



BASKETBALL PROGRAM

Athletic Handbook
2022-2023

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Welcome to the Nashville Central Christian Warriors

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Nashville Central Christian Warriors is to provide a venue for homeschooled children to honor our Lord Jesus Christ through the pursuit of excellence in the sport of basketball.

Objectives:

- To assist homeschooling parents in the development of the biblical principles of sacrifice, unity, humility, diligence, submission to authority, self-control, and love in their children (*Rom. 12:1, Phil. 2:2-3, Col. 3:23, 1 Pet. 2:12a, Gal. 5:22-23*)
- To publicly exemplify these characteristics through competition, providing a vehicle for the advancement of the Gospel. (*Matthew 5:16*).
- To assemble a highly competitive team at each level as a supplement to and not a distraction from family, church, and school priorities (*Col. 3:23*). To this end there will be NO Sunday events scheduled.
- To strengthen family unity and involvement through participation in this parent-run program.
- To supplement the efforts of individuals who desire to pursue basketball beyond the NCC program.

We are a parent-run organization and the time commitment involved during the season is significant. We sometimes travel for games as far away as Huntsville, Chattanooga, Bowling Green or Knoxville. In February, we attend a Regional Tournament often out of state. Our goal is to also attend the NCHBC National Championship tournament in Springfield, Missouri held in March. It is required that all players make every effort to attend these tournaments, as team cohesiveness is affected when a player who has taken part all year is not there for the tournaments.

In addition to their commitment to practices and games, all families are required to take on a TEAM job and an ORGANIZATIONAL job. Parent involvement is essential to the success of our organization.

Our annual calendar looks something like this:

August	MS/HS Mandatory Parents' Meeting
September	Coaches' Meeting
October	MS/HS Practices begin U10/12 Mandatory Meeting
November	MS/HS Regular Season Games begin
Jan-Feb	WNSL Season for U10/12 games

February Regional Homeschool Tournament
March National Homeschool Tournament and EOY Banquet

2022-2023 Board

Power & Stacie Jensen – President
Gary & Patty Johnson – Treasurer
Brian & Kym McDonald – At Large
Eric & Angie Mullett – At Large

Head Coaches:

U18 Boys - Caleb Johnson
U16 Boys - Brian McDonald
U14 Boys - TBD
U14 Girls - TBD
U12 Boys - TBD
U12 Girls - TBD

Policies and Guidelines

1. Board Selection / Responsibilities –

- a. Each position is held by a husband and wife and represents ONE VOTE. In the event of a tie vote, the president shall make the final decision.
- b. Head Coaches cannot be Board members, without Board approval.
- c. As Board members rotate off, new members are nominated and approved to replace them by the existing Board. An effort is made to accurately represent our organization's composition, including ages, gender and geographical areas that our teams represent.
- d. **ALL** Board members must be able to sign the Statement of Faith (see Appendix)
- e. Lead the direction of the Nashville Central Christian Warriors Basketball Program.
- f. Act as a conduit between the coaches and families.
- g. Select coaches, and work with coaches to determine rosters and make decisions on the competitive nature of the teams.

2. Team Representative Selection / Responsibilities -

- a. Team Reps are recommended and approved by board members prior to each season.
- b. Coaches' families cannot act as team reps, except under extenuating circumstances and then must be approved by the Board.
- c. Communications leader for the team regarding schedules, changes, news, etc.
- d. Liaison between the families, board and coaches
- e. Enforcement of dress code for their team
- f. Ensure appropriate display of sportsmanship by parents, players, and coaches
- g. Delegation & management of team jobs by the families and report those jobs and assignments to the Board Secretary or other appointed representative

3. Coach Selection / Responsibilities –

- a. Coaches are appointed and approved by the Board each year. All coaches serve for a season.
- b. All new coaches will submit to a background check, and sign the NCC statement of faith.
- c. At Middle School and High School level, all Warrior Head Coaches should first serve a season as an assistant coach before being considered for a head coaching position.
- d. Approved Head Coaches must submit the names of proposed Assistant Coaches to the board for approval prior to asking someone to coach.
- e. Expectations of our coaching staff are addressed in greater detail in our Coaching Handbook. Coaches are expected to develop a player's basketball skills and assist in character development. All coaches report to, and are accountable to, the Warrior Board.
- f. Running practices.
- g. Determining team/game strategy.
- h. Determining playing time for each player.
- i. Handling team discipline in conjunction with the Board and upholding NCC policy and guidelines.
- j. Determining and presenting the end of the season awards to student/athletes per guidelines.
- k. Assisting with our summer camp and recruitment of players.

4. **Student/Athlete Responsibilities –**

- a. Students playing Middle School and High School are required to have an annual Sports Physical completed prior to the first conditioning/practice.
- b. Official Basketball practices begin in October and are **mandatory**. Any absence from practice or games must be excused by the coach.
- c. Student/athlete and parents **must** read and sign the Code of Conduct, Dress Code, and Handbook Acknowledgment BEFORE he/she may begin mandatory practices with the team.

5. **The Nashville Central Christian Warriors' Program policies are listed below:**

- a. Each player must be at least 50% homeschooled by a parent.
- b. Each player must maintain at least a 2.0 or "C" average during the active season.
- c. **Middle School** (normally 7th & 8th graders) is for all players who have **not** reached their 15th birthday before September 1st of the calendar year of the upcoming season.
- d. **Junior Varsity** (normally 9th & 10th graders) is for high school players who have **not** reached their 17th birthday before September 1st of the calendar year of the upcoming season.
- e. **Varsity** is for all players who have **not** reached their 19th birthday before September 1st of the calendar year of the upcoming season.
- f. Any player on a team outside his/her usual age group will be approved by the board.
- g. In cases where a student/athlete is playing on multiple teams, there are restrictions on the number of quarters that the student/athlete may play over two games. The restriction is 6 quarters over two games.
- h. A player transferring from any other team that has been expelled or removed from an athletic team for disciplinary reasons must sit out 1 year before being eligible to play.
- i. Any student who has officially graduated is **NOT** eligible to participate as a student/athlete even if he/she meets the age requirements. If a student/athlete has met all the requirements for graduation, but has not officially graduated, then that student/athlete must meet all the participating requirements as well as continuing their homeschool education and be registered under an umbrella school. This includes any 5th year seniors.
- j. All players, including transfer students, will be governed by NCHBC eligibility rules.

6. **Philosophy regarding our Varsity & Junior Varsity teams –**

When the player numbers allow, we will have varsity and junior varsity teams. The structure of these teams will be decided by the Board for the particular year.

- a. Field the most competitive teams while following our general guidelines.
- b. Improve basketball skills in players by maximizing practice & playing time.
- c. Give our coaches the responsibility and authority to implement these philosophies considering the uniqueness that each season and each team of players brings.

7. **Philosophy regarding U10/U12 program**

- a. The U12/U10 program is a developmental program that will play in a local developmental or recreation league as a Warriors' team with Warriors' uniforms.
- b. The preseason schedule will consist of 1 practice per week. The regular season schedule will consist of 1 practice and 1 game per week.
- c. The player fee will be determined yearly, based on the league fee.

- d. When the player numbers allow, we will have a U10 and/or U12 team for both Girls and Boys, and the division of those teams will be determined by the age of the player on September 1st of the year the season begins.
- e. The goal of this program is for the players to:
 - 1. Learn
 - 2. Have Fun
 - 3. Want to continue to play basketball
 - 4. Develop Christ-like character

8. Schedules –

- a. The target number of regular season games is 24-28.
- b. The target number of tournaments is 2-3, as well as participation in the Regional and National Homeschool Tournaments.
- c. The target number of basketball events per week is 4-5 for Varsity teams and 3 for Middle School teams, including games & practices, both pre-season during October and during the season from November to March. The only exception to this target is when more games have to be scheduled in one week due to our opponents' scheduling requirements or due to tournaments. During the weeks when more than the target number of days occur for any given team, there will be no practices scheduled for that team.
- d. Summer activities will be limited to:
 - One outside team camp or summer league agreed upon by the coach & parents of a team
 - Optional team workouts/shoot arounds supervised by coaches

9. Reinstatement Policy –

Any former player (*whether the player left voluntarily or was officially suspended*) who desires to return to the program must go through a reinstatement process, which includes a written letter to the board requesting reinstatement. Final approval for a former player to return to the team will come from the Board and the Head Coach of the players' team.

10. Raising Issues Guidelines –

This is a parent-run organization. The Board serves as representatives of the parents as well as a conduit between players/families and coaches and will hopefully be the glue to keep the organization functioning at its highest level. It is our desire that our coaches be allowed to concentrate on coaching. If there is an issue that needs to be dealt with, the parents should put the issue in writing, sign it, and forward it to their Team Representative who will bring the issue to the Board. This process will allow the board to have a clear understanding of any issue that may arise. **Players** concerned about playing time should talk to their coach. **Parents are never to approach a coach regarding playing time.**

11. Travel Guidelines –

It is important that players attend all games. During overnight trips, including the national tournament, a parent must accompany their child. If there are extenuating circumstances and the parent/guardian absolutely cannot go, a detailed travel plan for the player must be presented to the NCC Warriors President for approval. This plan must

include transportation, the designated parent (who will assume the responsibility for the student/athlete), and you must provide them with a permission slip, medical information, copy of insurance card and a means on how to return the player if policies are violated.

Note: Head Coaches will not be responsible for your child during overnight trips.

12. Warriors Financial Policy –

As with all programs, the Warrior basketball program requires financial resources to operate. Each players' annual fee provides resources for gym rentals, referees, tournament fees, insurance, equipment, taxes, and some coach expenses. In addition to the annual fee, uniforms and warm-ups will be purchased. (*Uniforms are typically rotated every 3-5 years due to vendor's changing stock*). Other expenses you will incur are admission fees, normal travel expenses and hotel. As previously noted, we may travel to some out of town games in addition to our local schedule. Out of town game trips may require an overnight stay. Finally, the Warriors will travel to our Regional Tournament in February, as well as the National Homeschool Basketball Tournament in March, which is typically a week-long trip.

The annual player fees along with uniform costs are due at the time of registration. Anyone who registers after August 31st will be charged a \$50.00 late registration fee. The board will work to provide the opportunity to spread out payments. A player will not be allowed to participate in a game until all checks or fees have been received in full or are on an automatic payment plan.

Anyone who registers and has need for partial financial assistance for player fees may contact the President of the board for an application. This application will be confidentially reviewed by a committee consisting of the President, (or Past President), and Treasurer.

Code of Conduct

Christian Biblical principles and common sense will guide our **Code of Conduct**. Coaches have the responsibility and authority to enforce these rules. These guidelines are in force during all team functions, not just practices and games. If coaches or family members violate the Code of Conduct, it will be the responsibility of the Board to address that issue.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

- **We expect immediate and complete compliance with all coach's instructions, provided they are consistent with this Code of Conduct and parental guidelines.**
- **We value teamwork on and off the court. We will not be unkind to a team member or blame one another for mistakes or losses.**
- **Foul language is not permitted.**
- **Social media posts that reflect poorly on our program, coaches, players or families are not allowed.**
- **No use of personal cameras or video equipment, including cell phones, is allowed in the locker rooms. Ever.**
- **Fighting or provoking a player to fight is not allowed.**
- **Any extreme reaction to an official's call, such as throwing the ball, hitting or kicking anything, negative facial expressions or gestures or arguing with an official, is a conduct violation.**
- **The use of alcohol, tobacco products or illegal drugs is not permitted.**
- **Any immoral activity that violates the Ten Commandments violates our Code of Conduct.**
- **We value the respectful attitudes of our players, coaches and families. We want to extend this attitude to coaches, officials, opponents as well as to the restaurants and hotels we visit during the season. Disrespectful attitudes or behavior will not be permitted.**

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

This list does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs and standards. For purposes of NCC's faith, doctrine, practice, policy and discipline, our Board is NCC's final interpretative authority on all matters regarding conduct.

Dress Code

*All players must wear the approved team uniforms and warm-ups for the current season.

*All NCC players must wear their team warm-up, which includes travel pants and shooter shirt, when entering the gym, before their game, following their game, and until they exit the building. This includes all home and away games that are not tournaments. The optional approved Warriors travel jacket is the only item that may be worn over the shooter shirt while in the gym. No other jackets, coats, and the like should be worn over the warm-up at any time in the gym. Warm clothing may be worn underneath the warm-up. Attire allowed under the warm-up includes t-shirts (short or long-sleeved), sweatshirts, or hoodies. **The allowed colors are navy blue or white.** No other colors will be allowed.

*Visible tattoos must be covered up. This includes practices.

*Any jewelry, including piercings must be removed during practice and games.

*During tournaments, all players must wear their team warm-up one hour before their game. Following their game, they may wear street clothes. **Our members should always dress to reflect our Christian values and to represent the Warrior organization in the best light.** Street clothes, worn while in attendance of Warrior functions, should be conservative and modest.

*Team warm-ups must be worn for all awards ceremonies.

*Headphones and head coverings (hats, scarves, etc.) are prohibited when in uniform.

* Regarding practice attire, boys must wear shirts at all times. Girls' armholes should be modest and will be monitored. For all teams, compression shorts are strongly recommended and may be required by individual coaches.

* Coaches and team representatives will be responsible for ensuring that the dress code is strictly followed.

Disciplinary Action Following Violations of Conduct or Dress Code

1. Warning
2. Sitting one quarter of a game.
3. Sitting one half of a game.
4. Meeting between players, coach and board representative to discuss further discipline, which may include suspension.

TEAM REPRESENTATIVES and the TEAM JOBS

The Team Representative is responsible to help build a strong team and handle any questions or concerns of parents. If parents have concerns that need Board review, the Team representative will ask the parent to submit the concern **in writing**. The Team Representative and the President will first try to take care of the matter and if unable, it will be taken up with the full Board.

At the beginning of each season, the Team Representatives will select couples or individuals that will be responsible for specific team assignments. It is **not** the intent of the NCC Warriors program that the Team Representative does the bulk of these tasks. The Team Representative will submit the names of each leader for each assignment to the board to ensure that the areas are being covered. Some of the tasks can easily be combined to be done by a single couple or individual. The Team Representative should be reviewing on a regular basis each of the volunteer jobs and ensuring that each task is being done.

Communication Leader: (*The Team Representative*) Ensure that all players and or parents are notified of all activities. This would include practices, meetings and games. This notification will be done through handouts, e-mails, other forms of electronic communication, or phone calls. Each team rep. and coach will decide which method is most appropriate for the specific event.

Sportsmanship Leader: (*The Team Representative*) Take a leadership role in the conduct of our fans and players. Intervene if tempers flare between fans. Ask our fans not to boo or make any noise during free throws. Relay our need for good sportsmanship to the parents as needed. No noise makers are allowed, including drums, whistles, horns, etc. Ensure that any activities will not offend opposing teams or parents, (e.g. music that is played).

Dress Code Police: (*The Team Representative*) Ensure that players adhere to the Warrior Dress Code. ***Parents should be monitoring their student/athlete to ensure he/she is dressed according to the NCC Warriors Dress Code.*** If a player chooses to ignore this requirement, the parent/guardian or team rep will first remind him/her of the Code of Conduct he/she has signed. If compliance becomes a continuing issue, it will be reported to the coach so that appropriate discipline can be administered.

First Aid Kit: Keep team first aid kit equipped for coach to bring to every practice and game. Be sure the Emergency Medical forms are kept with the first aid kit and brought to all games and practices.

Statistics Coordinator: Select 2-3 parents at each game to complete statistic forms. Gather the statistic forms after the game and give them to the coach. Check with the team coach to determine the extent of statistics required.

Statisticians: 2-3 individuals that keep statistics from the stands during the game.

HOME GAMES

Bookkeeper and Time Keeper Coordinator: Trains on both the clock and book and serves as a backup for both jobs. Verifies clock and book jobs are filled for each game.

Official Timekeeper: Individual designated to control the Official Clock at **HOME** games.

Official Bookkeeper: Individual designated to keep the Official Book at **HOME & AWAY** games. The bookkeeper is required to sit at the Official table.

Set-up & Tear-down Coordinator: Coordinate the families and players in the set-up of chairs/table and the tear down and collection of trash after games. **HOME GAMES ONLY.**

Coaches' Christmas & End-of-Year Gifts:

At Christmas, purchase a large gift bag for each coach and assistant coach. Collect items (*anything from homemade goodies to gift cards, etc.*) from families on your team and put them into the gift bag. Ask the players to present the gift bags to the coaches at their last home game before the Christmas break.

At the end of the year, choose a gift to be given to each coach and assistant coach. Each family shall be asked to contribute equally toward this gift. The team representative will present the gifts to the coaches at the Awards Banquet held in May.

Concessions Team leader/set-up/tear-down: Responsible to email reminders to team about job date/time. Also, arrive before game to help set-up concessions and/or help tear down. Concessions Coordinator will give details.

Admissions/Concession Workers: **EVERY** Warrior Family is expected to work either admission or concessions several times during the year. (*Varsity Boys' parents will work during Varsity Girls' games and Varsity Girls' parents will work during Varsity Boys' Games. The same scenario is true for Middle School Boys' and Girls' teams.*)

The **Admission** volunteer will greet each arriving team's coaches and direct them to the Visitors' locker room.

**** Admission/Concession duties will be assigned for regular season games before the season opener game and will be emailed to all families.**

**** If we host a tournament, admission/concession duties will be made the week before the tournament begins and will be emailed to all families.**

***If a leader cannot be at a game, it is their responsibility to ensure that another parent will handle their duty. ***

Appendix

STATEMENT OF FAITH (for Board Members and Coaches)

I believe...

-that Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, is the one and only Son of God the Father, who, with the Holy Spirit, is fully and eternally God. (1 Cor. 15:1-8)

-that Jesus Christ, after having shed His human blood atonement for the sins of humanity was bodily resurrected from the dead to ascend to the right hand of the Father. (Hebrews 10, Luke 23-24)

-that the Bible alone is the inspired word of God, our authority and standard. (Timothy 3:16)

-that every person has worth as a creation of God, being made in the image of God, but that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

-that the forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life are available to all those who trust Christ as their Savior and Lord. (John 3:16)

-that the path of surrendering to Christ is repentance from sin and confession of faith in Christ, recognizing that we have been saved by God's grace and love. (Romans 10:9)

-that the church is the body of Christ on earth, empowered by the Holy Spirit for equipping and for holiness, and exists to save the lost and edify the saved. (Ephesians 4:1-16)

-that Jesus Christ will one day return and reign forever as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

This statement of faith reflects my beliefs and will guide my decisions and dealings with the Nashville Central Christian Warriors.