

## WBBA Sportsmanship Policy and Code of Conduct

Young men who participate in WBBA programs and activities learn more than just basketball skills. In practice and games they are exposed to situations that allow them to develop qualities such as leadership, discipline, physical fitness, mental toughness, and good sportsmanship that will last a lifetime. Good sportsmanship makes games and practices enjoyable for all who participate, be they the coaches, players, parents, or referees. Discipline is learned by working as part of a team and respecting the unique contributions of each member.

Good sportsmanship is defined as an attitude that acknowledges the rigors of competition and letting these activities be decided by the skills and mental qualities listed above. In addition, it encompasses a willingness to acknowledge these qualities in both opponents and teammates. It also acknowledges that there are “winners” and “losers” in every game, and that how you conduct yourself as a “loser” is just as important as how you conduct yourself as a “winner.”

In light of this policy the WBBA promotes the following behavior:

- Respectful comments and behavior toward opponents, referees, and fans.
- Full coach and player involvement in post-game handshakes, with only congratulatory comments spoken.
- Full and equal participation of all team members in each game at the In-House and Southwest levels, and a minimum of at least ten minutes per game at the Travel level. (NOTE: In Travel, this playing time may vary depending on a player’s understanding of the game, attentiveness during practice, attendance at practices and/or games, and disciplinary issues)
- Formulation of equally skilled teams at each grade level (excepting the differences in Travel teams).
- The WBBA discourages the following behavior:
  - Play intended to physically harm an opponent
  - Disparaging fan or player comments toward referees
  - Bench comments or on-court behavior intended to disrupt the opposing team
  - Non-constructive or disparaging comments made towards opponents or teammates
  - “Stacking” of teams
  - Plays that do not involve all members of the team; for example, structured plays that setup one player to go “one-on-one.”

Players are expected to read and sign the attached Code of Conduct form to indicate their understanding and acceptance of this sportsmanship policy and the code of conduct. Violations of this policy or code of conduct will be addressed according to the disciplinary procedures indicated below.

Likewise, coaches and league officials and representatives are expected to fully support and abide by this sportsmanship policy and code of conduct. Violations will be addressed according to the disciplinary procedures indicated below.

In addition, players, coaches, and other representatives of the WBBA are expected to abide by the sportsmanship and conduct rules established by any league or tournament in which they participate.

Parents are also expected to review, understand, and abide by the Parents Code of Conduct.

### DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:

Any violation of the WBBA Sportsmanship Policy or Code of Conduct may result in a temporary or permanent banishment from any WBBA sponsored events.

Initial authority for disciplinary actions rests with the Board of Directors of the Wayzata Boys Basketball Association, subject to the accused party’s right to appeal their case to a Review Committee and, ultimately, the full Board of Directors. The WBBA will follow the guidelines indicated below in enforcing

disciplinary action against any person who "has acted in a manner which brings disrepute upon the WBBA or upon the sport of basketball."

The due process guidelines provide for formal written notice of specific offenses and prescribed disciplinary action, the right of the accused to defend himself/herself with a reasonable time to prepare his/her defense, and a notice of how to appeal the decision.

Except for emergency actions, the WBBA will provide written notice of violations as far in advance as reasonably possible. For each disciplinary action, a hearing will be held before the Review Committee of the WBBA or the WBBA Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting, at which time the accused party will have a right to defend himself/herself. Notice is hereby given that the accused party will have the further right of appealing to a Review Committee of the WBBA. When time is of the essence in a decision, the WBBA may engage in an emergency disciplinary action process.

The WBBA may hold emergency disciplinary hearings and/or make emergency disciplinary decisions on matters of eligibility (only when such matters must be decided immediately to assure fair play in competition).

A party may be disciplined for any violation of the WBBA Sportsmanship Policy, Code of Conduct, or Drug and Alcohol Policy. Examples of violations which might arise are fraud (falsifying records, using the WBBA name without obtaining official permission, etc.); improper conduct (profane language, fighting, severe unsportsmanlike conduct, drug or alcohol abuse during competition, etc.); and failure to compete (not showing up for a scheduled game or tournament). This list is not intended to be all-inclusive and it is the responsibility of each party to maintain compliance with the WBBA's policies and codes of conduct.

#### PROCEDURES FOR REGISTERING COMPLAINTS

From time to time, coaches, parents and other participants register constructive criticism of the WBBA, a WBBA representative (including coaches), or a particular event sponsored by the WBBA. However, such complaints are not always delivered in the most effective manner and therefore generate unnecessary bad will among the parties involved. In the subject area of criticism of officials, events, etc., coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players and fans.

The following guidelines are recommended to assure the most constructive registering of a complaint.

1. Complaints regarding policy or the conduct of a WBBA player, coach or representative, should be directed in written form to the WBBA Board of Directors in advance of a regularly scheduled board meeting so that it can be addressed properly. Complaints regarding a sufficiently serious matter may be addressed more urgently at the discretion of the WBBA Board of Directors.
2. Complaints about the conduct of a WBBA sponsored tournament should be registered after completion of the tournament. Tournament volunteers (scorekeepers, clock operators, etc.) should not be interrupted in their work during the conduct of a tournament to field complaints. Such complaints should be in writing and directed to the Tournament Director, who is obligated to address such complaints in his/her report to the Board
3. Under no circumstance should any person other than a bona fide coach attempt to communicate with game officials or scorers' table personnel during the conduct of a game. Only the registered coaches, not the parents, represent the team in official business.

#### RECEIVING COMPLAINTS

- Phone Calls are not acceptable - complaints must be in writing (email or letter). Callers making complaints will be informed that action can be taken only on written complaints.
- Calls that are merely "gripes" (officiating, scheduling, etc.) that do not rise to the level of policy or code of conduct violation will not be seriously considered.
- Callers who allege actions that are or could be policy or code of conduct violations should be advised to make the complaint in writing to the attention of the WBBA Board of Directors.
- If a caller makes serious allegations that are clearly policy or code of conduct violations, or which, if true, could endanger an athlete or harm the WBBA, the person receiving the call should contact an officer of the WBBA so that the Board of Directors can determine whether to pursue the matter

on its own initiative (examples: criminal activity, sexual misconduct, embezzlement of funds, etc.). Include the name, address and phone number of the caller, as well as the date and nature of the call.

- Letters may be deemed a complaint by the WBBA even if it is not designated as such.
- Letters which allege policy or code of conduct violations are to be referred to the WBBA Board of Directors.
- Letters which merely make complaints of a general nature are not allegations of code/policy violations and should be referred to the appropriate entity. Note: If a volunteer or other individual is unsure whether a code/policy violation is alleged, the matter should be referred to the WBBA Board of Directors. When in doubt, make the referral.

## SCREENING COMPLAINTS

The Review Committee of the WBBA makes an initial screening and may take any of the following actions:

1. Call or correspond with complainant to request additional information
2. Refer to the appropriate program director or coordinator
3. Consult with the Board of Directors
4. Advise complainant that the complaint is inappropriate and/or that it should be made to another entity (example: complaints that a coach is not playing a particular athlete enough)

The Review Committee and Board of Directors shall consult regularly and review the log of complaints.

## REVIEWS

The Review Committee shall review complaints to determine if there is probable cause that a violation has occurred. The Review Committee may discuss the complaint with complainant, Association Officers, or other persons who can provide information. The Review Committee may:

- a) dismiss for lack of probable cause
- b) refer the matter to Board of Directors for appropriate action

## REQUESTS

Properly submitted requests for review will be considered by the Review Committee, which may schedule a hearing with the following stipulations:

1. Timely notice is required.
2. The Committee may request additional information.

## HEARINGS

Hearings are set/scheduled by the Review Committee in conjunction with the Board of Directors.

1. Hearings may be in person or via telephone.
2. Evidence may be stipulated to or cases may be submitted on written evidence and hearings waived.
3. Hearings may be continued, delayed, recessed or extended by the Review Committee and/or Board of Directors.

Evidence: Formal rules of evidence are not required.

1. The Review Committee and/or Board of Directors shall make all rulings on the relevance or propriety of evidence, and may limit evidence as to time and scope.
2. The Committee/Board may consider all evidence from any source, including hearsay.
3. Members of the Committee/Board may question witnesses and may make inquiry of witnesses not present at the hearing before, during or after the hearing.

## DECISIONS

Cases presented to the Review Committee and/or Board of Directors will be disposed of by the entry of a decision.

1. Decisions will be in writing.
2. All appropriate parties will be notified of the decision.
  - a. The decision may be made known to Association Officers, program directors/coordinators, or any other person or entity either inside or outside the WBBA, to

whom such knowledge is appropriate, at the discretion of the Review Committee and/or Board of Directors.

- b. Decisions will be communicated to all parties in writing in a timely fashion.
3. The Review Committee and/or Board of Directors may choose to make written findings of fact but is not required to do so.

Any decision of the Review Committee and/or Board of Directors is effective immediately, unless the Committee or Board grants a stay pending appeal.

#### APPEALS

Any decision of the Review Committee or Board of Directors may be appealed.

## WBBA Code of Conduct

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, fans, and officials.
2. I will not use profanity.
3. I will not berate players, coaches, or officials.
4. I will not "trash talk" my opponent.
5. I will place the emotional and physical well being of other players, coaches, fans, and officials ahead of my personal desire to win.
6. I will treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect, regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
7. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all WBBA events.
8. I will express my concerns through the proper channels in a dignified manner.
9. I will do my best to remember that while I might lose my temper, how I handle the situation afterward is what is important.
10. I will do my best to remember that youth basketball is supposed to be **FUN** and that winning and losing are part of everyone's experience.
11. I will respect and adhere to the rules governing competition.

**I will abide by the WBBA Code of Conduct to the best of my ability.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Parents Code of Conduct**

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, association representatives, and officials at every game.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of my personal desire to win.
3. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all WBBA sporting events.
4. I will remember that the game is for the kids - not the adults.
5. I will do my best to make sure that youth sports are a FUN and POSITIVE experience.
6. I will treat other players, coaches, fans, volunteers and officials with respect regardless of race, gender, creed or ability.
7. I will not berate the officials.
8. I will not undermine the coaches' instructions or directions.
9. I will not use profanity.
10. I will communicate my concerns through the proper channels in a dignified manner.

### **PENALTY**

Any violation of the Parents Code of Conduct may result in a temporary or permanent banishment from any WBBA sponsored events.