

**St. Joseph's CYO Grades 3 through 12
Boys and Girls Basketball Program
Coaching Guidelines**

1. All players are required to receive equal playing time. No exceptions to this rule will be tolerated. In order to ensure equal playing time, coaches are **required** to use the numbering system where all players are assigned a number and are then substituted based upon that number.
2. Alternate starting lineup. Try to avoid starter/bench mentality. Try to balance your line-ups so experienced players are mixed in with less-experienced players.
3. Coaches must make every effort to incorporate all players in the offense.
4. Give each player the opportunity to bring ball across center-court regardless of ability.
5. Coach's goal is to develop the basketball skills of **every player** on the team.
6. Constructive criticism may be made to players when the ball is dead.
7. Create a FUN atmosphere for the players. Do not get caught up in the diehard win/loss atmosphere.
8. Be positive. Players will make mistakes. As their coach, recognize that they have limitations. Encourage learning from these mistakes and give praise when new or difficult skills have been mastered.
9. **DO NOT ARGUE WITH THE REFEREES!** This is non-negotiable. Coaches are not permitted to talk to the referees about any calls made during the game, except for clarification.
10. One parent from each team is needed to handle the clock and the scoreboard.
11. Ask parents to control other children. No brothers and sisters running in the hallways.
12. Jerseys are reversible. One team will wear blue, the other white. The first team listed will be the "home" team and wear blue, the second team listed will be the "away" team and wear white.
13. Our goal is to provide good basketball instruction in a supportive environment and foster enjoyment of the game. **HAVE FUN!** As a good friend reminded me – This is just kids playing basketball and it's not for us. It's for them and trying to determine what will be best for them.