

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

The AEYBA provides a competitive playing environment for all of its players. We consider our “Team” to include players, coaches and parents. Before you commit to any one of these roles, we urge you to review the Team Expectations below. You should become a member of the AEYBA Team only if you are able to make the commitment expected by the AEYBA. Our past experience has proven that those unwilling to make the commitment do not have a positive experience, while those willing to make the expected commitment have a very positive experience. We have been asked repeatedly how the AEYBA Program works: How do we play with different teams each week? How do we divide teams? Why don't we play our “A” team every week? Why do you have different coaches? The Team Expectations below provide details and define more completely, the serious commitment necessary for successful participation in the AEYBA Program.

### **Team Expectations**

**Commitment.** It all starts with commitment. All players are expected to be at all practices and 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 an entire grade at the same time. Practices focus on individual skill and generally only limited scrimmaging. These practices tend to be significantly more intense than middle school or recreational practices. Our practices require significant physicality and attention to detail.

**Tournaments.** Tournament games are generally Friday evening to late Sunday afternoon. Most weekends, the teams will play three (3) to seven (7) games. While most games will be within a 45-minute drive, you may have games which require overnight stays. When in a tournament, it is very difficult to devote time to anything but the tournament.

**Coaches.** Coaching is done by parent and community volunteers at all levels. We do try to have non-parent head coaches in the upper levels. If you have a concern about a coach, reread AEYBA Team Expectations and, only if you believe there to be an infraction of the expectations, call the Coach first and if not resolved then the boys or girls Director and finally if needed the President of the Board. The Directors will not substitute their judgment over the coach's. Do not confront coaches publicly. Reference the AEYBA website for contact names.

**Cost. .. For grades 4 through 8, AEYBA requires a membership fee of \$50 and purchase of raffle tickets of \$100. **This total of \$150 For 3<sup>rd</sup> grade players** we have adjusted the fee to \$25 and the purchase of raffle tickets of \$100 for a **total of \$125.** Fees must be paid before the player plays in any games. In addition, all parents are required to volunteer time at tournaments sponsored by AEYBA. You will receive information about volunteer opportunities. The fees and volunteer time pay for all equipment, uniforms and tournament fees. (Lost uniforms require a \$25 payment.) In addition, we give scholarships, buy equipment for the high school program, and help to fund a small part of the athletic director's budget. This fee does not include overnight expenses at tournaments. *Funds are available for those families needing assistance. Please contact a Board member.***

## Philosophy

AEYBA has different philosophies at various grade levels. Generally, we work at basic skill levels in fourth grade, and by eighth grade, are very competitive. In the fourth grade, we play to gain experience and to learn. By the eighth grade, we play to win tournaments. Our philosophy, by grade, is set out below.

- **Grade 3:** This age is an introduction to the program and will emphasize basic fundamentals at practice. The season will be 2-3 months and can include a couple of tournaments to get the players familiar with tournament play.
- **Grade 4:** Emphasis: Individual and team skills. This level is to develop a love for the game and the skills to play it well. Playing Time: Nearly equal, depending upon practice attendance and effort. Teams: Teams will vary from even talent to “A” and “B” teams. Tournaments: Each player will play in approximately four (4) tournaments.
- **Grade 5:** Emphasis: Individual and team skills. This level is to develop a love for the game and the skills to play it well. At this level, as the season progresses we will also incorporate a more competitive perspective. Playing Time: Nearly equal depending on practice attendance, effort and skill. Every player will have some extended playing time in each half. Teams: Teams will vary from even talent to “A” and “B” teams Tournaments: Each player will play in approximately five (5) tournaments.
- **Grade 6:** Emphasis: Individual and team skills. We pay much more attention to fundamental skills. At this level, as the season progresses we will also incorporate a more competitive perspective. Playing Time: Playing time depends on practice attendance and effort, dedication and skill. Every player will have some playing time in each half. Skill becomes a more significant but not an overriding factor in playing time. Teams: Teams will vary from even talent to “A” and “B” teams. The “A” team may have an additional tournament. Tournaments: Each player will play in approximately five (5) tournaments.
- **Grade 7:** Emphasis: Individual and team skills, competition. We pay much more attention to fundamental skills. Competition is an important part of this level. We want to teach the players how to be competitive; how to maximize their roles on the team. Playing Time: Playing time depends on practice attendance and effort, dedication and skill. Skill is a more significant factor in playing time. Players will know their role and be expected to fulfill it. Teams: Teams will vary from even talent to “A” and “B” teams. The “A” team will have a couple of additional tournaments. Depending on registrations, player cuts may be necessary. Tournaments: Each player will play in approximately six (6) tournaments.
- **Grade 8:** Emphasis: Individual and team skills, competition. We pay even more attention to fundamental skills. This is the most competitive level of AEYBA. Competition is a very important part at this level. Playing Time: Playing time depends on skill and role on the team. At this level coaches will coach to win. Not every player will see playing time in every half. On rare occasion, a player may not play in a game. Teams: Teams will vary from even talent to “A” and “B” teams. The “A” team will have a couple of additional tournaments. Depending on registrations, player cuts may be necessary. Tournaments: Each player will play in approximately seven (7) tournaments.

## **Players**

- Academics are a priority.
- Come to all practices and games prepared to hustle and learn.
- Be on time for practices and games.
- Be respectful of your parents, coaches, teammates, opponents and officials.
- Be respectful of your facilities; we practice at public schools and are responsible for any damage.
- Be neat in appearance. Neatly trimmed haircuts are required. No jewelry on the court.
- Report injuries to your coaches immediately.
- If you are unable to practice, call a coach.
- Communicate any problems or concerns in a respectful manner.
- Never quit – always have fun.
- No drugs, alcohol, or substance abuse of any kind will be tolerated.
- Theft of school property or other items of other's is obviously not acceptable.
- Bullying of other players is not acceptable.
- Derogatory comments of any kind regarding other players, coaches or referee's will not be permitted

## **Parents**

- Assist your children in meeting AEYBA's Team Expectations.
- Be respectful of the team, coaches, officials and opponents.
- If you have concerns raise them early in a respectful manner. You may not agree with a coach but listen and help your child earn a larger role on the team.
- Be sportsmanlike in the stands. Do not yell at officials, the team or their opponent. Cheer in a positive manner.
- Volunteer as required and as needed. Volunteering at fundraisers and tournaments for 4 hours is mandatory (per player).
  - If parent volunteer hours are not completed after the 4<sup>th</sup> AEYBA sponsored tournament, the youth player will no longer participate in tournaments.
  - Time on AEYBA Board counts as volunteer time Get the fees in on time.
- Make sure that your child is physically fit to play.
- Support your team.
- If a parent does not follow these "Expectations" or "Code of Conduct" the AEYBA Board may have to remove the parent's children from the program.

## **Coaches**

- Abide strictly by the AEYBA's Team Expectations.
- Learn the game - teach your players.
- Model good sportsmanship, work ethic and respect.
- Be respectful of players, parents, opponents and officials.
- Be prepared for practice and games.
- Communicate.
- Encourage leadership, sportsmanship and good judgment.
- Attend clinics sponsored by Appleton East.

## **Code of Conduct**

- Each player and parent is required to sign and to adhere to the AEYBA "Code of Conduct".