

Wakefield Basketball Association

Code of Conduct

Coaches, Players, and Fans

Introduction

The Wakefield Basketball Association is a recreational youth sports league that is open to all children in first grade through eighth grade in Wakefield. The WBA is a volunteer organization that has built a reputation of providing a positive basketball experience for all participants.

The WBA has a strictly enforced “equal play” format, and through the efforts of volunteer coaches every child is given the opportunity to play and practice. In addition, the WBA referee corps is comprised of a combination of high school and college students and adult volunteers. It is their job to enforce the WBA Rules of Play and the WBA Code of Conduct.

This document, along with the WBA Rules of Play, sets forth the overall structure of how the WBA operates. Please review this information carefully.

Coaches, parents, and other interested parties are always welcome to attend the WBA Board of Directors meetings to provide input and to discuss any issues that are related to WBA activities. If you are interested in attending a board meeting, please contact any member of the board.

General Code of Conduct Applying to All

1. The WBA is a recreational league designed to teach the game of basketball to our youth, and to promote fair play and the spirit of competition. This should be the guiding principle in how you conduct yourself at all times.
2. WBA Games and Practices are generally conducted on town property in our school gymnasiums. Please treat these facilities as if they were your own. There is always a building custodian on duty at all of the facilities during games and practices. They are present to attend to any matter relating to the proper functioning of the facilities, including bathrooms, hallways, floor spillages and heating and electrical systems. Any building related matter should be reported to the custodian on duty, or to a WBA official.
3. The WBA referee is responsible for enforcing the Rules of Play and the Code of Conduct. Members of the WBA Board of Directors are always present at all of the gymnasiums during WBA game activities, to supervise and assist the referees in carrying out their duties.

Coach Conduct

Among the primary goals of every coach who coaches in the WBA is to teach the game of basketball, provide equal opportunity to all players to explore the game and improve, and build confidence in the players and members of the organization. This includes working together with high school and college aged, and adult volunteer referees to ensure a positive outcome for all even if there are disagreements or differing views on certain calls in a game.

1. The WBA has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy. Any harassment of players, opposing coaches, or referees could result in dismissal from your coaching duties. The WBA Board of Directors will review these incidents. Suspensions may be for a single game or longer depending upon the severity of the incident.
2. Only the head coach and one assistant and players on the team playing in the game are allowed in the bench area on game day. Siblings or friends of your players are not allowed on the court or on the bench for any reason during games or practices. If a coach believes there is a special circumstance necessitating someone to be on the bench, they must clear it with the age director before the game. We expect such circumstances to be rare.
3. Two technical fouls for misconduct in a game given to a coach will result in a game ejection and automatic additional one game suspension. Any player or coach who has been ejected must leave the gym.
4. A suspended coach cannot coach or speak to their players or be in the bench area while fulfilling a suspension. A suspended coach may be present in the gym as a fan, but may not be actively involved in the game in any manner.
5. Profanity or fighting will result in two technical fouls and automatic ejection and possible suspension.
6. The head coach is responsible for the conduct of their players and assistants at games and practices.
- 6a. Only the head coach may engage in discussion with referees. Assistant coaches are not permitted to make commentary to referees during the game. Violations will result in a technical foul.
7. The head coach is responsible for ensuring that the bench area and facility is cleaned up after games and practices.
8. All WBA equipment must be returned to the age director at the end of the season. You may be required to pay for equipment not returned.
9. Only locations and times designated by the WBA for games and practices may be used. A coach may not hold an unauthorized practice. If a coach holds an unauthorized practice, the WBA accepts no responsibility or liability for any and all player problems and injuries, and for any and all property damage. Violation of this rule will result in a suspension.
10. Any questions, comments or complaints should be brought to the attention of your age director. If a solution cannot be reached, the age director will bring it before the WBA Board of Directors for resolution.
11. Any coach causing damage to the practice site or WBA equipment will be held responsible for damages.
12. A coach may not represent themselves to the Wakefield School Department or to any of the WBA's vendors as an official of the league.

Player Conduct

1. The WBA has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy. Any harassment of other players, coaches, or referees could result in a suspension or dismissal for the remainder of the year.
2. Only coaches and players will be allowed in the bench area.
3. Any unnecessary roughness by players could result in a technical foul and possible ejection.
4. Two technical fouls for misconduct in a game given a player will result in a game ejection and may lead to a suspension. Any player who has been ejected must leave the gym.
5. Any profanity or fighting will result in two technical fouls and automatic ejection and possible suspension.
6. A suspended player must serve their suspension on the bench in street clothes. A suspended player must serve their suspension in this manner before being reinstated.
7. Two suspensions in a season will result in a dismissal from the league for the remainder of the season, including playoffs.
8. The uniform for all players must consist of the WBA provided jersey, sweatpants or shorts of an appropriate length (i.e., shorts below fingertips when arms at sides). No jewelry, which includes rings, bracelets, necklaces or earrings, will be allowed. The only exception would be for medical alert bracelets.
9. Only official WBA basketballs will be allowed in the gyms for games and practices.
10. Any questions, comments or complaints should be brought to the attention of your age director. If a solution cannot be reached, the age director will bring it before the WBA Board of Directors for resolution.
11. Any player causing damage to the practice site or WBA equipment will be held responsible for damages.

Parent and Fan Conduct

1. The WBA has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy regarding abuse of any kind towards coaches, players and referees. Inappropriate behavior will result in suspending you and/or your child from participation and attendance in future WBA games.
2. Only coaches and players are allowed in the bench area. If you are a volunteer score keeper or you are running the game clock, you cannot communicate with referees other than to manage the score or clock (i.e. no attempts to influence or complain about calls) and cannot coach or engage in discussion with coaches other than to manage the score or clock. Volunteers at the scorer's table are expected to remain quiet, and to focus on the duties at hand.
3. Respect the role of your child's coach, assistant coaches and the referee. Do not coach from the sidelines. The children need to listen to directions from the coaches and the referees. You may cause injury or confusion for your child, particularly if they are listening to conflicting information. If you have a question for the coach or referee, please hold it until after the game has been completed.
4. If possible, do not sit or stand directly behind the basketball net. Distraction can cause injury to the players.
5. Keep your comments positive toward the referees, the coaches, the children and their efforts. Some children naturally excel at the game while others work to understand even the most fundamental rules.
6. Do not allow siblings or any other children such as friends that you are directly responsible for to roam freely in the gym or be otherwise unsupervised. Please ensure that all children are always under the supervision of a responsible adult. Younger children especially, should not be allowed to visit the bathroom unless accompanied by an adult.
7. Be on time for drop off and pickup, particularly after practices. Your child's coach cannot leave any team player unattended.