

# **Manhattan CHIEF Basketball Policies and Guidelines**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the CHIEF Basketball program is to provide a positive Christian environment for spiritual encouragement and Christian fellowship through athletics to homeschooling families in Riley County and surrounding communities as we:

1. consider basketball a gift from God that we may enjoy,
2. maintain the health of our bodies which are the temples of God,
3. learn the fundamentals and continually grow in our understanding and skill of the game,
4. are competitive in a healthy manner, setting goals, dedicating and disciplining ourselves to achieve those goals, to reap the benefits of our labor,
5. to win and lose gracefully seeing all our circumstances under the sovereignty of God,
6. learn from our mistakes and accept correction when needed, and
7. see the skills and lessons we learn in basketball as applicable to many areas of our Christian lives now and in the future.

It is the desire of CHIEF Basketball that in all that we do, Jesus Christ be glorified through the lives of the coaches, parents, and players in our thoughts, words, and actions.

## **Organization**

CHIEF Basketball is run under the authority of its Athletic Director, Assistant Director, and coaches. A parental oversight board made up of one representative of each of the four teams (boys and girls varsity and junior high) gives input to the athletic directors and coaches. Cooperation and teamwork is a value held by the program, however; in any unresolved dispute, the final decision rests with the Athletic Director, and in his absence, the Assistant Athletic Director.

CHIEF Basketball is assisted and maintained by volunteer parents to accomplish a number of jobs each season:

1. coach and assistant coach our four teams,
2. keep the scorebook and run the clock for approximately 80 games per season,
3. arrange for practice facilities and equipment,
4. schedule games, including facilities and referees,
5. budget, establish registration fees, and pay all the bills,
6. line up team housing options on overnight trips,
7. coordinate an annual regular season tournament and concession stand hosted by CHIEF Basketball, and
8. coordinate projects to raise additional funds when teams decide to participate in the national homeschool post season tournament.

## Player Eligibility to Participate in CHIEF Basketball

- 1) Each player's family must be a current member of the CHIEF Homeschool Group and agree to the CHIEF statement of faith, and
- 2) each player shall have current waiver/medical release form on file with CHIEF Basketball, and
- 3) the following criteria are met<sup>1</sup>:
  - a. Each player must be homeschooled for at least 50% of their classes each year.
  - b. Once a player has completed high-school coursework, or participated in high school graduation ceremonies, he or she is ineligible to participate in CHIEF Basketball as a player.
  - c. Homeschooled means:
    - i. Taught at home by one or more of the student's parents or grandparents.
    - ii. Taught at home by a sibling, age 18 or older; taught at home by a legal guardian; taught at home, or someone else's home, by another homeschool parent or tutor, provided that it is done under the direction and supervision of the child's parent; taught at a central location for a particular subject (such as chemistry, speech, or calculus) by a homeschool parent or tutor.
    - iii. Correspondence courses are considered to be homeschool.
    - iv. Co-ops and college classes are permissible, provided that each student is still taught at least 50% of their classes by their parent or guardian, regardless of location.
  - d. Each CHIEF basketball player shall maintain at least a 2.0 (or "C") average during the active season. **Parents shall monitor the player's grades and notify the player's head coach AND athletic director if the player's grades drop below this level. The player shall then be suspended from the team.** The player shall be allowed to rejoin the team when his or her grade point average resumes the 2.0 (or "C") level AND has permission to rejoin the team from BOTH the head coach and athletic director. It is requested that the parent and/or player notify the coach and/or the athletic director PRIOR to the player's average dropping below 2.0 (or "C") level so counsel/assistance to the player may be offered to help prevent him or her from being suspended from the team.
  - e. A player is eligible to participate on a junior high school team if his or her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday is on or after September 1 of the basketball season in which they are participating.
  - f. A player is eligible to participate on a high school team if his or her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday is on or after September 1 of the basketball season in which they are participating.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the National Division II Christian Homeschool Association post season basketball tournament requirements found at <http://nd2cha.com/2.html> .

## Behavior Expectations

As representatives of CHIEF Basketball, CHIEF homeschool support group, the local Christian community, and ultimately Jesus Christ, it is very important that CHIEF Basketball participants exhibit the highest levels of behavior and integrity.

Scripture encourages us to focus primarily, not on a list of negatives, but on what is pleasing to God and ultimately beneficial to us. The apostle Paul wrote:

*“Set your heart on integrity, true piety, faithfulness, love, endurance and gentleness.”* I Timothy 6:11

*If you believe in goodness, and if you value the approval of God, fix your minds on whatever is true and honorable and just and pure and lovely and admirable. Put into practice what you have learned from me and what I passed on to you, both what you heard from me and what you saw in me, and the God of peace will be with you.* Philippians 4:12

While we emphasize the positive, we need to guard ourselves from straying from our Lord’s ways. The following list gives examples of unacceptable conduct. It is not intended to be all-inclusive. CHIEF coaches and athletic directors reserve the right to make the final determination of proper and improper conduct.

- Theft, dishonesty
- Indecent or immoral activity or ungodly belief or philosophy
- Immodesty, and conduct implying immorality
- Disorderly or destructive activities
- Defiance of authority
- Any other practices which are forbidden in Scripture

As we consider these matters, may we be mindful of the following verses:

To our players, *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young; see that they look up to you because you are an example to believers in your speech and behavior, in your love and faith and sincerity.”* I Timothy 4:12

To our coaches, *“Father’s, don’t overcorrect your children or make it difficult to obey the commandment. Bring them up with Christian teaching in Christian discipline.”* Ephesians 6:4

To all involved in CHIEF Basketball,

*“Let there be no more foul language, but good words instead – words suitable for the occasion, which God can use to help other people.”* Ephesians 4:29

*“With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable to Him. . . so we, though many in number, compose one body in Christ and are all members to one another.”* Romans 12:1, 5

## Dress Code

Our Christian testimony is an outward expression of a changed heart. Impressions of who we are and the faith we hold are to some degree formed in the minds of a watching world as they look upon our appearance. With this in mind, CHIEF players at CHIEF Basketball sanctioned events shall observe the team dress code as determined by their coaches and may vary as circumstances warrant.

## **Player Interaction**

Members of CHIEF Basketball value healthy social interactions and mature Christian relationships. As stated above, it is vital that we exercise ourselves with godliness at all times and strive to avoid the opportunity and even the appearance of evil. With this in mind, there shall not be practices, scrimmages or “free time” games/activities at CHIEF Basketball sanctioned events where bodily contact could easily occur involving players of the opposite sex. Games of individual ball shooting skill such as “Knockout” or “H-O-R-S-E” are acceptable. The CHIEF coaches and athletic directors reserve the right to determine what interaction is and is not appropriate.

## **Attendance**

Part of each athlete’s responsibility to the team is that they attend all games and practices. If an unavoidable conflict or emergency arises, please let your coach know that you are unable to attend a practice or a game. Arrive at practices **and** at games in plenty **of time** within the timeframe designated by the player’s coach. The coaches shall state their policy concerning expectations and consequences concerning attendance.

## **Discipline**

By participating in CHIEF Basketball, players and their families voluntarily accept CHIEF Basketball policies. The coaches and athletic directors shall make an effort to explain team goals and expectations, and other important matters, such as what determines a player’s playing time in a game. Communication can break down. Also, emotions can escalate during practice and games. Everyone - parents, coaches, and players are expected to exercise self-discipline and restraint. It is a virtue to express genuine kindness and patience toward others in times of difficulty. When conflict between individuals occurs, each party should strive to think the best of the other’s motives and take the Biblical approach to resolution found in Matthew 18:15-17.

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or tax collector.”

As an application of this teaching, issues with the team philosophy or policies should first be brought to the attention of the team head coach. Issues with the philosophy or program wide practices of CHIEF Basketball or unresolved issues with a coach (after first attempting to resolve the issue with the coach) should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director or Assistant Athletic Director.

When an individual violates policy or rules, the violator will be contacted and corrective measures pursued. If correction is not accepted or the misbehavior continues, suitable disciplinary action will be taken by the player’s coach and/or the athletic director.

## **Participant Guardianship**

Basketball competition involves some travel for away events and safety of the players is a great priority. When the parents of participants are unable to accompany their children to these events, it is required that the parents identify an adult guardian to represent them. The guardian will be accountable for the child’s physical and financial needs as well as their actions. **Unless a parent stipulates otherwise to their child’s coach or the athletic director prior to an event, no**

**player shall drive or ride to an out of town game without a parent or designated guardian in the player's vehicle. Violations of this policy will result in the player sitting out the next closest game and may involve further consequences if other irresponsible behavior is involved.** Parents are responsible for designating a guardian for the child to the coach/athletic director and for communicating the policies of CHIEF Basketball to the guardian. When carpooling with other families, parents should assist in the costs of transportation.

### **Stewardship Guidelines for CHIEF Basketball Events**

1. Treatment of the facilities will be according to the host's rules (e.g., where to sit, supervision of children, etc).
2. Parents are responsible for their own children at all times and should be mindful of others nearby.
3. Be good stewards of the facilities by leaving them in better condition than they were found. Put chairs back where they belong, and throw away the trash. Each person needs to take a personal interest and responsibility for keeping the facilities clean. Please reinforce this guideline by lovingly reminding those around you. Our care of the facilities is a reflection on CHIEF Basketball and homeschooling families in general.
4. Lost and found items will be held for a short period and then turned over to those in need.
5. "Horseplay" is prohibited.

### **Electronic Equipment When at CHIEF Basketball Events**

As a general rule, electronic devices are considered a distraction and players should not bring them to CHIEF activities. One exception is a cell phone for emergency communication. Coaches reserve the right to collect cell phones and other electronic devices to minimize distractions and unhealthy activities.

When the team will be on an overnight trip, the coach will determine the team policy for such things as DVD players, movies, and other electronic equipment.

Thank you.

Mike Stewart, Athletic Director

Dane Ditto, Assistant Athletic Director

Gary Olds, Boys Varsity Coach

Sharla Ditto, Girls Varsity Coach

Jim Schrader, Boys Junior High Coach

Bob Flack, Girls Junior High Coach

(All scripture J.B. Phillips Translation)  
Typo corrections made in red, rev. 11/1/09