

# Junior Warrior Boys Basketball Club Handbook

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Junior Warrior Boys Basketball Club is to provide boys in grades 6-8, who have the passion, drive, and ability, the opportunity to participate in an advanced level basketball program within a Christian environment and to promote Lakeside Lutheran High School and its programs.

## Coaches:

The Junior Warrior Boys Basketball Club, as a general rule, will have a head coach and an assistant coach at each grade level. The LLHS varsity coach will recruit and seek out qualified individuals to serve as coaches within the program.

Coaches must be qualified to teach and coach the game of basketball, be leaders and Christian role models, and embody the qualities and characteristics necessary to be instrumental in the growth and development of the young players entrusted to their care.

Coaches are responsible for their own personal conduct as well as the conduct of their team and parent group. They are expected to represent the Junior Warrior Boys Basketball Club (and LLHS) in a Christian manner. They are also responsible for the organization and administration of their team. They will work closely with the varsity basketball coach, but are expected to take care of scheduling tournaments and practices, gym usage, communication with parents, and other duties associated with the team.

## Teams and Players:

The Junior Warrior Boys Basketball Club will organize and administrate boys teams at 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels. As a general standard, teams will consist of up to 12 players. Players will be sought from within the LLHS grade school federation of schools. Eighth grade players are expected to complete the registration process at LLHS by December. Under certain circumstances, exceptions to this may be discussed by the coaches, and boys varsity coach. Teams will be selected following tryouts with all tryout members being notified of the final roster by email.

## Parents and Player Conduct:

Players and parents are expected to be models of Christianity and ambassadors for Lakeside and the Junior Warrior program. The name of Lakeside is connected to our program and as such each team bears the responsibility of acting in a manner that promotes Lakeside in a positive light.

Players are asked to be Christian student athletes, be positive student leaders in their schools, take care of academic responsibilities in a timely manner, communicate proactively with their coach about conflicts and concerns, and represent the Junior Warrior program appropriately in games and contests. Players that fail to adhere to the above guidelines will be subject to loss of playing time or other disciplinary actions from their coach or the Junior Warrior Boys Basketball Club. Repeated problems will lead to removal from the Jr. Warrior program. Player fees will not be reimbursed.

Parents are also expected to be good role models and conduct themselves as mature and adult Christians. As this is a traveling group, quite often we represent our high school. Poor sportsmanship and disrespect towards officials or other teams reflects poorly on our program. It is also important to understand that even in restaurants and hotels, people will evaluate our school based on the conduct we set forth. Parents are asked to take the lead in promoting positive Christian sportsmanship and being ambassadors for the Junior Warrior program.

## **Tryouts:**

In most cases, the number of players desiring to play exceeds the 12 player roster. As such, the Junior Warrior Boys Basketball Club will hold 2 tryouts prior to the start of the season. These tryouts are held in late October—early November, with information being dispersed through the Federation grade schools. It is expected that players interested in participating be at these tryouts. Tryouts will be conducted by the grade level coaches with input being provided by Lakeside high school staff in the evaluation of the players. All players will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. The athlete's competitive drive and passion for the sport of basketball
2. The athlete's level of skill in the 8 Warrior basketball essential skills (as taught at the Warrior summer basketball camp)
  - a. Transition dribbling and passing skills
  - b. Beating pressure with the dribble and pass
  - c. Driving and finishing
  - d. Attacking a close-out defender (triple threat skills)
  - e. Shooting
  - f. Using ball screens
  - g. Defensive footwork (post & perimeter)
  - h. Rebounding
3. The athlete's athletic ability (quickness, agility, speed, jumping, size and strength)

## **Registration and Fees:**

Players trying out for the Junior Warrior Boys Basketball Club will be asked to pre-register using a form provided through the Federation grade schools. Registration will include basic information about the player, contact information, and a waiver of liability along with consent to participate. There is no fee to tryout. Pre-registration is encouraged, but players can register onsite the day of the tryout if necessary.

Once a player has been selected to play, a mandatory parent meeting will be held prior to the start of the season. The \$140 registration fee, (\$110 for a second or third player from the same family) will be collected, players will be sized for uniforms, remaining forms completed, and each team will meet with the varsity basketball coach as well as with their respective team's coaches. At this time, many of the details for the upcoming season will be communicated. Players will also be able to order extra gear and clothing at cost if they would like to do so.

Fees paid are used to defray expenses for tournament entry fees, uniforms, gym usage, and other miscellaneous club expenses.

## **Parent Meeting:**

A parent meeting will be held every year following the tryouts and after the squads have been selected. At this meeting, players will be sized for uniforms, registration fees will be paid, and parents will meet with the varsity coach and grade level coaches to discuss items specific to the program and current season. It is significantly important to the success of the season and communication lines that at least one parent attend this meeting with his or her son.

## **Playing Time:**

Playing time is a delicate issue that can often lead to problems or issues during the year. Players and parents should understand that a basketball team is composed of 12 players, all of whom were selected with a specific purpose or role in mind. Some players are ball handlers, while others are good shooters, and some may be good defenders or rebounders. The players with skills in multiple areas will most likely see the most playing time. While it is the desire of each coach to get each player quality playing time in each game, players and parents need to understand that at the club level, playing time will not be equal for everybody. While it is difficult as a parent to

watch and understand this, it needs to be recognized that coaches will put the players on the floor that they feel should be playing. Parents and players need to respect the coach's decision and be supportive, both at the games and at home. There is nothing more divisive to a team than a parent who openly speaks negatively about a coach and his decisions in front of other team members or parents. If you, as a parent, have issues that you want to talk about with the coach, set up an appointment, and in a mature manner, discuss your points. Coaches will be available to discuss these issues with you and may enlighten you to some things you were not aware of as well.

### **Dealing with Issues:**

Invariably during a season, issues arise that can negatively impact the enjoyment of playing for kids. If things arise, please speak first with the person directly involved. If the issue revolves around the team, please speak with the coach and make him aware of your concerns. If, after meeting with the coach, you feel things have not improved, then please contact the boys varsity coach and share your concerns with him. He will then help determine a course of action to rectify the problem.

### **Practice and Tournaments for teams:**

The number of tournaments, tournament sites, practice dates, and practice sites are at the discretion of the individual coach and the varsity coach. Practices can begin any time after the team has been selected. Players are expected to be at practice, but when circumstances prevent them from attending they are asked to communicate this with their coach. Tournament play usually begins in January and lasts through March, though in some years teams may start play earlier or extend a little longer into April, depending on tournament availability.

The varsity basketball coach will approve all tournament entries and act in a supervisory capacity over each team. Teams are not limited in practice dates or times, but two practices per week is the norm, with practices lasting for 1 ½ – 2 hours. Teams are generally encouraged to seek out a minimum of five tournaments. Depending on the individual team, this number can be increased or decreased at the discretion of the coach.

There will be a period where the Junior Warrior Boys Basketball Club season will overlap the grade school Federation season. Players will be told and should understand that if a conflict exists between the two, priority should be given first to the grade school activity or event.

### **Weather:**

Since the Junior Warrior Boys Basketball Club season takes place during the winter months, weather becomes an issue at times. Safety is a primary concern, and with players travelling from different areas or greater distances, safe travel to and from practices and/or tournaments can vary for individuals. Parents are advised to use discretion when deciding to make a trip for a Junior Warrior event. If you feel it is unsafe, we respect your decision. If the head coach feels conditions are such that an event will be canceled, he will make notification via e-mail or any other means he has set up with his team.