



Great Valley Basketball

Tournament Teams

Policies and Procedures

Updated: September 2019

Great Valley Basketball Association

Vision

The Vision of the GVBL is to create a fun experience for the kids, playing and learning the game of basketball, while competing with their peers from the surrounding community.

Organizational Structure

GVBL Tournament Team Board

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GV Tournament Team Board

- Gary Taiariol – GVBL President
- Keith Walsh – Founder
- Todd Fredrick
- Matt McDaniel
- Mike Woodard
- Len Matty

Tournament Program

Mission Statement

The mission of the Great Valley Basketball Tournament Program is to provide participants the opportunity to learn and enjoy the game of basketball at a highly competitive level. The GVBL Tournament Program will develop and improve individual as well as team skills, promote good sportsmanship, and team spirit. The team demands a high degree of ethical conduct by all its coaches, players, volunteers, and parents so that it provides a good example for the community, opponents, and its participants, thus helping players grow. By accomplishing these goals, the GVBL Tournament Program will provide players with additional exposure to the game of basketball thereby enhancing their opportunity to play at the junior high and high school level.

Goals and Objectives

Offer a program that focuses on basketball skills development, team play, and basketball education vs. wins and losses. Provide team players with an opportunity to have fun! Provide a high level of coaching in order to enhance player development. Be an example of class and quality, conducting ourselves in an honorable and sportsmanlike manner. Strive to seek out equivalent competition. Competition helps the team improve and reveals our opportunity areas of improvement. GVBL has high standards for everyone involved with the team. Participation in the Tournament Program is a privilege and should be treated as such.

Eligibility

Only players registered for the current GVBL Recreational League are eligible to participate in the GVBL Tournament Program. Players must also live in or attend the Great Valley School District and will not be permitted to “play up” a grade level. More importantly, every effort will be made to field a team of GVSD resident players before considering the addition of others. The request to include players residing outside the district must be made by the Tournament Team coach to the Tournament Program coordinator. Final approval will rest with the GVBL Board.

While all players meeting the above criteria are eligible to try out for the Tournament teams, it is important to understand that Tournament basketball requires a significantly higher level of effort, attention, cooperation, and ability than does GVBL rec. league. Tournament teams are populated by highly motivated players, coached in a stronger fashion than in the rec. league. Before registering to try out for a Tournament team it is recommended that parents have a

conversation with their child about the required commitment level in terms of effort, ability, and a desire to follow directions.

GVBL Recreation league games and practices should be treated with priority in the event there is a conflict with a Tournament Program game or tournament. In addition, it is expected that the Tournament Team coach will work with outside league (ie, Malvern, ICBA, etc) and tournament directors to request game slots that do not conflict with the GVBL recreation league practice and game schedules. The exceptions to this rule are (1) if the tournament team is in the semi-finals or finals of a tournament, or (2) if the absence of a player(s) would cause the Tournament team to forfeit. Often, the Tournament team players are the lifeblood of the GVBL rec. league divisions, and every effort should be made to attend all rec. league practices and games.

Tournament Program Levels

GVBL operates Tournament Programs for Grades 4 - 8 for both boys and girls:

Philosophy and Strategy

It is the responsibility of the coaches to help develop players' skills, and knowledge of the game of basketball. At its best, basketball is a team game. Success is built on disciplined practice which in turn leads to success in games. All coaches will share common beliefs about teaching of fundamental concepts, therefore providing a continuous and proper learning environment. GVBL Tournament Program coaches will meet regularly to discuss team philosophy and strategy.

The program allows for participation of individuals who wish to get better at the game of basketball. As such, each level of program offered has a specific philosophy as it relates to the number of players kept on the team and the amount of playing time which may change from year to year. The primary philosophy is that the program is designed to provide as many players as possible the opportunity to participate in the Tournament Program.

While tournament coaches will work to help players develop skills and understand team concepts, basketball is a sport that lends itself to individual improvement through a commitment to hard work. Tournament Program players are expected to take responsibility for their own improvement by working at home on ball handling, agility, shooting etc. as assigned by the coaches.

The Tournament Program Committee will work with each division coach to determine the best approach for the upcoming season. Variances between programs and years can take place primarily due to the number of players who register to participate, the skill level of those players and the availability of coaches.

For grade 4 and any other open coaching positions, a notice will be posted to the GVBL website soliciting indications of interest for volunteers. Coaches interested in coaching a Tournament team will complete a one-page document and return it by a given date. All candidates will be reviewed by the Tournament Team committee whom the final decision rests.

There will be one formally recognized Head Coach for each program. The head coach makes all final decisions related to the operation of the team, selection of assistant coaches and is the contact for both parents and league officials.

All new coaches to the program will have an orientation session with the Tournament Program Committee in order to be provided with the general philosophy of the program, an understanding of the resources available to them and to ask any questions they may have. Generally the philosophy for the Tournament Program is the following.

Team Size:

Program size will be at the discretion of the Team Coach and the Tournament Program Committee with the primary philosophy being to keep as many players involved as possible particularly at the earlier stages (Grade 4 and 5). The final determination of the size of a team will follow the fall tryouts when it is clearer as to the number of players registered, their skill level and the number of parents available to assist with team administration and coaching. Assistance in providing clear communications to the parents on the approach that is being considered is available from the Tournament Program Committee.

Development: Development will be based on progression and will evolve from an emphasis on the basics (Grade 4 and 5) to an environment where all elements of the game are being taught (Grade 6+). For the earlier grades (Grades 4 and 5) the emphasis will be on skill development vs. the installing of various offensive and defensive sets. Man to Man defense will be taught at this age. Even though the Tournament Program involves a higher level of competition, the emphasis should still be on the development of the players vs. winning. In the short term playing zone defense may provide additional victories but it will not provide the players with the basic skills they require to be more effective at a later age. The ability for players at this age to comprehend complex offensive and defensive sets is limited based upon their knowledge of the game and the availability of practice time. For Grades 6+ all elements of the game are now able to be taught based upon the solid foundation the players have received.

Offensive and defensive sets utilized, using the above as a guideline, will be at the discretion of the coach and his/her coaching staff. The Tournament Program Committee, as well as the Tournament Program Board, is available for consultation. Coaches who have already passed through any one level are a terrific resource to better understand what works and what does not work.

Each year is different as it relates to the number of players participating and how to approach the current season, so the board, in conjunction with the coach, will at its discretion, adjust accordingly.

Playing time

Playing time provided during games is at the discretion of the coaches (within the parameters listed below) and as such equal playing time should NOT be expected. There may be occasions where players may not be invited to certain tournaments due to player availability and tournament format. Playing time for all levels will be apportioned based upon a number of criteria including the following:

- Participation and effort seen in practice
- Willingness to improve their basketball acumen
- Skill level
- Sportsmanship

Practice

Every player should show up early for practice to get ready to play. Negative or disruptive behavior that impacts the flow of practice and wastes the time of the coaching staff and other players will not be tolerated and may invoke dismissal from practice, reduced playing time, or suspension from the team.

Tournament Team Season

Generally, the start of the tournament team season will coincide with the beginning of registration for the GVBL rec. league, on October 31st. The tournament team season runs for the ensuing 12 months, culminating on September 30th. The tournament team season will vary depending on player and coaching commitment. As players get older, teams may begin to play nearly year round. The program recognizes that players may not have the ability to commit to certain portions of the tournament team season. As such, players may choose to not participate during a portion of the year and rejoin the program at a later time. Since the focus of the program is development of individual and team skills, these players will be expected to “catch-up” on plays, skills, etc.

Coaches will determine the tournament team schedule / season. If a coach is unavailable to coach a part of the season and the players on the team have interest in continuing playing, an additional parent can step in to coach during this time. It is asked that the coaches and this new parent work closely with the Tournament Program committee to ensure continuity of the program.

The typical tournament team plays the following types of tournaments / games:

September, October, November – Some teams (Grades 5+) will play in weekend tournaments or local leagues (Malvern, ICBA, Competitive Edge). GVBL recreation season will begin in November.

- 4th grade teams will begin to form and start practicing in late autumn.

December, January, February – Players will be playing GVBL recreation and playing in local leagues (ICBA, Malvern, Competitive Edge), teams may also play tournaments when GVBL is typically not in session (Holiday tournaments). GVBL recreation games take precedent over tournament team games/tournaments.

- 4th grade teams will continue to practice. They may also participate in Holiday tournaments and a non-competitive league (B level or below – Malvern League). 4th grade teams are not permitted to participate in the ICBA league.

Late February, March, April, May– Teams will participate in Delco tournaments and other local and overnight tournaments that the coach and tournament director identify. Depending on player availability, the team will continue to participate in tournaments.

June, July, August – Players interested in playing basketball are requested to participate in the GVBL Summer League. Additionally, some tournament teams may also look to enter a local league.

Finances:

All teams will manage their own finances and hold their own bank account. Costs should be a combination of “a la carte” and equally splitting. Costs should be split equally for practice time but should be “a la carte” for things such as tournament participation, uniforms etc.

Tournament Participation:

It will be each team’s responsibility to identify, register and pay the tournaments they wish to participate in. The Tournament Board will be available to make recommendations. The number of players participating in a tournament is left to the discretion of the coach.

Uniforms:

GVBL Tournament Programs agree to uniform design, colors, etc. as determined by Tournament Program Coordinator. Tournament Program Coordinator will be responsible for identifying uniform and uniform supplier.

Tryouts

All tournament programs are required to conduct at least one tryout session on a yearly basis. Generally those sessions are held in the fall. All players are required to participate in the

sessions. No team will be “pre-selected” prior to this point and all individuals who participate in the try-out session will have an opportunity to make the Tournament Program.

Participant Responsibilities

The following outlines the responsibilities of the player, coach and parent. It is not meant to be exhaustive in nature but rather a framework that allows for open and respectful discussion amongst all three parties to ensure the success of the Travel Program as well as the creation of a rewarding and pleasant experience for all three groups.

Player Responsibility

All GVBL players must demonstrate a commitment to the game of basketball through teamwork, a commitment to individual improvement, hustle, intensity, and a positive attitude. All players are expected to possess the following talents and attributes necessary to blend their personality and physical skills into the team unit:

Character: Respect for others (including coaches, teammates, officials, parents, opposing team members etc.), "CAN DO" attitude, concern to see others succeed.

Athletic Ability: Effort, above average ball handling and shooting, averages agility, and a desire to improve.

Conduct: Follow the directions and guidance provided by the coaches. Behavior that leaves a positive impression when representing the GVBL Organization is required. Show no disrespect towards game officials, fans, other athletes, or coaches. Do not use profanity, or ethnic or racial slurs. Do not strike or otherwise physically abuse other athletes. Never exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct. GVBL Coaches will be responsible for assessing penalties for improper behavior or violations of team guidelines. Players will be warned and informed of any misconduct. Excessive fooling around and lack of attention will not be tolerated and may invoke lack of playing time, team suspension or dismissal from the team.

Coaches Responsibility

Coaches are volunteers and participation is based on their commitment and ability to teach the game of basketball.

Coaches must:

1. Be able to convey the ideas and concepts of basketball fundamentals in terms clearly understandable to the players.
2. Uphold the highest standards of integrity and sportsmanship.
3. Set a positive example for the players.
4. Abstain from any and all unsportsmanlike conduct.
5. Subscribe and adhere to the GVBL coaching philosophy and strategy.
6. Be available as needed for practices and games

Final decision on a Tournament Program head coach will be made by the GVBL Board. Each GVBL Tournament Program will have one designated "Head Coach" who will be accountable to the Tournament Program Coordinator for upholding the philosophy of the Tournament Program. This individual will be clearly visible to the Tournament Program Coordinator and the team parents as the Head Coach. Individual team philosophy, identification of roles and responsibilities (i.e. Assistant Coaches, Financial Director, Team Communications Lead etc.), practice and game philosophy, schedule etc. will be the responsibility of the head coach with assistance provided by the GVBL Tournament Program Board if needed.

Prior to tournament season each coach must submit to the Tournament Program Coordinator an outline of the plan for the season. Upon review and approval by the Coordinator the coach will communicate the season plan to the team.

Parent Responsibility

Player parents must support their player, other team members, and parents of other team members. Parents are expected to abstain from unprofessional conduct such as: disrespect toward or harassment of game officials, fans, athletes, or coaches; ethnic or racial slurs; and unsportsmanlike conduct. Parents will not berate game officials, nor will they "call the game" from the sidelines or stands. Such action will not be tolerated, and violation of this rule can lead to the player's dismissal from the team.

Agreeing to have your child participate on the Tournament Program implies the following:

Volunteering – On occasion parents may be asked to participate in some fashion in one of the following areas i.e. transportation, communication, organization, assistant coaching etc.

Responsiveness – Respond timely to all inquiries (written or verbal) regarding participation in practice or tournaments.

Participation – Ensuring your player participates in practices and is on time for both practices and games.

Financial – Timely receipt of payments is a must! Neither coaches nor the Tournament Program will serve as a bank for late payments.

Open Communication – Bring to the attention of the coaches any concerns they or their child have as it relates to the participation in the Tournament Program. Issues or conflicts cannot be resolved unless they are discussed in an open and respectful environment

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