

Team Objectives

Our team objectives are very simple and they never change.

WE ARE GOING TO:

Play hard

When we tell our player to “play hard”, we want them to give everything they have to every second out on the basketball floor. If they give anything less than 100% then they are not getting the most out of their abilities. You cannot reach your potential without putting your maximum effort into everything you do.

Play smart

By encouraging smart play, we try to get each player to work within the team offense we spend so much time on in practice, to play within his own physical limitations. To us, these are both part of “playing smart”. As a general rule, we do not want inventors out there. We tell the players to just make the basic plays and let the overall flow of the play take care of itself. When all five players are performing within the team offense and their own physical limitations, then you have a team that is playing smart. You will be given a notebook which is to be with your equipment at all times.

Play together

Team chemistry is essential. Be more concerned about passing and helping on defense than scoring. Be unselfish players.

Think “WE” and not “I”.

Play clean

The coaching staff understands basketball is a contact sport, but there are certain things that will not be tolerated in practice or games, such as flagrant fouls, which includes things like grabbing, pushing, or throwing elbows.

Have fun

When we stress that the players “have fun”, we merely want them to remember that basketball is a game, and that your primary reason for participating in the sport is simply for the pleasure you experience while playing it. But you won’t get any enjoyment if you play a game feeling afraid to lose, or feeling that you must win at all cost. We want our players to play with this mind set: ***Basketball is just a game.*** It’s supposed to be fun, and we can have fun while we are playing hard and playing smart.

Winning & Losing

It's nice to be successful in terms of wins and losses. But it's the values we instill in young people through the vehicle of athletics that will continue to be a positive influence long after we've named our last starting lineup. After all, the real game is the game of life. And it's the one game we cannot afford to lose.

Priorities

A fundamental job of our staff is to help our players get their priorities in order. We encourage our players to devote themselves to four things:

God

Family

School

Basketball

Everything else must come after. Show us young people who have their priorities in order, and we'll show you players who have the best chance of getting the most out of their lives, both on and off the court.

Academics

Academics are the purpose of school; a student who is willing to work hard toward that purpose is more likely to work hard toward becoming a better basketball player and helping a team.

Players who demonstrate these priorities are far superior to those with equal talent who do not have such objectives.

Practice as you play

Players should play hard, play smart, and have fun while practicing. "As you practice, so shall you play." Players who believe in this enter the game with a feeling of confidence that inspires them to really get after the task at hand. They take the floor knowing that they will not beat themselves.

Throughout my coaching career, I've observed that more teams lose because they have beaten themselves than for any other reason. Conversely, players who take the floor with confidence will believe they can win the game---if they play hard, play smart, and have fun.

A winning effort

A winning effort is more important than the actual outcome. When we can look back at a game and know we did the best we possibly could, then we know we made a winning effort. That is all any coach can ask of his players.

Player motivation

A motivated player or team will attain greater results than a player or team that is simply going through the motions. When the team does not play well, it may have nothing to do with the offense or defense. Rather, it may be the necessary desire, enthusiasm, and eagerness to achieve. In other words, you may not be motivated.

As for what to reward, an obvious choice is good performance. But perhaps more importantly, we always try to reward players who are working hard and putting forth the good effort, both on and off the court. ***Remember that Defense Wins Championships.***

Off-court behavior

Players are encouraged to come and talk to me if they see improper behavior from anyone on the team. We are careful not to create the unhealthy situation in which teammates are squealing on teammates.

We are responsible for the physical conditioning and behavior on the court. However, for the remaining 22 hours in the day, it is your job to *keep* yourself in shape and to conduct yourself appropriately.

Injuries

The players are responsible for informing the coaching staff when they are injured. We don't want them trying to be heroes and then missing even more time by aggravating an injury. We never want an injured player to play. But occasionally a player can play with a minor injury or a little soreness. In these cases, we speak with the player and parents and then the coaching staff will decide. If there is any doubt, he sits.

Starters and non-starters

One of the biggest threats to team spirit is the selection of a starting lineup. Being in the starting lineup or on the bench is not a win-lose situation. We can only start five players, but we need a lot of finishers. Any one of you may be called upon to finish a game because of injuries, foul trouble, or any number of situations that may develop. Starting lineups will vary based upon practice or our opponent. Captains will be chosen by head coach, and they will be worthy seniors.

Managers

In selecting managers, we try to choose students from different classes and bring them through the system to maintain continuity much like we do on the basketball court. Mature and responsible managers are invaluable resources to the coaching staff. They are given a great deal

of responsibility and are well-respected by all members of the team. We are fortunate to have a great managerial staff.

Officiating

Basketball is the hardest game in the world to officiate. It is a thankless job, yet this great game would not be what it is without the dedicated officials who work night after night and do their job as well as they can. We encourage all players and coaches to treat them with respect and they will treat us the same way. It is morally right and strategically more effective.

We expect our players to run the loose ball to an official throughout the game regardless of the score. We also expect our players to raise their head and face the score table when a foul is called on them. This is simply just a show of positive sportsmanship. Basketball can sometimes bring out the best and worst in all of us. We need to strive to bring out the best. It is better not only for our players and officials but for our coaches and our sport.

Academic guidelines

1. All players and managers must strive to show academic progress in all classes.
2. Players with grades below a C are not meeting the minimum academic standards of our team. This will result in ASAP.
3. Players that have negative academic progress reports from teachers will do extra academic work, lose practice time, and playing time.
4. Players who have an unexcused tardy or an unexcused absence from class will not be allowed to practice or play in the game on that day.
5. Excused tardy and excused absence decisions will be made at the discretion of the coaches.

Helping players with their college plans

The coach has equal responsibility to players both on and off the court. Virtually every high school player dreams of going on to play basketball at the college level. We all know that as the level of competition increases the chances of making it at that level decrease.

“Recent figures show that there are approximately 800,000 high school basketball players, but only 16,000 players at the college level. That means that only one out of every 50 high school players will make it in college---roughly one player from every four teams.”

Our efforts as coaches can help a young athlete get the opportunity to play college ball. We attempt to get information regarding seniors into recruiters' hands, then provide any follow-up information needed. If players go on to play college ball, our efforts are not wasted. Players appreciate when coaches are working hard to make colleges aware of them. Do not limit yourself to only Division I schools. There are plenty of Division II and III schools, community colleges, and NAIA schools out there who would love to have a good, hard-working player.

Atchison County beliefs

Success comes to that person who

Knows where he is going

Determines what he should do to move in this direction

Works industriously toward the mastery of all details

Believes with all his heart that he can have almost anything he wants if he wants it bad enough.

Your future will be determined by you. You can read all the books you like, do all the wishful thinking you like, but success will never come until you decide to be up and doing. Herein lies the secret of success, ***“The greatest mystery in life is the success that comes from work.”***

Most teams have good talent, but some seem to always rise to the occasion and play somewhat better than they might be capable of. What makes these teams play this way? What makes an individual play this way? We think that what we are talking about is dedication, loyalty, mental attitude and working together.

We believe that an aggressive physical conditioning program is the foundation of strong mental and physical discipline.

We believe that morale and unity are two major components of great teams.

We believe that great teams have attitudes that are consistent and unselfish toward team thinking and strive for unity of purpose.

We believe that a starting point to team morale is sound defense.

We believe a sound defense is impossible until the player is willing to make great personal sacrifices in many areas (including the physical, mental, and emotional aspects) and is willing to lose his identity within the team.

We believe that the greatest satisfaction comes through team performance.

We believe that the actions of the players on and off the court are relative.

***“GETTING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING;
KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS;
WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS”***

Practice and games

The one thing that we want you to always remember about practice is...***preparing to be successful is not always comfortable. Sure, everybody wants to win but few want to prepare.***

The conduct of a player during practice and in our locker room is expected to be at a certain level and deviations from this norm could be detrimental to the player's progress. The following set of general rules must be adhered to, and all coaches have the authority to enforce all rules:

1. Be on the floor on time at 3:30, including arriving at the designated area for meetings and team departures. If you need attention from an assistant coach, manager, or trainer, arrive at the gym early so you can still be ready to practice on time.
2. No jewelry will be allowed on the practice or playing floor or in the locker room
3. Unexcused tardies or unexcused absences will result in extra running, loss of practice privileges, loss of playing time, suspension or removal from the team. Players must notify a coach of their intent to miss practice in advance.
4. Excused tardies and excused absences may result in make-up and loss of playing time.
5. Absence from practice the day prior to a game will result in a potential loss of playing time. If you are in attendance but don't practice, you may be allowed to play depending on the severity of the situation that kept you out of practice.
6. Work on weaknesses before practice starts. We will often have pre-practice plans for you. It is important for you to practice the fundamentals every day in pre-practice. Also work on shooting shots that are applicable to your position. Work on form shooting every day.
7. Stop all action on the whistle. When a coach is talking to the team, refrain from talking and distracting the team.
8. When called to an area, sprint there. NEVER WALK ON OR OFF THE BASKETBALL COURT. You can rest when you are substituted for.
9. Practice at game tempo. All-out effort during practice is expected. This will make game habits automatic.

10. Limited practice time necessitates utilizing each minute. No horseplay will be tolerated. We expect two hours of your concentration---totally on basketball---not on homework---not on your girlfriend---not on what you did yesterday---not on what you are going to do tonight---***Remember this is strictly Tiger Basketball Time.***
11. Approach new techniques and situations with a positive attitude.
12. Accept all criticism in its proper vein; profit from it; this is why it is given.
13. Never criticize a teammate. The coaching staff will take care of that. You can always correct mistakes and praise your teammates. The coaching staff will share with you in praising you team members.
14. We encourage you to attempt to control your emotions. Any harsh words, trash talking, or cheap shots are unacceptable! Be sure to never take any disagreements in practice or games off the court. To accomplish A TEAM, you must respect your teammates.
15. Remember, you should do all you can to contribute to an efficient organized practice session. If you let down then you are letting your teammates down.
16. You must always acknowledge a good pass. This helps build A TEAM.
17. Any time a shot is taken by our offense, all five defensive players must get back on defense. We will always have at least 3 players designated to go to the offensive boards.
18. Any time a shot is taken by our opponents, we will have all 5 players rebound the defensive boards.
19. We believe very strongly in PEER group pressure; therefore, any let downs by an individual will result in the team running. If an individual continually goes through the motions in practice, he will be sent home and lose practice and game privileges.
20. Never leave the court without checking with a coach in advance unless the situation is an emergency.

23. Dunking will be allowed only in certain situations: drills that are scheduled in practice or in scrimmages or games. There will be no dunking before or after practice horsing around. There will be no dunking allowed on the side baskets.
24. When spoken to, always answer the coach with respect. Never argue or talk back.
25. Maintain a noticeable level of intensity and enthusiasm.
26. Always run the loose ball to an official, a coach, or manager.
27. Always, Always, PLAY HARD, PLAY SMART, PLAY TOGETHER, AND HAVE FUN.
28. During practice or games, raise high a clenched fist if you need to rest.
29. During practice or game situations, applaud positive plays and players on the bench should stand as they applaud.
30. Jog on and off the court during substitutions, slapping hands with your teammate while holding a short conference on substitution responsibilities.
31. Always show appreciation and respect, especially to the following support groups: managers, cheerleaders, dance team, band, custodians, and bus drivers.
32. Be sure to wear the practice gear checked out to you.
33. Know the satisfaction of an all-out effort each day. Some players play out their entire athletic careers without really knowing what a full extension of their abilities feels like. When we practice or play games, go to war. And when you are through learning, you are through!
34. Place your uniforms in the wash basket immediately following practice or a game. The washing of uniforms will begin 15 minutes after the game.
35. Players will be allowed 15 minutes after practice to work on individual skills.
36. It is a sport regulation to have your uniform jersey tucked inside your shorts.
37. Sit as a team before games---home and away.

39. Collared knit shirt, slacks, and good shoes are required during school on game day for both home and away games.
40. No caps or head gear are to be worn in school or on road trips. All caps should be removed once inside the building. It can be put on just before you leave the building to go outside. Stocking caps are allowed for appropriate weather conditions.
41. During timeouts, everyone stands and gets involved in listening to timeout instructions. The players in the game should be sitting.
42. During play, timeouts, or substitutions, you should never look into the stands. Never do we want to be told that you are communicating with anyone in the stands during a game.
43. No locker room coaching! Any criticisms we discuss among our team are expected to stay behind closed doors. Be sure not to take criticisms of team or coaches home. If you haven't talked to coaches about your concern, then you must not really be interested in solving a problem or concern.
44. Before the game, our team will not engage in activities that would draw attention to ourselves. After the game, go to the locker room immediately after shaking hands with opponents.
45. If there are media requests, we will inform you.
46. Parents may enter the locker room with coaches' permission.
47. College and AAU coaches may NOT enter the locker room before, during, or after games.
48. Alumni students or friends may enter the locker room with coaches' approval.
49. Players are to have no telephone or personal contact with AAU coaches during the basketball season. If an AAU coach wants to attend a game, he should contact the coaching staff in advance to get approval.
50. The coaching staff will not discuss playing time with parents until the players have spoken with the head coach.

General team rules

- Play Hard, Play Smart, Play Together, Play Clean, Have Fun.
- Be on time when time is involved.
- Do not do anything to embarrass the team, yourself, coaches, family, school, or community
- Do not do anything that calls attention to yourself rather than the team.

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Effort and success

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“In the battle of life it is not the critics who count; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of a deed could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes up short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at worst if he fails at least fails daring greatly, so that his place shall never be those cold and timid souls who have tasted neither victory nor defeat.”

—*Theodore Roosevelt*

