

Mid-Missouri Mavericks Parent Expectations

Parents, as primary educators of their children, have the following roles as related to student athletic participation:

- ❖ Reinforce the learning opportunities that present themselves during athletic events to help their athletes grow in their faith as disciples of Christ;
- ❖ Provide love, encouragement, and support for the student athletes;
- ❖ Hold students accountable in their academics, conduct, and priorities;
- ❖ Communicate with, assist, and support coaches;
 - Attend a midyear meeting with your player's coach and your player to discuss your player's progress
 - Parents will wait 24 hours after a game to communicate with coaches about any concerns they have with the players or the team
- ❖ Protect the unity of the Mavericks program by: seeking peace with others (Ephesians 4:3), acting in love toward others (1 Peter 1:22), taming their tongues (Ephesians 4:29), and dealing with problems in private (Matthew 18:15);
- ❖ Help to develop the Positive-Only-Principle for the Mavericks program during practices and games which carries over to home conversations (as outlined below).
- ❖ If your player has experienced fever or vomiting within the last 24 hours please do not send them to practice or games. This is also the players' responsibility to make sure you are aware if they have had fever or vomiting within the last 24 hours.

Therefore, I commit to the above guidelines as well as the following expectations:

- ❖ Provide accurate information to maintain and ensure academic eligibility.
- ❖ Encourage my child to attend all scheduled games, practices, and activities as well as arriving early and ready-to-go on time; or notify the coach in advance.
- ❖ Honoring and respecting the coaches' instruction and authority.
- ❖ Help create a family environment for the team by providing assistance to each other with carpooling, etc.
- ❖ Choose an area of the program in which to volunteer and support the team with my service.
- ❖ Demonstrate Christ-likeness in sportsmanship and conduct.
- ❖ Treating all with respect, and promoting unity within the organization.

Playing Time: All players will be given instruction during practice and games to enhance their knowledge of basketball strategy and develop their basketball skill. The Mavericks do not hold try-outs and the team is open to all homeschool athletes looking to grow within the sport of basketball. The Mavericks are also a competitive program looking to seek advancement within the National Christian Homeschool Association. In order to maintain both things- coaches have to balance the amount of individual player game time with the appropriate advancement of the program and team. Individual game time may not be equal for everyone and will be based on the skill level of the players, the skill level of the other teams, player attitude and practice performance, and specific game situations (regular season game vs tournament, etc). While everyone values play time- it is also important to develop the skills needed to support the team and learn game strategy from the bench. We want to grow our athletes in both areas. The coaches- we will do their best to have clear communication of their expectations for play time and the goals they have for each individual player. If a player or a parent has questions or concerns about individual play time- we would encourage the player to come to the coach with those first. The coaches will meet together during the season for purposes of accountability and to seek feedback on game/player strategy and improvement.

Positive-Only-Principle

Maverick athletes, spectators, parents, and coaches will strive to exhibit only encouraging behavior and make only positive comments during practices and games. All spectators and

participants will forgo negative comments, actions and attitudes, including negative signs, cheers, and other communication directed at opposing teams. This principle leaves plenty of room for enthusiastic support of the Maverick competitors and simultaneously builds good character. The Positive-Only Principle must be modeled to the students by coaches and parents alike (Philippians 4:8).

Athlete Code of Conduct

As an athlete in the Mid-Missouri Mavericks organization, I agree to:

- ❖ Do all things for the glory of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- ❖ Take ownership of my spiritual journey and grow accordingly.
- ❖ Honor the coach in the instructions given.
- ❖ Work hard to develop my skills.
- ❖ Be early to practices and games, ready-to-go in equipment and attitude.
- ❖ Show respect to my teammates, coaches, referees, and others.
- ❖ Exercise self-control and good sportsmanship.
- ❖ Encourage my teammates in a positive way.
- ❖ Take care of equipment and facilities (cleaning up as we go).
- ❖ Serve the team by volunteering during practices, games, and activities.
- ❖ Work hard in school to retain academic eligibility
- ❖ Live a life of holiness by refraining from foul language, drugs, alcohol, pornography, sexual activity, or other questionable practices.
- ❖ Represent our team by demonstrating a positive attitude on social media, as spectators in the bleachers, while hanging out, etc.

[From Coach's Handbook]

Discipline Guidelines

Coaches have the responsibility to encourage and protect a positive, Christian environment on and off the court. They are in a position of influence with the privilege of joining in shaping an athlete's character. With this in mind, these guidelines are provided to give necessary tools, protocol and information as to the area of discipline.

Violations to the athlete code of conduct including, but not limited to, talking when the coach is talking, disrespectful attitudes, goofing off instead of running drills correctly, foul language, etc. will incur any one or combination of the following.

- Verbal warning from the coach
- Extra team conditioning, such as longer amount of time spent on drills.
- Ending team practice early and notifying parents and board members.
- Sitting out a specified amount of game time.
- Losing starting position.

If the preceding consequences have not resolved the behavior, the coach will fill out an incident report form and send a copy to the board.

- Meeting with the parent(s).
- Sitting out a substantial amount or an entire game.
- Meeting with the parent(s) and board member(s).
- Expulsion from game or practice, or even the team.

Special Note in regards to behavior outside of practice and games:

Please be advised that inappropriate behavior happening during an event that the Mavericks are not directly participating in will still be addressed by coaches or board members. As the Mavericks, it is our goal to reflect Christ wherever we go. If our behavior as a team is dishonoring to Him, that behavior will be addressed and disciplined as needed (formal apologies, loss of game or practice times, parent meetings).

[From Coach's Handbook]

Captains

- * Captains will be chosen by the coaches at the beginning of the season within the first 4 weeks of practice in order to be ready for Tip-Off. A captain selection will be limited to one or two individuals per season based on character, leadership abilities, and overall basketball knowledge.
- * Captains will be responsible for pre-game courtside meetings with coaches and referees.
- * Captains will need to be able to express ideas and communicate concerns to coaches, referees, and teammates with grace and a level head.
- * Holding the position of captain will equal two points towards varsity lettering.
- * Captains will also be part of the advisory members for the Mavericks board. They may be invited to board meetings in order to give the board a player's perspective.

Requirements for Varsity Lettering

- * Once a player has achieved 18 points, they will be eligible to receive a varsity letter.
 1. 2 points for each semester of varsity participation (Greater than or equal to 50%),
 2. 2 points for no later or unexcused practice/ 4 points for perfect practice attendance,
 3. 2 points for no team rule violations,
 4. 2 points for holding the captain or co-captain position,
 5. 2 points for exemplary Christian character (honor, integrity, excellence),
 6. 2 points for earning tournament awards (MVP, All-Tournaments, Christian Character, etc),
 7. 1 point working as a volunteer in Maverick events (summer clinics, fundraising, extra events, etc),
 8. 2 points for leading team devotions,
 9. 1 point for leadership demonstration (leading huddle prayer, running drills, etc),
 10. 1 point for maintaining a free throw percentage above 70%,
 11. 1 point for holding any end-season stat record (rebounds, assists, steals),
 12. 2 points for career points of 1000.

Each category of points are to be awarded per season at the coach's discretion.

- * After lettering, each year of varsity basketball played will earn a bar. Extra awards and recognition will be given in the form of stars. Both bars and stars are pins that can be placed on the letter.

NCHC Basketball Eligibility Guidelines

updated 08/07/2023

Academics

1. Must maintain a 2.0 GPA.
2. 51% homeschooled.
3. Normal course load is considered to be 6 courses. No more than 3 courses should be taken outside of the home.
4. "A player that attends a private, public, charter, or university-model school full-time is not eligible in HomeSchool divisions." This is to include KCA, LPA, Heritage Academy, etc.
5. Dual Credit: 9th-11th graders must take a minimum of 3 homeschool courses, 12th graders must take a minimum of 2 homeschool courses, (can be electives).
6. Online Academies/Local classes/Co-ops: No mention was made about these alternatives or the restrictions of them.

Reporting GPA--Parents Please Note

"Each member team and/or program shall have standards in place to make sure that all participating players maintain at least a 2.0 GPA (on a 4-point scale) during the active season."

PARENTS: Please report to the coaches if a problem arises with a student's grades.

"Programs are to use only players that are eligible by NCHBC Eligibility Guideline for all games throughout the year. Failure to do so disqualifies a program to attend NCHBC Events."

Age & Gender Requirements

- Age Cut Off: **Updated 8/7/23-** August 1st deadline— A player's age group is determined by their age on August 1 of the current school year. Clarification: A player who is 16 on July 31, with an August 1st birthday, who turns 17, is considered eligible to play in the 16-and-under age group at NCHC events. The EAB agreed to this clarification in 2018 or earlier.
- Age Exemptions/hardships- **8/7/23 Update-** When the age deadline was moved from September 1 to August 1, the voters had agreed that with this change, there would be no age-only hardships that would be approved or sent to vote; all would be automatically denied.
- Playing 'up': Players may play in a higher age group if desired. In Basketball we offer 10u, 12u, 14u, 16u, & 18u age groups.
- Multiple Age Groups at Events: Players may play in numerous age groups.
- Gender: A player is only eligible to play in the gender division that the player was born, as recorded on their original birth certificate. There are no co-ed teams at Nationals. &/or NCHC runs postseason Events. No exceptions.

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Residential

1. Must reside with parents/legal guardians.
2. Must live within 100-mile radius of the practice facility.
3. Must not be married.

Hardship Exemptions

A hardship exemption can be requested from NCHC if any of the above guidelines are not met. This is the family's responsibility to provide this exemption to the coach in writing to be eligible to play/practice with the team.

Definition of a HomeSchool Student-Athlete

"Homeschooling" is defined to mean that a student's education is parent-directed. As such, the parents shall be involved in their child's education by assuming the role of principal or headmaster, thereby (1) setting the date and requirements for high school graduation; (2) selecting and approving course materials and study schedules; and (3) selecting tutors, correspondence courses, videos, computer courses, and similar resources for their child's education. HomeSchooling would also include the person of legal responsibility* of the student filling the role of a parent.

All information is from NCHClive.com.

Transfer Policy (for students coming from private/public schools)

1. Must be homeschooled continuously throughout the current academic year (meaning from the beginning of this school year and throughout).
2. Must join the team before the first game.
3. Grade level must be consistent with previous year of public/private school.
4. Incoming Juniors: Must sit out 30 days from the 1st game while still practicing. (May be eligible to compete on 16u/JV team.)
5. Incoming Seniors: Must sit out one semester (October 15-December 31) while still practicing.
6. All transfers must complete the appropriate New Player/Transfer form on NCHClive.com
7. For the program: More than 2 transfers per season will result in players sitting out longer periods. One transfer may have his/her restrictions waived.

Coaches Expectations

- Teach the fundamental skills and strategy of the sport of basketball, helping each student athlete to grow in their knowledge and practice of both aspects, with a focus on growth, character, and process over winning.
- Support, love, and encourage student athletes while also maintaining appropriate boundaries with players (including physically and emotionally and through social media/communications, etc.)
- Encourage commitment and dedication by ensuring every student athlete remains accountable for delivering 100% effort during practices and games, even when pushing beyond their comfort zone.
- Whenever feasible, ensure the presence of two adults during all practices/events, unless parental consent has been explicitly granted for carpooling or one-on-one situations. This precautionary measure is proposed as a safeguard for both coaches and players, promoting a secure environment.
- Take responsibility for setting appropriate boundaries for behavior, attitude, work ethic, and interaction with teammates
- Behave professionally with language and attitude during practices and games, abstaining from obscene language, threats to players/refs/coaches/parents, outbursts of anger, etc.
- Model Christian character on and off the court, including humility, honesty, integrity and modesty.
 - Criticism/correction should be worded in a positive way with a growth mentality. (Ex.: "I need you to try this vs. you really screwed that up"). Maintain a "positive only principle".
 - Public social media accounts should reflect Christian values and this code of conduct
 - Coaches should refrain from abuse of alcohol and drugs.
 - Coaches should model sexual purity, abstaining from pornography, sexual activity outside of marriage, and other questionable practices
 - Dress should be appropriate and modest. At Mavericks events, coaches and players should not have midriffs showing, shirts should be worn at all times, no cleavage showing, avoid overly tight clothing, no spaghetti straps, no logos depicting obscenity/drugs/alcohol
- Be ready and willing to foster good communication with student athletes, parents, other coaches, and the Mavericks board of directors. Organize a midyear meeting with each parent and their player to discuss their player's progress. Communicate promptly with the Secretary and the team regarding any adjustments to the practice schedule or cancellations. When feasible, make arrangements for your own substitutes.
- Be able to accept the time commitment of practices and games. Be on time to practices/games, unless there is an emergency, and communicate ahead of time with the other coaches if you need a substitute.
- Desire to encourage spiritual growth along with basketball skills by initiating prayer before and after games and practices as well as being willing to lift up student athletes in prayer at home.
 - Implement various suggestions from the Mavericks board to support and encourage the spiritual growth of each player and of the team as a whole.
- Treat everyone with respect and promote unity within our program. Practice the Biblical model of dealing with discord between people, seeking peace and unity. Following Matthew 18:15-20, most situations would call for:
 - First go to the person/player/parent to discuss.
 - If that doesn't work, bring another along.
 - If that doesn't work then bring the matter before the Board.
- Align with the goals and mission of the Mavericks, agree to Mavericks Mission Statement, and operate under the authority of the Mavericks board of directors.

What to Expect as Players progress through the Maverick's Program

Welcome to the Mid-Missouri Mavericks Basketball Program! As your child begins their journey with us, we want to provide clarity on what they can expect as they progress through the program from Junior High (JH) to Varsity.

Junior High (JH) Level:

- **Fundamentals Emphasis:** At the Junior High level, our focus is on building a strong foundation of fundamental basketball skills. Players will receive comprehensive instruction and ample playing time to develop their skills and confidence on the court.
- **Inclusive Environment:** We believe in providing equal opportunities for all players to participate and contribute to the team. Junior High teams prioritize learning and growth, ensuring that every player feels valued and supported.
- **Skill Development:** Coaches will work closely with players to refine their techniques and understanding of the game. Emphasis is placed on individual skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Junior Varsity (JV) Level:

- **Increased Competition:** As players advance to the Junior Varsity level, they will encounter higher levels of competition both within our program and against other teams. The intensity of play may increase, requiring a heightened level of skill and strategy.
- **Performance Expectations:** Players at the Junior Varsity level are expected to demonstrate a solid understanding of the game and proficiency in fundamental skills. Coaches may implement more advanced tactics and strategies, and playing time may be influenced by individual performance and team dynamics.
- **Skill Specialization:** Junior Varsity players will have the opportunity to further refine and specialize their skills in specific positions or roles on the court. Coaches will work with players to identify strengths and areas for improvement, helping them reach their full potential.

Varsity Level:

- **Peak Competition:** Varsity basketball represents the pinnacle of competitive play within our program. Players at this level will compete at their highest abilities, facing formidable opponents and challenging situations.
- **Selective Playing Time:** Playing time at the Varsity level is earned through hard work, dedication, and consistent performance. Coaches will select lineups based on skill, strategy, and game dynamics, with the primary goal of achieving success for the team.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Varsity players are expected to demonstrate leadership both on and off the court. They serve as role models for younger players, embodying the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and perseverance.

As your child progresses through the Mid-Missouri Mavericks Basketball Program, they will experience growth, challenges, and opportunities for success. Our goal is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment where every player can reach their full potential and contribute to the team's success. Thank

you for entrusting us with your child's athletic development, and we look forward to witnessing their growth and achievements in the years to come.