



PLAYING TIME PHILOSOPHY

Libertyville Boys JCATS Basketball is a developmental program, and in order to maximize development, players should play in game situations. Other programs in the area are much more focused on winning; as a result, they tend to play only their top players, thereby sacrificing the development of the rest of the team. While we are committed to the development of all of our players, we need to balance that with the need for player discipline, commitment, and overall fairness to all players in the program. This underlying philosophy is not meant to cover every conceivable situation, but it does lay out the basic expectations and guidance for players and parents.

Playing time will vary by individual player according to her practice time, attitude, ability, progress, demonstrated commitment to the team, and compatibility with the needs of the team versus the competition. Coaches are encouraged to start different lineups so that all players get starting experience. There will be no guaranteed minutes per game; however, it is our intention that, excepting attendance penalties, playing time will balance out over the course of the season. As players move from 5th to 8th grade, more emphasis will be placed on competing for playing time.

EARNING PLAYING TIME

We understand that a player may occasionally miss or be late for a practice due to a variety of reasons. Regardless of the reason for missing practice, players should understand that diminished practice time means diminished training, resulting in players who are not adequately prepared for the game. Consequently, less preparation will equal less playing time. Players and parents should notify the Coach as soon as the player knows or suspect that they will be late or will miss a practice or a game. If a player is injured, he is expected to continue to attend all practices and games to support his team, until such time he is able to fully participate.

Coaches may at his or her discretion further reduce playing time if absences are chronic. Playing time may also be affected if a player is often late for games, if they are not focused at practice, or display a general lack of commitment to the team.

If a player has an issue with his playing time, we encourage him to talk to his Coach directly. These are learning opportunities designed to challenge our players to solve issues more independently, with parental coaching if needed. If that does not work, we expect parents to set up a dedicated time to discuss their concerns with the Coach in a timely fashion. We ask that our players and parents do not approach the Coach immediately following a game, as that is not the appropriate time to have such a discussion.