proper level of competition. The goal is to have kids compete against similar skill levels so they can build up their skill level while at the same time building confidence. The expectation is also that no more than 10 kids will attend any tournament. By setting a limit it is easier to manage playing time and provide a better all around game experience for the kids. When possible the expectation will be that each grade field a state tournament team.

- **Grades 5-8**

- At this age group we still focus on fundamentals but the level of complexity and competition will increase. The skills that were learned in grades 2-4 will now serve as building blocks to leverage the students' knowledge into higher level skills and drills. Playing time in this age group is more dependent on skill, attitude, effort, and attendance at practice. Every person on the team will get minutes in the game but the number of minutes will be dependent on the attributes above. As students pass into the older grades, overall skill will weigh more heavily in the playing time equation. Teams will also be more strictly divided into A and B teams. To accomplish this the coaching staff will work together to break them up and if needed enlist assistance from the AEYBA board to assess their teams. Again, the expectation is that no more than 10 players will attend a tournament. Finally, the expectation will be that each grade will field and play in at least one state tournament.

- **Team Composition**

- 2nd & 3rd Grade
  - Teams may vary throughout the season
  - Play evenly split teams during scrimmages, league, & tournaments
  - No A/B teams
- 4th Grade
  - Teams may vary throughout the season
  - Play evenly split teams during league play (No A/B teams)
  - Head coach has the discretion to organize tournament teams based on level of play.
- 5th - 6th Grade
  - Teams may vary throughout the season
  - Head coach has the discretion to organize teams based on level of play from the start of the season.
- 7th - 8th Grade
  - Teams may vary throughout the season
  - Head coach has the discretion to organize teams based on level of play from the start of the season.

# **Program Expectations**

## **Players**

- School/Academics are the top priority
- For practice come prepared to listen, hustle, and learn. If you are unable to attend please let the coach know
- Be on time for all practices and games
- Treat everyone with respect including teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and parents.
- Be respectful of our facilities. Since we practice at public schools we are responsible for any damage incurred.
- Play with effort in every game and practice. Never give up
- Bullying any teammate or opponent is unacceptable
- No drugs, alcohol, or substance abuse of any kind will be tolerated.
- Theft of school property or anyone else's items is not acceptable.
- Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in consequences ranging from sitting out a half of a game up to missing an entire tournament

## **Parents**

- Help your child achieve success by meeting team and player expectations
- Be respectful of other players, parents, coaches, officials and opponents
- If you have concerns, raise them in a respectful manner. You may not agree with a specific coaching decision but listen to the reasoning and help your child understand the situation.
- Engage in proper sportsmanship. Cheer for your child and their teammates. Do not yell at officials, coaches, or opponents. Keep everything positive!
- Do not coach your child from the stands. It is important for the kids to focus on their coaches directions and the game situation. Coaching from the stands distracts your child from the flow of the game.
- Make sure your child is physically and mentally ready for all games and practices.
- Meet your volunteer requirements.. Volunteering is a cornerstone of the organization and provides each parent the opportunity to give back to the program and meet parents from outside their child's teams. Make sure that you sign up and work your assigned hours.
- If these expectations are not met, the AEYBA Board may have to remove the parent's child from participating in the program.

## **Coaches**

- Abide and promote the AEYBA's team expectations.
- Learn the game - teach your players. Help them understand the game of basketball and encourage them to be successful.
- Model good sportsmanship with officials, parents and opponents. As a coach you lead by example.
- Communicate early and often with parents and players. Model transparency when making decisions and be able to effectively communicate why certain decisions were made.
- Encourage players to be leaders, exercise sound judgment and exhibit a high level of sportsmanship.
- Attend learning/coaching/training sessions sponsored by Appleton East.