

Old Saybrook Basketball Club, Inc.



Organizational Policies

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Old Saybrook Basketball Club is to provide a highly competitive, travel basketball experience for our youth, while fully supporting their development. Our goal is to provide the highest level of competitive basketball for the youth of Old Saybrook in grades 4th through 8th.

Commitment

- a. The OSBC's season will begin the last week of September and will commence in March.
- b. We recognize that some of our athletes participate in other sports in the fall and we want them to recognize those commitments and obligations first. However, November through March it is the OSBC's stance that OSBC will take precedence over any non-school sport team and non-season sport.
- c. Our teams will practice a minimum of twice a week and play upwards of three games a week.
- d. All players will participate in every practice, and attend every game, but game play is determined by the coaching staff.

Player Development, Progression and "A Competitive Game Plan"

With our purpose of being a highly competitive travel basketball program, we are always looking for our players to fully develop their craft and progress through our system each year. As a feeder system for the Middle School and High School basketball teams, we need to be developing and retaining athletes in the sport of basketball. Beginning at the 4th grade level and through 5th grade, we understand that our athletes are learning the fundamentals and strategies of the game. We will encourage all of our coaches to foster the complete development of our athletes in practice and in game play. We expect a fair share (not equal) of game time at this level for all to develop those skills and keep them interested in the sport of basketball.

In 6th grade these basic fundamentals and concepts should be understood and our coaches will put a highly competitive group of five on the floor at all times. All coaches in 6th, 7th & 8th grade should have a *competitive game plan* throughout every game while respecting the game, opponents and teaching good sportsmanship. Coaches should do their best to ensure that all players should get in the game. While coaching philosophies, decisions and styles will vary, they should have some similarities. Examples are:

- Starting your best 5 players at each half,
- Provide the best opportunity to win each game
- unequal play time throughout your roster

We are fully supportive of the Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation Department's recreational league and programs. We want to support their programs and initiatives and work together to offer the best player development. We encourage all of our athletes to participate in their programming.

Athletic hierarchy

OSBC wants our athletes to understand and honor commitments they have made to other teams they may be on. With open communication our coaches understand that some sports will take precedence over OSBC. Below is a list in order of rank.

- a. Interscholastic sports
- b. Old Saybrook Basketball
- c. Town Developmental League
- d. AAU Basketball (spring or summer)

Programs Provided

- a. Winter Travel Basketball, Boys and Girls 4th – 8th Grade
- b. Summer Basketball Camp with OSPR at the Rec.
- c. Summer Basketball League with OSPR at the Rec.

Teams

- a. All Teams will be made up of youth who live in the Town of Old Saybrook, CT
- b. Each team will have no more than 12 athletes per roster.
- c. Teams who have 10 or more children registered will hold a tryout prior to the season.
- d. Teams are encouraged to have more than 10 on a roster.
- e. The final roster number greater than 10 players, is at the coach's discretion to provide the most competitive opportunity for our athletes.
- f. A player will be considered a full team player and play in both games and practices. OSBC will not have any type of practice player.
- g. No player will be added to a roster after the first game of the season.
- h. No player who registers outside of the initial registration period, will be added to a team, if said team already has 10 or more players on the roster.

Registration Process

- a. Each family and child, MUST be registered in our online database and system in order to register. www.oldsaybrookbasketball.com
- b. There will be an online registration process for all tryouts or any child who is interested in playing with OSBC.
- c. If a child is placed on a roster, there will be a second online registration process for payment.

Payment

- a. Payments will be made online with credit card via www.oldsaybrookbasketball.com.
- b. All registration payments need to be paid in full prior to the start of practice, unless otherwise cleared with the league president.
- c. Scholarships are available upon completed request form, also found online.
- d. No jersey will be handed out, until payment in full (registration and jersey) has been made.
- e. All checks should be made out to Old Saybrook Basketball Club and can be mailed to:
Old Saybrook Basketball club
P.O. Box 352
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Tryouts

- a. If a team requires a tryout, it will take place during the 1st week of October.
- b. All tryouts will be close door. No one other than the coaching staff, skill evaluation committee or executive board member will be allowed to stay for the tryout.
- c. Only those athletes who are at the try out are eligible to make the team. If you DO NOT attend your team's tryout, you WILL NOT make the team. The Executive Board will make rare exceptions to this section.
- d. The final roster and resulting cuts will be determined by the coaching staff, a skill evaluation committee and/or the Executive Board members. Only those present for the duration of the tryout(s) can make a cut.
- e. Coaches will call and speak to parents following tryouts in regards to their decision. Results should not be written or left on voicemail.

Playing up

- a. It is our goal to have all our athletes play with their age group, develop as a team and compete for 5 consecutive years together. This will develop a great team that trust one another and knows each other on the court.
- b. No player will be allowed to play with OSBC until they are in 4th grade.
- c. A player may only play up a grade level, if there is not enough players at that age group.
- d. We will not allow a player to “play up” if it forces said team to hold a try out.
- e. We will not allow a player to “play up” if it then leaves their team without enough players to play.

Practices

- a. Practices will begin in the month of October and will continue twice a week through the duration of the season. ALL TEAMS WILL hold practices at the first opportunity.
- b. Practices will take place at the Goodwin Elementary School on Old Post Road or the Old Saybrook Middle School on Sheffield St.
- c. Each Team will have two or more practices a week. We will try to schedule the younger teams in the first time slot and the older teams at the later slot.
- d. Open practice times or slots will be prioritized and offered to the 8th grade boys and girls teams.
- e. Players will quietly enter the gym 5 minutes prior to their practice. They will not bounce balls or disrupt the current practice in any way.
- f. Practices are closed to parents, and only players on the team shall attend.

Games

- a. Games typically take place on the weekend, mostly on Sundays. However, Friday and Saturday games can occur and a game may be scheduled, especially make up games, during the week.
- b. As we fully support our town’s developmental league we will do our best not to schedule a Saturday game in the months of January or February.
- c. Cancellations - The OS Board of Ed. May close the gym due to weather. This is out of our control and we will adhere to their decisions. Once notified of a cancellation, a coach shall notify their team and opponent and make an attempt to reschedule. If the OS BOE is closed for the day or has an early dismissal and all afterschool activities are cancelled, so too are OSBC events.

Program Expectations

Players

- a. Our organization will have one team in both the girls and boys division for the grades of 4th – 8th.
- b. Players are expected to always try their best and give 100% to their team.
- c. We emphasize hard work, commitment, fair play, honesty and respect.
- d. Players are expected to attend all practices and games.
- e. Play time is earned not given. In grades 4th & 5th players should receive fair play time (not equal), however in 6th – 8th it is based on skill and effort put forth in practice.
- f. Players can expect constant critique and evaluation at every practice and game.
- g. Physical play – Basketball is a contact sport.

Coaches

- a. Coaches will follow all sections of the Coaches Code of Conduct
- b. Every coach will have a criminal background check performed annually.

- c. Coaches should set clear team expectations to player and parents in email and also in a parent/player meeting in the gym, during the first practice. These expectations should be followed through consistently throughout the season.
- d. When communication is sent from OSBC and needs to reach the families, coaches will forward the message(s).
- e. Coaches will adhere to all policies and communications handed down from the Executive Board.
- f. Coaches will put together a competitive game plan throughout the season and be prepared for each game.
- g. Coaches will decide play time accordingly to OSBC's philosophies.
- h. Coaches should critique and evaluate players at each practice and games. These should be shared with the players to let them understand what they are doing well and what they can do to improve.
- i. Coaches will communicate openly with all players, parents, other OSBC coaches and Executive Board.
- j. Coaches are advised to use our website for all team communications.
- k. Coaches are expected to wear OSBC provided apparel or OSBC colors to all games.
- l. All coaching positions will be reviewed annually.

Assistant Coaches

- a. Assistant Coaches are chosen by the head coach and then approved by the Executive Board.
- b. Their main duties are to help facilitate practice, help create game plans, evaluate players in practice and games, act as Head coach in their absence, and to assist the head coach however needed.

Parents

- a. Parents are expected to be encouraging and supportive of our athletes, our coaches and our program at all times.
- b. Parents must refrain from "sideline coaching." This is counterproductive for your child and confusing. It undermines your child's coach, whom they are expected to listen to and respect at all times.
- c. Parents are not expected to stay at practices, but drop their child off before practice is set to begin and pick them up promptly when practice is over. If a coach chooses to have a "closed practice," parents will not stay in the gym.
- d. Parents are expected to keep in communication with their child's coach via the coaches preferred contact. (email, text, phone)
- e. If a parent has an issue or a concern the parent should share this with their coach at an appropriate time and location. If your concerns or issues have not been resolved, please then contact the league president.

Injury

- a. Injuries will happen from time to time. If a player is injured during the season and during a practice or game, the head coach needs to report that injury to the President of OSBC via email. This will create an "accident report." If the injury is serious, emergency services "911" should be called and the parents.
- b. If a child is injured and "out for the season" prior to the 1st game, they will receive a full refund on their registration fee. They will be responsible for any jerseys ordered.
- c. If a team is down a player(s) due to injury after the 1st game of the season, no player(s) will be added to their roster.

Misconduct

It is understood that our athletes, coaches and parents will demonstrate the upmost respect for the game, their team, and our organization. We represent OSBC, the Town Of Old Saybrook and our families. Any person(s) who do not abide by our conduct code will have consequences, up to removal from our program. All

technical fouls in a game will be reviewed by the Board and its members to determine the necessary course of action.

a. Players

- i. Missed Practice or game with no communication will not be tolerated and play time will be loss.
- ii. Disrespectful behavior towards the team or coach will not be tolerated and play time will be loss.
- iii. Technical foul for poor sportsmanship will result in a one game suspension.
- iv. Multiple Technical fouls will result in longer suspensions and possible removal from team.
- v. Removal from a game will result in a one week suspension from their team, games and practices.

b. Coaches

- i. OSBC strongly believes that our coaches need to be exemplary role models for our athletes. Arguing with a ref beyond explaining your stance on the matter, is unacceptable behavior in front of our athletes and will not be tolerated. It is a poor example of how to handle adversity & frustration and it displays a lack of respect to which an official deserves. Any behavior that results in a technical foul being awarded to a member of our coaching staff will result in a penalty, a second technical foul and each subsequent technical foul will result in a suspension of one game.
- ii. Each technical foul will reviewed by the executive board and a suspension up through removal from our program will be handed down.
- iii. Insubordination – any coach who purposely defies the executive board, our parent league or any OSBC policies, will be subject to a disciplinary hearing. Here they can state their reasoning prior to a decision being handed down. Discipline will be in the form of a coaching suspension or removal from position. All disciplinary hearings must have every executive board member present. Said coach shall be given a 48 hour notice of his/her hearing.

c. Parents

- i. If a parent, family member or any spectator in attendance supporting OSBC basketball is acting in a manner that does not display the upmost respect for our athletes, coaches, opposing teams, game officials, they will be asked to leave.
- ii. A parent may be asked to leave a game by our coaching staff, game official or the building supervisor.
- iii. If you are asked to leave a game it is expected that you peacefully exit the building & the property.
- iv. The game will not commence until that individual(s) have left the building.