**Coaches**

**Be positive, teach basketball, maintain control ,and have fun!**

These 5th and 6th graders look up to you. Refrain from negative and critical comments, even when your patience is thin. Find things to praise and compliment. You can actually change a kid’s life with your words and actions.

Make practices and games fun. Teach them the basics.

Maintain control over your team. Keep them safe and command respect. Your mentor will step in if you need/ask them to.

**Be prepared**

Show up early.

Always be there at least 5-10 minutes before practice, and at least 20 minutes before game time.

Have a practice plan.

You will need to show your plan for practice to your team mentor prior to each practice. This helps you to plan and not just fly by the seat of your pants.

Have a substitution pattern.

There is a form online you can download for any number of players to insure everyone plays equally. You will also need to show this to your mentor.

**Communicate with parents**

Decide which one of you will be the communicator with the parents on your team. This prevents any “I thought you were going to do that!” moments.

**Communicate with mentor**

Pre-practice

Show plan

Discuss any needs

Pre – game

Show sub pattern

**Model Good Sportsmanship**

Respect the refs – good calls and bad; they are learning too

Reward effort – not simply winning

Reign in negative comments – don’t allow teammates to say negative things about themselves or other.**Mentors**

**Important:**  You are not a coach. We do not need you to be a coach, nor will we let you be a coach. ;-) Your role is to serve as a support and an accountability partner to the high school students that are coaching. That said: the following are our expectations of a mentor.

**Attend practices.** Arrive at least 5 mins early and have coaches show you their practice plan. If you are unable to attend, simply have another parent attend for you. Or notify one of the directors and we will find a replacement.

**During practices, observe.** If there are discipline issues, feel free to step in and redirect attention to the coaches. Or if your help is requested, please help. If there are things during practice that occur that are concerning to you, let us know. If there are things during practice that deserve praise, let us know.

**Attend games.** Arrive at least 10 minutes early so that the coaches can show you their substitution plan.

\*If you desire to take it a step further, be an encourager to the coaches… drop an email, show up with a Gatorade to practice, have the kids write a thank you note, etc.