

## **Mater Dolorosa CYO Basketball Guidelines**

### **Purpose:**

Our intent is to provide, for all children from third through eighth grades, an opportunity to learn the game of basketball in an enjoyable and safe environment.

### **Guidelines:**

The guidelines shall cover situations that may arise and enhance the experience for all participants while eliminating future misunderstandings. A successful season takes cooperation of coaches, players, parents and volunteers to achieve this goal.

### **Players:**

All participants, including players and parents, will assume the responsibility of respect towards their coaches, opponents, fans and the facilities.

No student shall be allowed in the Social Center for practice without his/her coach or parent in attendance.

Players will be required to stay in the gym for the entire practice time, except to use the restrooms. Other areas of the Social Center, other than the gym floor are off limits to everyone. This includes the stage, kitchen, side rooms and cafeteria areas.

The use of foul language and aggressive behavior during practices and games will not be tolerated. Such violations may result in suspension.

The Mater Dolorosa Basketball program is a nonprofit organization which relies on donations to fund our program expenses and dues. These fees and expenses include league fees, referee expenses, tournament fees, equipment expenses, awards and year end party. All players will be assessed a \$65 entrance fee to participate in the basketball program.

All players must be registered and their entrance fee paid in full prior to October 16, 2009. Eligible players must attend the Mater Dolorosa School or be a member of the Mater Dolorosa Parish or be a member of a parish without a basketball program (Holy Cross, St. Jerome & Immaculate Conception).

Players attending a game as a spectator are expected to maintain proper conduct and sportsmanship or expulsion from the facility will be enforced.

Uniforms that are issued to players in the fifth through eighth grades must be returned in the same condition that they were issued at the end of the basketball season. All players who don't turn in uniforms will be subject to a fifty dollar (\$50) fee.

Violations of these guidelines will result in only ONE warning. A second violation will result in dismissal from the program without refund of the entrance fee.

### **Parents:**

The Mater Dolorosa CYO Organization will not be held responsible for any incidents that may occur after practice and games have ended. Parents are asked to have their child picked up on time from practice and games, as they will not be allowed to "hang out" outside of the Social Center building or

parking area.

Players' siblings are discouraged from attending practices. However, if this is unavoidable, then a parent must accompany them inside the gym at all times.

When players arrive for practice, they must go directly to the coach. If the coach has not arrived, please remain with your child until the coach arrives.

Rosters will be based on the number of registered players per grade, which will allow for maximum playing time.

In maintaining compliance with CYO basketball policies, we are requesting two adults be present during practices.

In order to continue the growth of the MD CYO basketball program we strongly encourage parents to volunteer their time during home games.

Coaches:

Every registered player, in full uniform, must play a minimum of 1/4 of the game, unless injured, disciplined for poor conduct or an unexcused absence. Players who miss practice, under the discretion of the coach(es) or the coordinator, may be exempt from playing or benched.

If a player is injured during a game, only the coach is allowed to go on the court. A parent may only go on the court when the injury is serious enough where medical attention from 9-1-1 is needed.

The coach or assistant coach must turn off all the lights and lock the doors if they are the last practice or if no other coach begins the next practice. If the Social Center is locked, a key may be obtained from the rectory at 71 Maple St.

All coaches must sign an agreement of Nondisclosure and authorization for a CORI check.

Notes:

Referees, especially young and inexperienced ones, are like your players and yourself in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage the referee by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall long-term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and parents will notice. Think about what you're doing during a game!

Coaches, parents or fans who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.