

NEW LONDON GIRLS YOUTH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK



2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NLGYBA MISSION STATEMENT

Through trust, communication and mutual respect, we will create a working partnership with the New London area community to establish an educational youth basketball program for young girls within the New London School District. This youth program is intended to provide opportunities and support the ongoing participations in the game of basketball. We will establish an environment where learning the fundamentals of the game will be stressed at each level of the program. We will maintain a positive environment of every child involved, with the opportunity for competitive play.

www.nlgyba.hoopsystems.com

WHAT IS THE NLGYBA?

The New London Girls Youth Basketball Association (NLGYBA) was formed in 2001 to provide a youth program for girls in grades 3-12 to:

- Teach the game of basketball
- Provide educational and competitive opportunities
- Prepare the girls for high school basketball
- Instill the importance of teamwork, good sportsmanship, and individual achievement.

The overriding desire of the association is that the participants have fun while achieving these goals. Although the association is advised by the present high school varsity coach, the attainment of these goals is ultimately the responsibility of the association's board of directors and youth coaches. It is essential that coaches maintain a focus on the priorities and goals of the NLGYBA, bearing in mind that the program is for the players, not the parents or the coaches. The coach should emphasize that the most important aspect of the game is having fun while competing to win.

NLGYBA PURPOSE

The purpose of the NLGYBA is to promote and provide different levels of basketball opportunities to any girl attending a school (public, parochial, or home school) in the School District of New London with limited barriers to participate.

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

The New London Girls Youth Basketball Association (NLGYBA) includes grades 3-12. The NLGYBA hosts tournaments to raise funds to offset the cost of providing the following programs.

Program One (Saturday Clinics) - Grades 3-6

- The Saturday Morning program is offered Saturday mornings in early to midwinter. This level provides a fun level of learning without the pressures of game play. Girls will participate in 40 minutes of fundamental drills and 20 minutes of game play. Each girl will be placed in a team, coached by a varsity basketball player, and play other teams throughout the program on a rotating basis. The NLGYBA encourages all relevant-aged girls to attend these sessions. **This program is held at the discretion of the NLHS Varsity Staff.**

Program Two (Heart of the Valley League) - Grades 3-6

- This program provides an atmosphere that is less competitive than Program Three, as far as game competition. League play introduces team play with the emphasis on individual development. There are

no evaluations or cuts, but rather a supportive learning experience. All players will have equal playing time to the best of the coach's ability.

- Heart of the Valley games typically take place on 2-3 Saturdays in November and/or December at various Fox Valley locations. Teams will play approximately three games each Saturday.
- This program is only available to girls in the public school system and home schooled students. (Parochial schools offer their own league play that runs concurrent with NLGYBA programs, however, exceptions for participation can be made in the event that there is no team available to the local parochial schools). Late sign-ups for Program Two (including parochial students) will be added at the discretion of the team coach.

Program Three (Traveling Tournament Teams) - Grades 3-8

- No player will be eliminated from Program Three. Every player is expected to give full effort and be willing to learn and listen to her coach. Coaches will evaluate players week to week on talent, practice time, effort, work ethic, and academic satisfaction
- This program is designed to provide competitive play for those girls who enjoy and have the skill to compete at a higher level. This program focuses on both team and individual development. The tournament teams will play in weekend tournaments in and around Northeast Wisconsin.
- Along with focusing on teaching the fundamentals, tournament teams will also focus on fair competition, good sportsmanship, and team success.
- Our ability to form two teams at a grade level will depend on the number of participants and available coaches. In the case of high numbers, the association and coaches may hold an evaluation and girls will be placed on a team based on their skill level.
- Program Three is generally scheduled to begin after Program Two's season is completed for girls in grades 3-6.
- Girls are allowed to participate in Program Two and Three, with the levels being scheduled to avoid overlap.

Team Composition

Grades 3 – 6:

- If a grade level has 15 players or less, the coach has the option of taking all players to every tournament or have the players rotate equally to tournaments with each player attending no more than the maximum number of tournaments suggested at their grade level.

Grades 7 – 8:

- If a grade level has 15 players or less, the coach has the option of taking all players to every tournament or to create a core group of 7-8 players that will attend every tournament and the remaining players will rotate to tournaments equally.

**If any grade level has 16 or more players and there are enough available coaches, two teams will be formed. An evaluation will be held and girls will be placed on a team based upon their skill level. If enough coaches cannot be found to support two teams, then the players will rotate equally to tournaments.

Playing time

- Playing time given to each player will differ by grade level; however, every player will play in each game she attends. Keep in mind that unexcused tardiness and/or absences to practices and/or tournaments, academic or behavior issues at school, work ethic, and attitude can affect this playing time. If a coach feels it is necessary to adjust playing time based on any of these criteria, it will be discussed with the player and her parents prior to the tournament.
- 3rd & 4th Grade – There will be greater emphasis on providing quality playing time to each player with a slight emphasis on skill, attitude, attendance, work ethic, etc.
- 5th & 6th Grade – There will still be quality playing time for each player, but beginning to place a greater emphasis on skill, attitude, attendance, work ethic, etc.
- 7th & 8th Grade – Playing time will be based on skill, attitude, attendance, work ethic, etc. It will not be equal, however, coaches will make every effort to provide fair playing time and every player will play in each game she attends. Please note that it is highly encouraged for the athletes, themselves, to first approach their coach in a calm, respectful, private manner for issues regarding playing time, while still abiding by Phase 1, as detailed in the Code of Conduct section below.

3rd Grade Level Expectations

- We hope to teach the basic concepts and fundamentals of basketball and continue to reinforce these as the season progresses. Our objective in grade three is to increase the level of play and try to increase the intensity during actual game and/or tournament competition, while still providing a fun environment. We hope to make this enjoyable for each participant. The main goal in the younger grades is to get the players involved in basketball and to teach the fundamentals of the game.
- There will be two practices a week for each team and it is recommended that the team participate in 3-5 tournaments.

4th Grade Level Expectations

- We hope to reinforce the concepts and skills learned during Grade 3. Our objective in Grade 4 is to increase the level of play and try to increase the intensity during actual game and/or tournament competition, while still providing a fun environment. We hope to make this enjoyable for each participant. The main goal in the younger grades is to get the players involved in basketball and teach the fundamentals of the game.
- There will be two practices a week for each team and it is recommended that the team participate in 4-6 tournaments.

5th Grade Level Expectations

- We hope to reinforce the concepts and fundamentals learned during 4th grade. Our objective in 5th grade is to increase the level of play and try to increase the intensity during actual game and/or tournament competition, while still providing a fun environment. We hope to make this enjoyable for each participant. The main goal in the younger grades is to get the players involved in basketball and teach the fundamentals of the game.
- There will be two practices a week for each team and it is recommended that the team participate in 5-7 tournaments.

6th Grade Level Expectations

- We hope to reinforce the concepts and fundamentals learned during 5th grade. Our objective in 6th grade is to increase the level of play and try to increase the intensity during actual game and/or tournament competition, while still providing a fun environment and beginning to introduce basic concepts used at the high school level. We hope to make this enjoyable for each participant. The main goal in the younger grades is to get the players involved in basketball and teach the fundamentals of the game.
- There will be two practices a week for each team and it is recommended that the team participate in 5-7 tournaments.

7th Grade Level Expectations

- We hope to reinforce the concepts and fundamentals learned at the 6th grade level and increase intensity during competition. Our objective in 7th grade is to increase the level of play and competitiveness in practices and games. Our focus is to start preparing the girls for the high school program. Offensive and defensive preparation will mirror the philosophy of the high school program, as best it can. It will still be the philosophy of the association to enjoy the game of basketball.
- There will be two practices a week for each team and it is recommended that the team participate in 5-8 tournaments. The team will be allowed to participate in one tournament during the 7th grade middle school season, otherwise, no practices or games will be scheduled during the middle school season.

8th Grade Level

- We hope to reinforce the concepts and fundamentals learned at the 7th grade level and increase the intensity during competition. Our objective in 8th grade is to increase the level of play and competitiveness in practices and games. Our focus is to start preparing the girls for the high school program. Offensive and defensive preparation will mirror the philosophy of the high school program, as best it can. It will still be philosophy of the association to enjoy the game of basketball.
- There will be two practices a week for each team and it is recommended that the team participate in 5-8 tournaments. The team will be allowed to participate in one tournament during the 8th grade middle school season, otherwise, no practices or games will be scheduled during the middle school season.

Code of Conduct

All those associated with and involved in the NLGYBA represent a cross section of the New London community. All persons associated, in any way, with the NLGYBA must act in a manner that falls within the guidelines of the NLGYBA. It is important for all players, parents, coaches, referees, and fans to act according to the Code of Conduct set forth by the NLGYBA, thus becoming ambassadors for this organization.

Abusive behavior by players, parents, coaches, umpires, and fans will not be tolerated. NLGYBA officers, board members, and referees have been directed to confront and warn any person who engages in any abusive behavior. If such behavior continues, the offending person will be removed with a review by the NLGYBA Board. A review of this type could result in a warning or suspension for the offending person.

Players

- Will abide by the NLGYBA Handbook.
- Will respect and not criticize coaches, all players, referees, and/or fans.
- Will cheer and encourage their teammates while refraining from badgering the opposition.
- Will make an honest effort to listen, learn, and participate.
- Will accept all coaches and referees decisions without argument.
- Will be good winners and losers.
- Will participate in end of game activities (Handshake, award ceremonies, etc.)
- Will not use any inappropriate or abusive language.
- Will not abuse equipment.
- Will be positive role models for the NLGYBA organization.
- Will follow NLGYBA guidelines for handling a concern if needed.**
- Will complete, sign, and turn in NLGYBA Code of Conduct Agreement prior to participating.

Parents/Fans

- Will abide by the NLGYBA Handbook.
- Will respect all players, coaches, officials, and fans.
- Will not interfere with a coach or official performing their duties.
- Will support all members of the team while refraining from badgering the opposition.

- Will be expected to have their player on time for practices and games and to see that their player attends these activities on a regular basis.
- Will accept all coaches and officials decisions without argument.
- Will follow NLGYBA guidelines for handling a concern if needed.**
- Will be positive role models for the NLGYBA organization.
- Will not use any abusive or inappropriate language.
- Will not criticize or openly display unreasonable acts of anger or disgust directed at players, coaches, officials, or fans.
- Will complete, sign, and turn in NLGYBA's Liability Waiver, Code of Conduct Agreement, and Concussion Waiver prior to the player participating.

Coaches

- Will abide by the NLGYBA Handbook.
- Will be fair and impartial in their treatment of players.
- Will use structured discipline to maintain a respectful environment on and off the court.
- Will demonstrate positive leadership qualities to all players, parents, fans, and officials.
- Will follow NLGYBA guidelines for handling a concern if needed.**
- Will abide by NLGYBA's policies in regards to practices and tournament entries.

****Handling a Concern**

Addressing, concluding, and moving beyond unforeseeable concerns is key to the success of developing young teams. Below are the guidelines to assist all stakeholders (players, parents, and coaches) in handling concerns successfully:

Phase 1

24 Hour Rule

- Wait at least 24 hours following a game or incident prior to calmly and respectfully addressing a concern with a coach or parent.
- Do not address a concern in front of other players, parents, or coaches.
- Please call or email to set up a time to meet or talk regarding the concern.
- If approached prior to 24 hours following the game or incident, the approached individual has the discretion to request the full 24 hours to pass prior to discussion.

If a conclusion has not been resolved to satisfaction following discussion after 24 hours, either party is encouraged to complete the NLGYBA Concern Form, as detailed below:

Phase 2

Complete NLGYBA Concern Form

- Fill out the form to the best of your ability including detailed events and conversations.
- Mail to NLGYBA (P.O. Box 145, New London, WI 54961) or give to an Executive Officer at your earliest opportunity.

Phase 3

NLGYBA Executive Officers to hold meeting with involved parties to reach conclusion.

*Please note that it is highly encouraged for the athletes, themselves, to first approach the coach in a calm, respectful, private manner for issues regarding playing time, while still abiding by Phase 1, as detailed above.

New London Girls Youth Basketball Association will, at its discretion, warn or suspend any persons violating or abusing any policy, procedure or code of conduct rule. It is the responsibility of all coaches, officials, players, parents, guardians and fans to know NLGYBA's rules, regulations, policies and procedures.