

Basketball Club Handbook



OUR MISSION

Montello Boys & Girls Basketball Club Mission is to teach, develop, organize, manage and offer youth players the opportunity to learn the fundamental skills of basketball while instilling life-lessons and values such as character, team work, discipline, respect and sportsmanship.

PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF THE MONTELLO BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL CLUB

One of the primary focuses of the Montello Boys and Girls Basketball Club is to develop players. Win loss records are of little long-run importance and forgotten very quickly by the athletes playing the game. As such, the focus will be on the teaching of fundamental skills so players are always improving as play becomes more competitive as the years progress. This is why practice time is considerably more important than game time. Games are necessary to keep youth athlete's interest and provide game experience with the excitement and pressure that goes along with game play. Developing basic skills, mental discipline, intensity and team play is important to developing a well rounded athlete.

Montello Boys and Girls Basketball Club is not affiliated with or governed by the Montello Community School District. However, the Basketball Club does use the school facilities for practice, games and tournaments. Because of this, every effort is made to work with the employees of the school, follow the school guidelines and show respect to the school while at practice or at games.

FEES

- Fees are \$25.00 per participant. Not to exceed \$50.00 per family.
- The Basketball Club furnishes entry fees for tournaments, uniforms, team balls and other equipment.
- The player/parent must provide all transportation and take responsibility for all expenses associated with out of town competition.
- Participants are responsible for the season participation fee. This fee is payable to the Montello Boys and Girls Basketball Club. It is collected by the Team Manager or Coach and is to be submitted to the Basketball Club before the player will be allowed to practice.
- These funds help to offset tournament entry fees, referee fees, uniform and equipment costs.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY/PARTICIPATION

Participation in the Basketball Club Program is open to all 3rd – 8th grade students; including homeschooled. In some instances, 2nd graders will be allowed to practice with the 3rd grade team. It depends year to year and also who will be coaching the team. The 2nd/3rd grade teams will not have many games. The emphasis for this age level is learning to handle the ball and learn some basic skills.

Every player who is registered by the deadline will be placed on a team. Coaches will notify the players / parents as to when the first practice will be.

MONTELLO BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL CLUB

All registrants will be allowed to participate as long as they:

- Have registered on the website.
- Have taken part in a skills assessment; if needed
- Have read the Basketball Club Handbook and Concussion information.
- Have paid all fees to the team manager before the 1st practice

TEAM FORMATION

The Basketball Club will be limiting teams to 10-12 players per team. Because of this we have adopted a new policy for team placement. Everyone that registers to play Club Basketball will be placed on a team and will play. However, team placement for those teams with too many players or not enough players will be assessed differently.

SKILL ASSESSMENT / TEAM PLACEMENT

- The Basketball Club is focusing on skill development and team play.
- The intent of the skills evaluation is strictly to determine ability and skill level, not to eliminate anyone from the program.
- There will be a pre-determined set of criteria to review players.
- The Montello Basketball Club Board will be doing the evaluations or designating the evaluators.
- Coaches are not allowed to evaluate those that would potentially be placed on their teams.
- Parents shall have no input to the evaluations and shall not be present during the assessment clinic(s).
- Player team placement will be determined by the Montello Basketball Club Board and designated evaluators. Players will be placed on teams based on what will benefit and grow the individual player, the team they are on and the Montello Basketball Club as well.
- The new team placement policy will be valuable in moving the Montello Basketball Club forward by creating teams that have enough players and limiting each team to a teachable number of players.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Participating in the Montello Boys and Girls Basketball Club is a privilege, not a right. A player's conduct, whether positive or negative, is a reflection of themselves, their family, their teammates, the program, the school and the community. Negative behaviors WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

As an athlete of the Montello Boys and Girls Club I will:

- Do my best in School
- Be on time and work hard in all practices and games.
- Be a TEAM Player. Never argue with my teammates, coach or referees
- Show good sportsmanship; win or lose.
- Respect the gyms we play at. If I am caught damaging our school/gyms or another school/gym, I will be immediately dismissed from the team and will be asked to turn in my uniform.

PRACTICE / GAME SCHEDULES

The goal of the Montello Basketball Club is to focus on skill development and improvement, team play and enjoyment of the game. To accomplish this, players must be available for practice and games.

Practice schedules are determined by gym availability from the Activities Director, School Administration and the District Activities calendar. Every effort is made to ensure each team has enough practice time and space. However, because we have limited gym time during the week, teams very often have to share gyms to practice.

Please do not show up to practice earlier than fifteen minutes prior to your start time. Pick up after yourselves, do not roam, run or dribble basketballs in the hallways and be respectful at all times. The Basketball Club Board members are made aware of those players who are breaking the rules. If issues continually arise, players involved may be asked to not return to practice or games until the Basketball Club policies can be followed.

Participants are expected to attend all practices and games. If a player is going to miss a practice or a game, the team coach needs to be notified. Unexcused absences may impact playing time.

Schedules will be forwarded to Team Managers and Coaches once everything has been finalized from the league website, individual tournament dates are completed and availability confirmed with the School District.

Schedules (practice and game/tournament) will be posted on the Website and on Facebook.

MONTELLO BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL CLUB

GRADES 2, 3

- Skills Assessment is not done at this grade level.
- Practice generally begins at the end of October / beginning of November.
- Practice is one possibly two times per week.
- Practice may be scheduled on any day of the week. (Wed. is limited due to religious programs.)
- Practice is usually from 6 pm. – 8 p.m.
- Practice is held in either the Elementary gym or the P.E. gym.
- Saturday games are limited for this age. Teams can expect to play in 2-3 games during the season.

GRADES 4, 5, 6

- Skills Assessment will take place toward the end of October.
- Practice generally begins at the end of October / beginning of November.
- Practice is usually two times per week.
- Practice may be scheduled on any day of the week. (Practice on Wed. is limited due to religious programs.)
- Practice is usually from 6 pm. – 8 p.m.
- Practice is held in the Elementary, P.E. or Varsity gym.
- Games are held on Saturdays usually beginning the first Saturday in December. The Youth Director schedules the league games and tournaments throughout the year.
- Practice may be held over Christmas break if gym time is available.
- The Season concludes early March.

7/8 BOYS

- **Starts with Jr. High School Basketball in October.**
- Club Basketball begins in December and ends in March.
- Practice is usually two times per week.
- Practice may be scheduled on any day of the week. (Practice on Wed. is limited due to religious programs.)
- Practice is usually from 6 pm. – 8 p.m. (But could be held after school depending on the coach.)
- Practice is held in the P.E. or Varsity gym.
- There are no League games. Only tournament play is scheduled.
- Practice may be held over Christmas break if gym time is available.
- The Season concludes early March.

7/8 GIRLS

- **Start with Club Basketball in October and end in December.**
- Practice is usually two times per week.
- Practice may be scheduled on any day of the week. (Practice on Wed. is limited due to religious programs.)

MONTELLO BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL CLUB

- Practice is usually from 6 pm. – 8 p.m. (But could be held after school, depending on the coach.)
- Practice is held in the P.E. or Varsity gym.
- There are no League games. Only tournament play is scheduled.
- Teams will play in the Club Basketball tournament weekend at the end of February/ beginning of March.
- Jr. High School Basketball begins in December.

COACHES

Coaches will be determined by the Montello Basketball Club Board.

Each team will have one Head Coach, one Assistant Coach (optional) and a Team Manager.

COACH, ASSISTANT COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

- Plan and supervise games, practices and events with the Youth Director.
- Teach the fundamentals of the sport.
- Strive to improve skill levels of players.
- Help to develop character and confidence of athletes.
- Provide a safe and positive environment for the players.
- Set examples in sportsmanship and fair play and conduct themselves accordingly
- It is important for participants and parents to recognize that all coaches and managers are unpaid volunteers who give of their time and talents.
- Parents are expected to respect the coach's game management decision and follow the Basketball Club Conflict Resolution guidelines for any conflicts that arise during the season.

TEAM MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Each team should provide one parent who will act as a team manager for that team.

- Collect all fees and paperwork before a player can practice.
- Encourage your team parents to volunteer.
- Contact team parents of schedules, notify of changes and/or cancellations and keep an updated list of team parents.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Read and sign all paperwork found on the website for registration.
- Pay Club Registration Fee.
- Maintain uniforms and return clean and in good condition.
- Make sure your child is to games and practice on time and picked up from practice on time.
- Notify Coach or Team Manager if child will be late or gone from a practice or game.
- Be an example of good sportsmanship at the games by making only positive comments about the players, keeping criticism of the officiating to a minimum volume & frequency and treating the fans of our opponents with respect.
- Be a positive influence. Do not yell or coach your child from the bleachers. Do not criticize the Coach. Remember that “winning the game” is more than the just the final score. These young athletes are learning basic skills and a love of the game. This needs to be encouraged at all times.
- Volunteer at the Montello Tournament at the end of February/beginning of March.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A player's, parent/guardian's, or coach's conduct, whether positive or negative, is a reflection on themselves, their family, the team, the program, the school and the community.

The Montello Boys and Girls Basketball Club have a zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike conduct or behavior by an individual (players, coaches, officials, spectators, or parents) at any Basketball Club function or event.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

The Montello Boys and Girls Basketball Club reserves the right to dismiss at anytime a player, coach, parent or spectator who, by their conduct, creates significant problems for the team, disrupts practices, disrupts games, or creates a negative impression on the Montello Boys and Girls Basketball Club program.

Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as (but not limited to) the following:

- Verbal abuse or physical threat of officials, spectators, coaches or participants
- Refusal to abide by an official's decision and/or demonstration of dissent at an official's decision
- Using disrespectful, unsupportive language or actions towards a fellow team member or opponent
- Distasteful bench/spectator behavior (i.e. coughing during free throw attempts, heckling the players)
- Entering the field of play and confronting and/or making contact (i.e. cursing, shoving, pushing, etc.) with another official, coach, or participant

CONFLICT RESOLUTION
“24-HOUR RULE”

Parents sometimes disagree with a coach’s decision or coaching style, particularly when it involves their player. It is important for all parties to separate a player’s sports development from game emotions. For this reason, the Montello Boys and Girls Basketball Club has adopted the **“24 HOUR RULE”**, which simply states that coach(es) and parents will not discuss game situations or practice issues until at least 24 hours after a game or practice. This rule helps to move the discussion away from the presence of the players and allows all parties to have time to put things in perspective and to ‘cool off’, if necessary.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

When a player, parent or coach has a concern regarding policies, procedures or behavior the following steps should be followed to resolve the issue:

1. Address the concern, in a respectful manner, directly with the individual, after honoring the 24 hour rule.
2. If the problem persists or is unresolved, it should then be brought to the attention of the Montello Boys and Girls Club Youth Director.
3. If necessary, the Youth Director will meet with the involved parties to discuss the situation and find a solution.
4. The Montello Boys and Girls Basketball Club Board members may be involved to discuss the issue and determine a solution.
5. If needed, a decision/solution will be determined by the Club Board and will be final.

UNIFORMS

- The Montello Basketball Club provides jersey’s and shorts for all players in grades 2/3rd – 6th grade. If shorts provided do not fit, athlete must wear dark blue shorts.
- 7/8 Grade will be provided with a reversible jersey, shorts and warm up top. During the Jr. High School Basketball season, those players use Club Basketball uniforms also.
- Uniforms will be handed out at the end of November, with the exception of Jr. High Girls. Their uniforms will be handed out in October at the start of Club Basketball and will be turned in after the Club tournament in March.
- Specific numbers cannot be “set aside” for individual players.
- Uniforms must be returned clean and not damaged. Normal wear and tear is to be expected. At the yearend banquet, you are required to turn in your uniform where it will be inventoried. If you have lost any part of your issued uniform, you will be required to pay the cost of the item to be replaced.
- Leave all jewelry at home.

PHOTOGRAPHS / SOCIAL MEDIA

On occasion, children's names and/or photos may be posted on the Montello Boys & Girls Basketball Club website or on Facebook at Montello Boys & Girls Basketball Club. There is a possibility for practice, game or roster updates and photos throughout the year. By registering you are giving consent for photos to be posted.

If you DO NOT want your child's photo posted, provide a letter to the team manager explaining that you do not want photos to be posted.

INJURIES

Each team is furnished a first aid kit. The Coach, Assistant or Team Manager will make every attempt to have the kit available at every game and practice. The first-aid kit is to address minor injuries and insignificant medical needs. Any time a parent is in attendance, medical treatment will be at their full discretion. If a player is injured that appears to be serious and a parent is not present, they will be notified immediately.

INSURANCE

Parents are responsible for providing adequate medical insurance. Montello Basketball Club does not carry any liability or medical insurance for those participating in Club Basketball.

Thank you for taking part in the Montello Boys and Girls Basketball Club. Let all have a great season!