

# Parent/Player/Coach Handbook

## September 2019 – August 2020

We have read and understand the Parent/Player/Coach handbook.

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Parent / Date Player / Date

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Coach / Date

$125 CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEE Due October 4, 2019

**Introduction**

We are excited to consolidate all Walla Walla AAU teams into one club to better serve our youth and their families. The goal of the Walla Walla Basketball Club (Walla2Hoops) is to serve Walla Walla Valley boys and girls grades 2 to 8 with an enriched basketball environment. There is a tremendous history of basketball excellence in the Walla Walla Valley and we want to build on this tradition and get more kids excited about playing competitive basketball.

# Club Mission

To provide an enriched basketball environment for the youth of the Walla Walla Valley! We will accomplish this by:

* Creating a positive competitive culture...
* Guidance in developing the character of our youth...
* With a commitment to developing the fundamental skills of the game!

**Positive Competitive Culture**

Developing a culture means having a tradition that maintains the standards you want to define your program. A common mistake among those who work in sport is spending a disproportional amount of time on “x’s and o’s” as compared to time spent learning about people. Culture is established by the people who compose your team and is carried on through those people. In other words, culture can only exist through the relationships among the people who make up your group, those in the back offices and on the front lines. A successful development of culture means that you hear different voices echoing the same message throughout the organization—now, through the history of your program, and into its future. But you cannot merely expect culture to be a natural occurrence; it has to be taught and made a part of your everyday routine.

**Dependability**

If you have someone who is not dependable, hold his/her teammates accountable for their actions. Don't let your teammate be late or we all pay the consequences!

**Enthusiasm**

Ask players "why are you here today?" Their passion will come out whether it's the love of the game, personal gain, being a part of something... You can use it to motivate the player and encourage them to "bring that passion to the table!"

**Value of Work**

Ambition alone is not enough. That ambition must be coupled with hard work for success to be achieved. Love the grind... The process of loving hard work. It needs to be a staple of all that we do and all that we ask of our teams. A lot of people hear the words “hard work” and say, “Oh, no. I don’t want to do that.” We want to coach kids who hear that they are going to have to work hard and then get excited about how much they will improve as a result. “Spectacular achievements are always preceded by unspectacular preparation.”- Unknown

**Integrity**

Be excellent every day, make excellent choices in your journey towards success.

"There is a choice you have to make, in everything you do.  So, keep in mind that in the end, the choice you make, makes you!" -Anonymous

Discipline yourself and others won’t have to.

"Reputation is what others perceive you to be, character is who you are!" John Wooden

**Learning**

Everyone's greatest asset is their own mind... Continue to learn! Our society tells us all that matters is, “Who’s number one?” By this standard, most of us are losers. I think the opposite is true: we all have the potential to be winners. We may or may not drive a bigger car, get a better grade, or score more points than someone else. But for me the “score” that matters most is the one that measures your effort—and ultimately, only you know the score!

**Selflessness**

Selflessness means that you will do what is best for the team.  Being a part of something bigger than yourself requires selflessness and an understanding that there will be personal sacrifice for the good of the team. And most people desire to be a part of something bigger and to feel as if their actions are for the greater good.

"It is amazing how much we can accomplish when no one cares who gets the credit!"-John Wooden

A competitive athletic experience can instill good work habits, enhance social development, contribute to mental and physical health, and teach values of personal responsibility, self-discipline, self-motivation, and teamwork. Participation in AAU Basketball also improves the athlete's opportunity to realize the goals of:

* Developing basic techniques on a tier system (by age group)
* Creating an understanding of the importance of goal setting in developing the whole athlete and belief that in order to be successful, they must have a roadmap to success
* Promoting leadership and teaching the importance of team unity
* Stressing the importance of personal discipline, organizational skills, time management, and character building
* Improving individual skills and ability to play and contribute as a member of a team.
* Earning or keeping a position on the school varsity basketball team.
* Earning a college scholarship.

Each of the above goals involves individual player growth. This includes improvement in skill level AND in the mental outlook necessary to be a successful member of a basketball team.

Our Player/Parent handbook is designed to educate you about our Club, our coaching philosophy and how to be successful within the Walla2Hoops Club. We hope this handbook will provide you information that will be useful to your decision on whether to play for Walla2Hoops during the upcoming season.

**Team Defense**

# Team D: Our main goal is to generate pressure to create turnovers and in turn gain more offensive possessions than our opponents. We will focus on man to man D pressuring the ball at all times while denying the first pass options, while providing help from second pass defender, turnovers are extra offensive positions.  Emphasis on positive communication habits, communicate screens, switching on-ball screens, calling out pass and shot.  Blocking out is a must from all positions, defensive rebounding is essential in the pursuit of possessions.   Also, importance of MOP (moving on pivot) good players move on pass GREAT players move on pivot.   Understand difference of boxing out on long and short shots. Touch, Talk, Take, on switches, anticipate scramble situations.   Complete understanding that the way we will defend and run means you will get beat off the dribble at times.  Trust and being connected are so important for how we play.

**Team Offense**

Team O: Again our goal is to create more offensive positions than our opponent. On offense, we will help this by forcing the tempo of the game, we will do this by pushing the ball up the strong side of the court, attacking the basket for a lay-in, while having our wing players spot up on each side free throw line extended, and having our power player trail to the off-ball block, for hitting the boards or a flash across the key if power is called and a miss match is present. Offensively knowing we can attack 2 ways.  With dribble down the floor and head man the ball.  Strong side wing needs to be able to catch and shoot but also put it on the floor for pick and roll or double away options.   Shot selection, Good shots vs bad shots, 1st possession shots vs multiple possession shots.

# Club Administration

President: The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Club, and subject to the Control of the Board, shall have general charge and supervision of the Club’s business, affairs and properties. The President shall have authority to sign and execute, in the name and on behalf of the Club, all authorized contracts, funds or other instruments. The President shall serve as spokesperson for the Club. In general, the President shall perform all the duties ordinarily incident to the office of Chief Executive Officer of an organization.

Vice President: The Vice President shall perform all the duties ordinarily incident to the office of the President of an organization, and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Executive Board, the Club or the President. The Vice President shall preside at any meeting in the absence of the President. The Vice President will have all of the powers and authority there of the President in his/or her absence.

Secretary: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Club and the Board, including all the votes taken at such meetings, and record them in books provided for that purpose. The Secretary shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of the By-laws or as required by statute, and shall be the custodian of the records. In general, the Secretary shall perform all duties ordinarily incident to the office of a secretary of an organization, and such other duties, as from time to time may be assigned by the Board, or the President.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have charge of and be responsible for all funds, securities, receipts and disbursements of the Club, and shall deposit or cause to be deposited, in the name and on behalf of the Club, all moneys or other valuable effects in such banks, trust companies or depositories as may be designated by the Executive Board or the Club. The Treasurer shall maintain full and accurate accounts of all assets, liabilities, and transactions of the Executive Board and shall render to the Club and to the Executive Board at regular meetings of the Club and the Executive Board or otherwise as requested, an account of all financial transactions of the Club and of the financial condition of the Club.

Program Development and Tryout Director: The Program Development and Tryout Director shall develop a scope and sequence for each grade level consistent with Walla Walla AAU coaching philosophy. Program Development and Tryout Director shall have charge of and be responsible for recruiting a committee of unbiased, basketball-minded individuals to assist in the task of monitoring and ranking players at tryouts and making recommendations as to which players are placed on teams for each grade/sex level. He/she will work closely with the team contact on communication with the coaches.

Registrar, Uniform and Equipment Director: The Registrar, Uniform and Equipment Director shall have charge of and be responsible for planning and implementation of annual registration of players, coaches and volunteers. The registrar is expected to maintain a player/coach/volunteer database, maintain a waiting list of players who do not get placed on a team. He/she shall also have charge of and be responsible for the purchase of all equipment and uniforms. He/she is expected to maintain a full inventory of all equipment and uniforms, work with the coaches to obtain information on the equipment and uniform needs of the Club, maintain an adequate supply of uniforms and equipment, research prices and quality of items purchased and be financially prudent with the Club funds when purchasing such items.

District Liaison: The District Liaison shall have charge of and be responsible for all contact with the Walla Walla Valley area school districts and team coaches regarding use of school facilities, including gymnasiums, meeting facilities and other facilities needed by the Club. The District Liaison will schedule all gym times, contact coaches and school district personnel to share schedules, make a master calendar of all school functions in the gymnasiums and ensure that all Club members using School District property are doing so in a respectful and appropriate manner. The District Liaison will handle any complaints about damage to school property and also make sure that the facilities are open and available to teams as scheduled.

**Executive Board of Directors**

President – Matthew Price-Huntington

[mpricehuntington@yahoo.com](mailto:mpricehuntington@yahoo.com)

509.956.9695

Vice President – Mark Higgins

[mhiggins@wwps.org](mailto:mhiggins@wwps.org)

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Secretary – Michelle Green

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509.240.2490

Treasurer – David J. Vargas

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509-529-7022

Program Development and Tryout Director– Stephen Garnett

[overtimetrainingww@gmail.com](file:///C:\Users\busch\Documents\WW%20AAU\Documents\overtimetrainingww@gmail.com)

509.520.5124

Registrar/Uniform and Equipment Director – Erik McCollaugh

[erikmccollaugh@gmail.com](file:///C:\Users\busch\Documents\WW%20AAU\Documents\erikmccollaugh@gmail.com)

509.540.4661

District Liaison – Tina Dumser

[Tina.dumser@gmail.com](mailto:Tina.dumser@gmail.com)

503.758.2137

**Parent Meeting**

Walla2Hoops has a **Required Parent Meeting** on Tuesday, September 3 or Wednesday, September 4, at 6 pm, at Walla Walla High School Gym, Walla Walla, WA. **WE REQUEST** **PLAYERS NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING.**

# Tryouts

Walla2Hoops will hold open tryouts each year to select players for our teams. Players MUST have an AAU membership card to tryout. The Walla2Hoops AAU Club Code is: WY6BWC

### Sunday, September 8 at Walla Walla High School

Sunday, September 8, Noon – 1pm **2/3/4 Grade Boys & Girls**

Sunday, September 8, 1:30-3:00pm **5/6 Grade Boys & Girls**

Sunday, September 8, 3:30-5pm **7/8 Grade Boys & Girls**

**Monday September 23**

All Teams should be finalized. Coaches will contact all players/parents.

### Notification:

There will be flyers given out to all schools in the Valley announcing the tryout date and time. We will also use social media and the local newspaper to promote the tryouts.

### Tryout Preparation:

* Fill out all the needed paperwork on the AAU website www.aausports.org ***before*** you come to the tryout. This includes signing up and paying the AAU Individual Membership fee.
* Be sure to get there early to check in. At least 45 minutes before the scheduled start time is best.
* Great effort turns heads and is remembered. Avoid being tentative in your play but know the difference between being aggressive and playing recklessly.
* Let the lead tryout coach know if you are trying out while injured or have to leave early for whatever reason.
* Talk to us before or after tryouts as much as you want! We value the opportunity to answer any of your questions.

### Playing Up:

It is the Club’s policy to have players participate in their age group. We ask that ALL players tryout in their specific age group. However, if a player comes to tryouts with exceptional ability and this player could jump from the lower age group to a top tier team in the next age group, then that player may be asked to play up. ***The decision will be made with coach input and the Club maintains sole decision-making power***.

### The Selection Process:

Teams will consist of a minimum of 8 and no more than 12 athletes. We will have multiple coaches evaluating players during our tryouts. Players who played previously for AAU Teams will still be required to participate in tryouts. Team assignments will be finalized by September 23. Selection will be based upon the following criteria:

* A player’s performance during the tryout period - skill level, effort, competitiveness and interaction with other athletes.
* Our perception of that player’s athletic potential – what they may be able to do over the course of the season.
* Our perception of the coachability of the player.
* Evaluations of players during the past school season, AAU season, and camps.
* Being in good standing with Walla2Hoops and AAU Basketball.
* Past history of parental involvement or behavior.

**Club Fees**

A non-refundable $125 Club fee is due on or before October 4, 2019. This registration fee allows the Club to go ahead and order equipment, uniforms, etc. for the Club.

Fees Include:

* Team uniforms (to be returned at the end of the season in good condition to be reused)
* Practice pinnies/vests for each team
* Basketballs (5/Team to be returned at the end of the season in good condition to be reused)
* First Aid Kit
* Walla Walla Tournament Fee waived
* Coach (membership fee includes some reimbursement for Coaches to pay for tournament travel/food)
* Gym Space at Walla Walla area gyms at least twice a week (M/W or T/TH)
* Skills Clinics: Skills clinics with Coach Garnett (and other area coaches/trainers). November through February, every other week (approximately). Free to Club members.
* Spring/Summer Training Program: shooting clinics, skills and strengthening clinics
* CrossFit training at discounted rate
* **Payments** – Checks should be made out to WALLA WALLA BASKETBALL CLUB. Please write the players name in the memo line on any checks. Under no circumstances should payments be given to coaches. Cash should never be mailed. Payments should be mailed to the Club P.O. BOX 3383, WALLA WALLA, WA 99362.
* **Uniform Damage** – There will be a $50 payment required by any player who loses or damages their uniform. To properly care for the uniform, it should be washed inside out on cold setting and hung to dry.

**Scholarships**

If an athlete is in need of financial assistance to help with the Club Fee or additional costs for team tournaments and costs, a request must be made directly to the Board. The Board will determine on a case to case basis what assistance may be given.

# Team Structure/ Team Fees & Billing/ APPROXIMATE COST

It is the goal of Walla2Hoops to provide a competitive program that develops participating athletes and helps them advance their skills. We have created three different levels of teams for players in various age groups: I/II/III.

**Level I**:

Approximate cost per player = $250 (10 player team) - $300 (8 player team)

\*6 Regional Tournaments per season, choose from:

* Hermiston, Oregon: 4 tournaments in November, December, January, February
* 3 City Hoops: 2 tournaments in Tri Cities
* Bomber Bash: Richland

\*1-2 Overnight Tournaments (Spokane, Seattle, Portland, Medford, etc): to include one state qualifying tournament

\*1 Walla Walla Tournament (fee waived): Required to participate

*Note: For MS students, teams can be flexible around when tournament play begins. So as not to conflict with school ball, teams may choose to focus the bulk of their tournament play after January 1 (boys) and before January 1 (girls). Overnight tournaments may extend into May for Level I teams.*

**Level II**:

Approximate Cost per player = $160 (10 player team) - $200 (8 player team)

\*4 Regional Tournaments per season, choose from:

* Hermiston
* 3 City Hoops
* Richland
* Pendleton
* Clarkston
* Burbank

\*Walla Walla Tournament (fee waived): Required to participate

\*2 Sessions of 3 City Hoops League: offered in Fall, Winter, Spring; includes 6 Saturdays – 12 games

**Level III**:

Approximate Cost per player: $60 (10 player team) - $75 (8 player team)

\*Walla Walla Tournament (fee waived): Required to participate

\*2 Sessions of 3 City Hoops League: offered in Fall, Winter, Spring; includes 6 Saturdays – 12 games

### Cutting Players:

As a Club, we try to operate under a *no cut policy*, though players must meet a certain skill set. If a player doesn’t meet this skill set we encourage them to participate in the YMCA Basketball program.

### Movement between Rosters:

Occasionally we will move an athlete from one team to another as needed to complete a roster. We will not move an athlete from or to another team until we have discussed the move with the athlete and the parents. It is usually to simply fill a temporary need due to injury, illness or scheduling conflicts. After the first day of the season, September 30, roster movement will no longer be allowed without approval from the Board.

### Practice Players:

Certain circumstances may permit practice players on teams. In these circumstances players would practice with teams, but not travel to competition unless a roster movement is made. A reduced club fee is set up for Practice Players.

**When are Team Fees Due?**

Team Fees can be paid either all at once, or in two payments, with the first or FULL payment due no later than November 15, 2019. All players who have not paid their dues in full by January 1 will NOT be allowed to participate in practices and/or compete in tournament play until dues have been paid in full.

### Your child’s TEAM or CLUB fee does not include the following expenses:

* Any travel expenses or meals for players.
* AAU membership for players.

### Billing and Payment Policies:

**Responsible Party** - The parent or guardian who signs the participation agreement is liable for any and all fees, dues, and charges for goods and services incurred by the participant. By signing the agreement, the responsible party accepts liability and agrees to be bound by the terms of the agreement. The agreements for all sibling participants, regardless of which parent or guardian signs as the responsible party, will be treated as one account for the purposes of this liability.

**Late Fees or Returned Item Fees** - A $30.00 late fee will be assessed to any account if the payment is not received within 10 days of the stated due date. In the event a check used to pay fees is returned to Walla2Hoops or TEAM Parent regardless of the reason for refusal, a $30.00 service fee will be assessed to the participant’s account and a cashier’s check or money order will be required for all further payments.

**Statements** - Participants will receive written statements of amounts payable for fees and services used by the participant. Accounts may be paid by check, or cash.

# Multi-Sport Athletes

We encourage multi-sport athletes to play Walla2Hoops. While it does pose challenges with scheduling, it is our philosophy that multi-sport athletes are the most well-rounded athletes. If you are a multi-sport athlete, please let us know your upcoming schedule so we can determine which team and which coach would be the best placement. Please be aware that if you try out and are selected for a Level I team, there will be multi-day tournaments and some additional travel that may create some scheduling conflicts if you are a multi-sport athlete.

# Practice

Walla2Hoops teams practice at least two times per week, with a skill development practice twice a month in Nov/Dec/Jan/Feb. Team practices are usually 1½ to 2 hours in length. There are times when your practice schedule will change based on weather conditions or school events. The Club will make every attempt to reschedule gym time during that week rather than losing a practice.

### General Walla2Hoops Practice Rules:

Our focus with practice is to develop competitive athletes. To achieve that, certain rules are required by all teams as detailed below:

* Every practice is important. It is expected that each player will exercise good time management skills so that scheduling conflicts are kept to a minimum.
* All athletes are expected to make every effort to attend practice. If a player must miss a practice, a telephone call or text (not email) to their head coach is expected at least four hours before practice. Only after attempting and failing to reach your head coach can a player contact a teammate to relay the message to the head coach. Advanced notice is expected if the missed practice is due to vacation, school function or another event scheduled in advance.
* Missing practice may result in loss of playtime based upon whether the absence was excused and the expectations set up by the coach at the parent meeting. Excused absences are for family or school events in which the player cannot control the scheduling of that event (concerts, plays or games), injury or illness.
* Players who can only attend 30 or 45 minutes of a practice because of another event should still come to practice. It is much better to get some practice time rather than miss the whole practice.
* Injured athletes who can attend school are expected to attend practice to support their team and be available to help where they can, even if they cannot physically participate in practice. Players with fever or stomach flu (diarrhea and/or vomiting) should not come to practice.
* Scheduled practice time is start time. Please arrive early enough to be dressed and completely ready for practice by start time. This usually requires arriving not less than 15 minutes before start time.
* All practices are open and parents are welcome to observe practices at any time. Parents may not coach or offer instruction to their child or another team member at any time during practice. Parents are not permitted on the court, unless requested by the coaching staff.
* There will be no jewelry allowed at practice or at tournaments. Please leave your jewelry at home. This is a personal responsibility – please do not place your coaches in the position of having to monitor this.

# Playing Time

Playing time, for many players and parents, is a central concern that can distract from our focus on the team’s success and can often create divisions within the team. Walla2Hoops will try to ensure that each player gets some playing time in each match. ***However, this is a competitive league***. So, players with higher skill levels will have more playing time.

In any case, every player will have an equal opportunity to compete for playtime within their position during practice and at tournaments. A player’s time will be affected by any of the following:

* A player’s practice attendance
* A player’s ability to perform at the necessary level for a skill or position
* How a player’s attitude adds to or detracts from the chemistry or performance of the team
* A player’s past performance during the tournament or the last week of practice
* A player’s effort and work ethic
* The importance of the game
* The needs of the team in the present as well as later in the season
* Not being in good standing with respect to team fees

Some generalizations can be made with regards to playtime issues.

* It is our goal that all players have some on-court role every game. There may be exceptions with players recovering from injuries, problems with adherence to team rules/policies or when teams are trying to win a bid/move to the championship bracket of tournament play in a multi-day tournament.
* Playtime is generally more equal at the grade school level.
* Playtime is more equal during league play than in tournament play.
* Playtime may be more equal earlier in the season as coaches are exploring different lineups and identifying starters.
* Playtime may be more equal in one-day regional tournaments than multi-day, qualifiers or Regional tournaments.

All playing time is decided by the coaches and is not negotiable. Coaches have the right to play whomever they think is best suited for a position and who helps contribute to the team’s development and success. Here are some suggestions on how to talk with your coaches about playing time.

* Avoid language that is demanding or accusatory. Instead ask, “What can I do to play more…”
* Avoid seeking to talk to your coach when you are emotional. We seek to utilize the 24-hour rule, if at all possible.
* Parents may participate in the conversation with the coach, but the player should always be present when discussing playtime issues.
* We will not discuss other players on the team but will focus on what you, the player, need to do to play more.
* While email or a phone call can start a discussion, all playtime discussions need to be handled face to face and privately.

### Parent Guidelines:

* We strongly recommend that players get a nutritious meal and have a 10:00PM curfew the night before a tournament.
* Parents are responsible for the transportation of their children to and from tournaments. Car-pooling can be arranged with other teammates and is encouraged. Please be considerate and either arrange a ride exchange or contribute toward the cost of gas. Please inform coaches of ride arrangements for tournaments outside of the Walla Walla Valley area.

### Player Rules:

* If a player knows that they will miss a tournament, be late, or have to leave early from a tournament it is their parent’s responsibility to notify the coach as soon as a conflict is identified.
* All athletes are required to be in the gym, fully dressed and ready to warm-up, at the scheduled start time set up by their head coach. Usually this will be when the gym opens, 1/2 hour prior to the start of the first game. No jewelry allowed.
* Players are expected to avoid displaying negative emotions during matches. Arguing with the officials will not be tolerated.
* All athletes are required to stay at the tournament until the team has been released by one of the coaches. ***We play as a team, and we will leave the event as a team***.

### Team Area & Cooler:

Upon arrival, the team will identify a team area where the players can leave their bags and hang out between games. The area may be a room, table or simply a spot in a hallway. Either way, the team area represents our Club and should be kept neat and organized at all times. Most players will bring some type of blanket and/or pillow, homework, a book, a device or other items to help pass the time between games. Remember, the team area is not secure and valuables should be left at your own risk. Also, be sure to properly dispose of any trash and leave the area as we found it when the tournament is over.

Most tournaments offer concessions. If they so choose, Walla2Hoops teams can organize a team cooler with items assigned for each player to bring to that tournament. The food will be kept in our team area and everyone associated with our team will be welcome to use the team cooler. Parents and family members, we do ask that you let the players and coaches have first access to the items since they must coordinate meals and snacks with their playing and officiating schedule.

# Walla2Hoops Club Hosted Tournaments

In the interest of reducing travel for club teams, providing home court playing opportunities for our athletes, their families and friends, and showcasing our community and local businesses, Walla2Hoops will seek to host at least one tournament per year: February 22-23, 2020

We can not run a successful tournament without the help of W2Hoops families, players, and supporters. W2Hoops will reimburse teams who fill shifts at sites for entry/concession tables. Scoreboards will be run by local sports teams for reimbursement. Site supervisors will be assigned at each site by the W2Hoops Board and will be reimbursed.

# Walla2Hoops Club Hosted League Games

Walla2Hoops will host up to 6 Saturdays for 3CitiesHoops League games. Teams who sign up or are assigned to cover entry/concessions and/or scoreboards will be reimbursed as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Coverage** | **Payout per Day** *(half for a half day coverage)* |
| Entry Table/Concessions | $150 |
| Scoreboard | $150 |
| Site Supervision | (covered by Board Member) |

If a board member is unavailable to serve as site supervisor, then reimbursement will be provided at a rate of $100 per day.

# Travel Policy

Walla2Hoops Club has some teams that travel regularly to play in tournaments, some teams where travel is limited to a few events per season and some teams where there is no travel other than local travel to and from our own area. Walla2Hoops Club prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce the risk of abuse or misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase player safety and improve the player’s experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

We distinguish between travel to training, practice and local tournaments (“local travel”) and team travel involving an overnight stay (“team travel”).

### Local Travel

Local travel occurs when Walla2Hoops Club does not sponsor, coordinate or arrange for travel.

* Players and/or their parents/guardian are responsible for making all arrangements for local travel. The team and its coaches, managers or administrators should avoid responsibility for arranging or coordinating local travel. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure the person transporting the minor player maintains the proper safety and legal requirements, including but not limited to: a valid driver’s license, automobile liability insurance, a vehicle in safe working order, and compliance with applicable state laws.
* The employees, coaches and/or volunteers of Walla2Hoops Club or one of its teams, who are not also acting as a parent, should not drive alone with an unrelated minor player.

### Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when Walla2Hoops Club or one of its teams or designees’ sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel so that our team can compete locally, regionally or nationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the players.

* When possible, Walla2Hoops Club will provide reasonable advanced notice before team travel. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within Walla2Hoops Club or the team. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.
* Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangements with a minor player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player).
* The coach or his/her designee will establish a curfew by when all players must be in their hotel rooms or in a supervised location. Regular monitoring and curfew checks will be made of each room by at least two properly background screened adults. At no time should only one adult be present in a room with minor players, regardless of gender.
* Team personnel shall ask hotels to block adult pay per view channels.
* Individual meetings between a coach and a player may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public settings or with additional adults present, with at least one of those adults being the same gender as the player.
* Family members who wish to stay in the team hotel are permitted and encouraged to do so.
* The team will make every effort to accommodate reasonable parental requests when a child is away from home without a parent. If any special arrangements are necessary for your child, please contact the team personnel who can either make or assist with making those arrangements.
* No coach or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while performing their coaching and/or chaperoning duties.
* In all cases involving travel, parents have the right to transport their minor player.
* Prior to any travel, coaches will endeavor to make players and parents aware of all expectations and rules. Coaches will also support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of the players for adherence to curfew restrictions and other travel rules.
* If disciplinary action against a player is required while the player is traveling without his/her parents, then except where immediate action is necessary, parents will be notified before any action is taken, or immediately after.

### Additional Safety Policies

* Players are expected to remain with the team at all times during the trip. Players are not to leave the competition venue, the hotel, restaurant or any other place at which the team has gathered without the permission/knowledge of the coach or chaperone.
* When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theatres, etc., players will stay in groups of no less than three persons. Athletes 12 and under will be accompanied by a chaperone.
* Respect the privacy of each other;
* Only use hotel rooms with interior entrances;
* Must wear seatbelts and remain seated in vehicles.

**Behavior Policies**

* Be quiet and respect the rights of teammates and others in the hotel;
* Be prompt and on time;
* No cell phone usage is allowed during tournament play. Cell phones may be used in between games but only at the Team Gathering Area.
* Respect travel vehicles;
* Use appropriate behavior in public facilities, including language;
* We ask that all players be in their room settling down for the night no later than 10 pm.
* All players must stay in their assigned hotel room; and
* Remember that the needs and well-being of the team come first.

**Financial**

* No room service without permission
* Players are responsible for all hotel charges, including but not limited to per night room charges, incidental charges, any charges incurred as a result of your stay in that room.
* Players are responsible for any damages or thievery at hotel;
* Players must participate in contracted group meals; and
* The Club does NOT reimburse the player for ANY travel charges. This includes but is not limited to tournaments that are cancelled AFTER the player and guardian have arrived. Unfortunately, bad weather is a part of life when you live in this area. So, unexpected weather that causes a tournament to be cancelled after the player and guardian have already traveled are at the cost of the player/parent.

**General**

* Establish fair trip eligibility requirements;
* Establish age guidelines for travel trips;
* Parent(s) responsible for getting player(s) to stated departure point; and
* Requirements for families to attend “Team Travel Tournaments.”

### Code of Conduct / Honor Code

* Team members will display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrators, teammates, fellow competitors and the public at all times. If a player is given any type of warning by the officiating team, and/or displays poor sportsmanship and is disrespectful, the coach at his/her own discretion can choose how this incident will impact playing time.
* Team members and staff will refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the team or be detrimental to its performance objectives.
* The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.
* The possession, use or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form of weapon is strictly forbidden.
* Team members are reminded that when competing in tournaments, traveling on trips and attending other Club-related functions, they are representing both themselves and Walla2Hoops Club. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the Club.
* PARENTS and FAMILY MEMBERS are also representatives of their players and Walla2Hoops Club. Parents and family members should also display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrators, teammates, and the public at all times. If a parent or family member is given any type of warning by the tournament administrative team, and/or displays poor sportsmanship and is disrespectful, the offending party may be asked to leave the facility immediately and/or be sanctioned from attending future tournaments.

### Consequences for failure to comply with Honor Code

* Failure to comply with the Honor Code as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but not be limited to:
  + Dismissal from the trip and immediate return home at the athlete’s expense;
  + Disqualification from future tournaments, either local or traveling;
  + Financial penalties;
  + Dismissal from team;
* Players are to refrain from inappropriate physical contact at team activities.
* Players are to refrain from the use of inappropriate language.

# SafeSport Policy on Communication

### FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, BLOGS AND SIMILAR SITES

Coaches may have personal Facebook (or other social media site) pages, but they are not permitted to have any athlete member of the Club join their personal page as a “friend.” A coach should not accept any “friend” request from any athlete. In addition, the coach should remind the athlete that this is not permitted. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to “private message” each other through Facebook. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to “instant message” each other through Facebook chat or other IM methods.

The Club has an official Facebook page that athletes and their parents can “like” or “friend” for information and updates on team-related matters.

Coaches are encouraged to set their pages to “private” to prevent athletes from accessing the coach’s personal information.

### TWITTER

We do not have an active Twitter account. Players and coaches shall not set up or interact with one another on their personal Twitter accounts

### TEXTING

Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, texting is allowed between coaches and athletes during the hours from 7am until 10pm. Texting only shall be used for the purpose of communicating information directly related to team activities.

### EMAIL

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. When communicating with an athlete through email, a parent, another coach or a board member must also be copied.

### REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by coaches through any form of electronic communications. Immediate compliance without repercussion must be granted.

### MISCONDUCT

Social media and electronic communications can be used to commit misconduct (e.g. emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or athletes will not be tolerated and are considered violations of our Participant Safety Handbook.

### VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Club’s Social Media and Electronic Communications Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor, a Club administrator or the Regional SafeSport Officer for evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed following the appropriate procedure.

A Walla2Hoops participant or parent of a participant who violates this policy is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to: suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

# Communication

### Routine Team Communication

The primary way that you will receive communication from your coach or the Club president will be through email. If a last-minute change occurs with a practice or with a tournament we will try to text out that information or use our team parents to call parents directly. Billing information will be sent by email. It is critical that you provide the Club with all email addresses where you want information sent as well as cell phone numbers for both parents and the player. If changes occur, please update the Club president.

Our expectation from parents and player is that immediate communication (about something in the next 4 hours) be made to coaches by text. If the subject is more distant we recommend email. We also recommend following up any important verbal notification with an email to act as a confirmation and reminder.

### Website

Our website is in the process of being developed. It will contain a lot of information and resources for parents or players. www.walla2hoops.com

### Facebook

Walla2Hoops Club has its own Facebook page that can be found at “Walla2Hoops”. Please “like us” so you can get the most up-to-date information.

### Player to Coach

Both players and coaches are responsible for establishing a relationship of trust and mutual respect. Bringing up a problem can be very difficult for a player but this is one of those life skills that sports can teach. Parents may need to push their child to take the first step though. Our coaches work to be approachable and to create a safe environment for a player to bring up concerns.

For players, the most common concern that they have revolves around playing time. Our expectation is that the player should start this conversation by asking what he/she needs to do to play more and how he/she can work towards playing a larger role in contributing to the team’s success. Often times, players are unclear on what they need to change or how playing time is determined and an early conversation can address these questions.

### Player to Player

It is our expectation that if a conflict arises between players on a team then it gets resolved outside of practice/tournament time, if possible, so as to minimize the effect that it can have on the chemistry of the team. It is important for players to realize that they do not have to like everyone on the team or be friends with them but they can still respect their contribution to the team. If the conflict is not reconcilable then it is our expectation that the players involved should not aggravate the problem by involving other players or parents on the team with gossip, rumors or attacking people on Facebook or other social media.

### Parents to Coach

Walla2Hoops wants to encourage appropriate communication between our parents and the coaching staff of their child’s team.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"There are appropriate and inappropriate subjects that a parent can discuss with a coach. Appropriate ones are mental and physical treatment of the child, ways to help the child improve and the child's behavior. Inappropriate ones are playing time, strategy and other team members."-- Bruce Brown

"There are four positions on an athletic field: spectator, referee, coach, and player. You get to choose one and only one."-- Bruce Brown

### What is appropriate communication?

* **Any information about your child’s health.** Recent illnesses, medical restrictions relative to practice, allergies, medication needs are all examples of important information that we want you to communicate to your coaches.
* **Any information about your child’s emotional health.** It may be important for your coach to know if your child is struggling in school or had a recent death in the family or is dealing with another emotionally charged issue. Without this context, your child’s behavior in practice or during a tournament may be interpreted as being lazy, unfocused or disrespectful.
* **A quick heads up that your child is struggling to talk with the coaches.** This is appropriate if it is only a heads up and not a detailed email. Remember that we too begin this conversation with the player first.
* **Your positive experiences with the coach or the team.** If we are doing things right then reinforce that by letting us know.
* **Your willingness to become more involved.** If you want to help with pictures, video, fundraising or other activities to support your team and the Club, please let us know!
* **Conversations about play time.** If your child is receiving playing time consistent with this handbook and the expectations set forth by your coach at the player/parent meeting at the beginning of the season, and your child has not tried to discuss his/her playing time or their role on the team with their coach, it is inappropriate for you to do so. Before approaching the coach yourself, encourage your child to talk to the coach about what they can do to help the team and earn more play time or ask the coach to more clearly define their role on the team. If after this conversation, there are still concerns, at that time, a conversation with the coach, parent, and player may be appropriate. Request a meeting with the coach. The player must be present at the meeting unless there is a very good reason for them not to be.
* **Other players on the team.** Your personal opinions of other player’s attitudes, skill, performance, or conduct are not appropriate topics of conversation for you to have with your child’s coach. There are some exceptions with regards to code of conduct. A team chaperone should inform the coaches of any issues that arise on the team relative to tournament rules or Club travel policies. Any issues relative to drugs, alcohol or weapons should be brought up with the head coach immediately. Please use your best judgment here, and understand that if you cross a line, the coach will let you know immediately that this is an inappropriate topic of conversation.
* **Coaching technique, tactics, systems, etc.** These are all issues that are not open for discussion or negotiation. There are opportunities with end of season parent evaluations to provide feedback on these topics to the coaching staff, the board and the Club President.
* **Poor Sportsmanship.** The Club will not tolerate aggressive parent behavior toward any of our coaches, coaches of other clubs, parents, or officials. If a parent exhibits this type of behavior, they will be appropriately sanctioned, which may include being asked to not attend tournaments in the future or even dismissal from Walla2Hoops. Please cheer for our team’s efforts and successes. Parents and other fans should never celebrate our opponents’ mistakes. While in the gymnasium, keep all comments positive—remember, you are sitting among parents from the other clubs. Please do not compare the skill or attitude of your player out loud with other members of the team.
  + - Take the time to learn more about basketball rules and strategy. What sometimes seems like a blown call or a poor coaching decision often looks much different if you have a more detailed appreciation for the nuances of this sometimes-complicated sport.
    - Consider it a sign of trouble if a player looks into the stands repeatedly for parental approval or disapproval during a game.
    - Basketball officials are off-limits for parents. Refrain from yelling at them—before, during and after the game—no matter what the perceived error or injustice. Players must learn to perform under adversity, and to not waste emotion or effort on things not within their control, and the Club asks you as a parent to practice this same principle.

### Finding the Best Time to Talk

In looking for a good outcome to any meeting with your coach it is important to find the best time and setting for the conversation to occur. Here are some guidelines for finding the best time to talk.

* Little problems are easier to fix than big ones and little problems have a way of getting bigger when not addressed. If there is a question about what a player needs to do to play more, don’t wait for half the season to begin the conversation.
* Don’t ask to meet during practice or during a tournament. Your coach will not meet with you at this time. Before or after practice is usually the best time. Please allow plenty of time for the meeting.
* **THE 24/48 RULE:** If you are concerned about a basketball-related issue that requires you to speak directly with a coach, we ask that you wait at least 24 hours after the triggering event. But then deal with the issue at hand in the next 48 hours or forever drop it. Please make an appointment with the coach and, in a civilized manner, approach and solve the issue at hand. Cooler heads are inevitably more productive. Coaches always enjoy chatting with parents at the conclusion of games, but cannot address non-emergency issues at that time. We also will not interrupt practice sessions.
* Provide a little prep for your coach but not too much before the meeting. Let your coach know why you want to meet but don’t send a lengthy email. Emails or long phone messages tend to be too emotional and accusatory. Avoid that with just a brief note or conversation.

# Grievance Procedures

None of the coaches should be considered unapproachable. They are all very willing to listen to a player's concern and try to arrive at a mutual solution. Until the coach is made aware of the concern nothing at all can be done to alleviate it. We think the ability to confront and discuss potentially emotional topics is an absolutely necessary skill for negotiating conflict within one’s life. However, we also realize there are times a problem needs to be addressed and the player cannot bring him/herself to approach the coach. In this case, we HIGHLY encourage the parents, in a spirit of collaboration with the coach, to produce the best environment for the player, to bring the issue to the coach’s attention, or to the Club Facilitator’s attention. Please do not let problems fester – it only makes things worse for everyone in trying to resolve issues.

If you, as a parent, have legitimate concerns about a coach other than your athlete’s coach, or with an athlete other than your own, you need to address the Head Coach or the Club Facilitator.

### Procedure Steps:

Specifically, if you as a parent, or your athlete as a participant on a Walla2Hoops team, have concerns about Walla2Hoops policies or actions, the procedures to follow are, in this order:

### The athlete should talk to the coach about the matter.

* + It is understood at the younger ages sometimes the parent will be the first contact with the coach.
  + If the matter remains unresolved, or if the athlete has reasonable concern that talking to the coach will not resolve the matter, then;

### The parent should talk to the coach.

* + Parents and/or athletes should call or email the coach to schedule a meeting.
  + Meetings need to be scheduled outside the tournament.
  + If a parent approaches a coach during a tournament, coaches have been instructed to refuse to discuss any controversial matter, to refer the parent to the Club and to walk away from the parent.
  + We ask that any meetings be at least 48 hours after the reason for that meeting.
  + The recommended time for a parent or athlete to talk to a coach about a problem is a previously arranged time either before or immediately after a scheduled practice.
  + In certain situations, we may ask the athlete to attend the meeting also.
  + If the matter still remains unresolved, or if the parent has reasonable concern that talking to the coach will not resolve the matter, then;
* **The parent should talk to the Club Facilitator** and request a meeting with the coach, the Club President and the Parent Representative.

### If the parent or the athlete is not satisfied by the action taken by the Club Facilitator, they may request, in writing, that the Walla2Hoops Executive Board review the matter.

* + The Board may, at its sole discretion, review or refuse to review the matter.
  + The Board will not review coaching decisions, training regimes or skill development.

We encourage parents to approach us earlier rather than later about concerns they have. There is little we can do to rectify a situation that is not brought to our attention until the end of the season. It is much better to have open lines of communication about problems as soon as they arise.

### Other Grievance Policies:

Walla2Hoops will not tolerate any hostile, aggressive confrontation between a parent and any official, any other parent, any athlete or any coach, regardless of whether the coach, athlete or other parent is a member of Walla2Hoops or not. Violation of this policy may result in the athlete being dismissed from Walla2Hoops.

It is inappropriate and undesirable for an athlete or a parent to approach other Walla2Hoops parents and athletes to complain about a problem the athlete or parent has with a Walla2Hoops coach, about objections to coaching decisions or about disagreement with an administrative decision. This is one of the biggest factors in disrupting the chemistry of a team.

Asking uninvolved persons to take sides on an issue is unfair to the third parties, to the team and to the Club. Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. For the psychological health of the athletes and the Club as a whole, grievances need to be handled between the parties involved and the decision-makers in the situation, meaning, talk to the coach or talk to the administration.

We strongly encourage any member who is approached and asked to listen to or express an opinion about matters between two other parties in the Club to suggest to the complaining party that he or she needs take the matter up with the coach in question, or the Club President, and refuse to listen further.

It is detrimental to all persons involved to repeat complaints you hear (or overhear) to other uninvolved parties. By the time a story gets to the third or fourth party, it frequently bears little resemblance to the facts of the situation.

# Sexual or Physical Abuse Policy

Walla2Hoops recognizes that all forms of sexual abuse, assault or harassment with athletes are illegal and unethical, even when an athlete invites or consents to such behavior or involvement. Sexual abuse and harassment is defined as, but not limited to, repeated comments, gestures or physical contacts of a sexual nature. This includes demanding sexual favors in exchange for promotions, unwelcome touching of any kind, unwanted letters, telephone calls, texts or email of a personal nature, unwarranted inquiries about personal life or sexual habits, repeated jokes with sexual content, and sexual comments about a person’s appearance or body.

In addition, Walla2Hoops will not tolerate hazing. Hazing is defined as any intentional act that endangers the mental or physical health of one person or a group of people, by another person or group of people, for the purpose of group acceptance or membership. Hazing behavior would include but is not limited to: brutality such as beating or striking, excessive calisthenics, excessive consumption of food or drink, or intimidating/threatening activities that cause extreme mental stress.

Walla2Hoops will not tolerate sexual or physical abuse of any of its staff or of participants. Walla2Hoops regards the safety of the young athletes entrusted to our care and instruction as our highest priority. We do not tolerate physical behavior that compromises that priority. We monitor activities and interactions to try to prevent miscommunications that cause discomfort to any of our athletes or parents.

# Reporting Complaints

If you see or experience behaviors by a Walla2Hoops coach, board member or chaperone that you believe to be inappropriate, report it immediately to either the Head Coach or Club President. All facts will be written down and a file will be started. All complaints will be investigated. Any employee or volunteer found to be in violation of the sexual and physical abuse policy will be subject to discipline, which may include dismissal. There will be no retaliation against any complainants or witnesses who participate in an investigation of an abuse charge.

# End of Season Issues

Walla2Hoops season runs as defined by their list of tournaments provided by the coaches for each team. Players are expected to be committed to their Walla2Hoops team for the season as defined whether that season ends in March or goes through Regionals or AAU Nationals.