

Philosophy -

The GVBL Tournament Basketball Program has been established to provide a more competitive, stronger level of basketball than intramural or recreational programs offered to GVSD kids. The commitment to practice is greater and the development of the players is accelerated. The primary objective for the tournament team will be to train and develop the players on a higher level, providing an opportunity for them to excel in a more competitive, yet fun environment.

GVBL Tournament Teams look to:

- Give every player an opportunity to play and improve
- Continue to focus on fundamentals to provide lifetime basketball skills and accelerated improvement
- Compete at the highest level that is appropriate

The program at each grade level will vary based on the number of interested players as well as the number of available coaches. Typically, there is one program and one team which learns and practices together. The Tournament Team roster for each grade level is typically between 12-18 players depending on the number of coaches and the number of players having the skill to compete at this higher level of play. The coaches will work with all players equally on fundamentals and instruction, skills training, offensive and defensive sets and overall team philosophy. Playing time for each player may vary based on game situations and talent level. It is important that parents and players understand that while coaches will work to develop all players in practices/games, playing time in games may not be equal for all players.

The Tournament team season will typically consist of League play from December through February, and tournaments from Christmas through the end of May. As we are sponsored and supported by GVBL, we are committed to limiting conflicts with the GVBL season. The tournament schedule is most concentrated in late February and March including three or four weekends and some weeknights.

The Tournament teams focus on fundamentals and player development. Motion and zone offense fundamentals along with solid man-to man defense are critical in teaching players the skills necessary to be successful at higher levels. The Tournament team coaches will spend as much time as possible on individual skills and conditioning, however, we recommend you encourage your sons/daughters to engage in some type of conditioning program, handle a basketball as much as possible, continue to practice shooting outside and inside from different positions and play as much as possible (one on one, pick-up games, etc) to hone their individual skills. It is very helpful if parents who understand the game and who coach their kids understand what we are teaching enough to be able to create consistent messaging to the players. Parents are welcome to attend practice and talk the coaches about what we they are teaching as well as player progress or potential areas of improvement.

We understand that many of our players are multi-sport athletes and we want to promote this by limiting the commitment as spring sports start. As always, we need parents to clearly communicate as early as possible when there are conflicts with other sports or activities and potential tournament or league game dates so we can proactively give teammates opportunities to play in their place and schedule appropriately.

GVBL Tournament teams are committed to being as competitive as possible at whatever level we are playing. Based on our experience, this will require different levels of competition. When tournaments or leagues allow, we will mix and match players depending on availability to create overall equal and appropriate playing opportunities. Players may be assigned to different leagues or Tournaments with different levels. If a player is playing at one level in a tournament or league, it does not necessarily mean they will always play at that level; nor does it mean that they will get any more or less skill training, attention or playing time than anyone else. The coaches are committed to all of the kids and genuinely want them all to have success and to achieve their goals.