

PANTHER BASKETBALL



****EARNED—NEVER GIVEN****

**“THIS IS OUR CULTURE:
TOGETHER, WITH GREAT ENERGY WE’RE GOING TO:
ALWAYS WORK TO IMPROVE,
PLAY TOUGH DEFENSE,
SHARE THE BALL
AND YOU WANT TO WIN,
MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.”**

HARD

SMART

TOGETHER

Goals: We have three essential goals for our players.

1. ATTITUDE

- a. **Have a Winning Attitude:** The one thing we can control every day of our life is our attitude. When things go wrong, or adversity strikes, the one thing we can always control is our response or our attitude. We expect our players to have a great attitude. This life lesson may be the most important one that we hope our players learn. **DMGB.**

2. EFFORT

- a. **Play Hard.** The value of hard work can never be underestimated. We hope that the lessons of hard work that your son gains from basketball will help him in any area of his life, both in the present and in the future--**EARNED-NEVER GIVEN.** We want to play so hard, that the other team does not want to play with us.
- b. **Play Smart.** Playing smart has dual meanings. We want our players to be smart players on the basketball court. We want to be a team that does all of the "little things" necessary to be successful. We also want our players to be "smart" off the court. We expect our players to be good students, good role models, and make "smart" choices.
- c. **Be Tough.** We want our players and our team to be tough both physically and mentally. We will talk about what it means to be tough all season long. Having poise and showing mental toughness when adversity strikes are what separates average teams from great teams.

3. TEAM

- a. **Play Together.** Teamwork and togetherness are extremely important in our program. These are life-long lessons that we hope to teach your son. Also, we try to create a "family atmosphere," where your son can feel like he belongs with a special group of people that care about him as a person. This family atmosphere will remain for him, even after he has graduated and moved on, because he will always be an important part of this tradition rich program.

Finally, we want all of our players to Have Fun. High school sports should be memorable experiences that foster life-long relationships and memories. We want to create an environment in which your son will have a positive experience that will be enjoyable for him.

SUCCESS HAPPENS

BEHIND ANY SUCCESS IS EVERY DAY. Success is not a one-time effort. It is the result of repeated efforts every day, over a long period of time.

SUCCESS IS NOT A GAME OF PERFECT. There will be mistakes and failures along the way. Understand that does happen to everyone who has become successful.

SUCCESS IS NOT A GAME OF GENIUS. Success does not require you to be the smartest person in the room. Success is most about the consistent work you put in.

SUCCESS IS A BATTLE AGAINST HUMAN NATURE.
The biggest waste of talent, is when talent is wasted.

SUCCESS IS ABOUT SELF-EVALUATION. There is a lot of con in this world, but the one person you can never con is yourself. You must evaluate yourself as truthfully as you can. ***Do a deep dive into YOU!!***

SUCCESS DOES NOT STOP ONCE YOU GET THERE.
Michael Jordan said this. None of us (team or individual) has arrived. We may have reached a certain level of success, but we are not done. We have not arrived. It's not about what we've accomplished as much as it is what we accomplish relative to what we are capable of accomplishing.

SUCCESS REQUIRES A CHOICE. Are you interested, or are you committed? ***Chicken or Pig?***

PANTHER BASKETBALL: EARNED—NEVER GIVEN

TOUGHNESS

“PLAYERS PLAY, BUT TOUGH PLAYERS WIN.” TOM IZZO-MSU BASKETBALL

- **SET A GOOD SCREEN**
- **SET UP YOUR CUT**
- **TALK ON DEFENSE**
- **JUMP TO THE BALL**
- **DON'T GET SCREENED**
- **GET YOUR HANDS UP**
- **PLAY THE BALL, SEE YOUR MAN**
- **GET ON THE FLOOR**
- **OFFENSE FIRST CONTACT**
- **RUN THE FLOOR**
- **PLAY SO HARD, YOUR COACH CAN'T TAKE YOU OUT**
- **GET TO YOUR TEAMMATE FIRST**
- **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR TEAMMATES**
- **TAKE A CHARGE**
- **FINISH PLAYS**
- **WORK ON YOUR PASSING**
- **THROW YOURSELF IN TO YOUR TEAM'S DEFENSE**
- **TAKE AND GIVE CRITICISM THE RIGHT WAY**
- **SHOW STRENGTH IN YOUR BODY LANGUAGE**
- **CATCH AND FACE**
- **DON'T GET SPLIT**
- **BE ALERT**
- **CONCENTRATE, AND ENCOURAGE YOUR TEAMMATES TO CONCENTRATE**
- **IT'S NOT YOUR SHOT; IT'S OUR SHOT**
- **BOX OUT AND GO TO THE GLASS EVERY TIME**
- **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS**
- **LOOK YOUR COACHES AND TEAMMATES IN THE EYE**
- **MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PLAY**
- **BE HARD TO PLAY AGAINST AND EASY TO PLAY WITH**
- **MAKE EVERY GAME IMPORTANT**
- **MAKE GETTING BETTER EVERYDAY YOUR GOAL!**

WHAT DO I WANT IN PLAYERS?

- I want players who put in great energy to the process of getting better.
- I want players who are willing to make a commitment to being the best they can be each day and every time that they play.
- I want players who are willing and ready to do what has to be done to make a positive contribution in the most difficult of games and practices!!
- I want players who compete in each game as though there is nothing they will ever do, that will be more important.
- I want players who, more than anything, want our team to be the very best it can be.

THESE ARE THE IDEALS I WILL BE DEMANDING.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

You are expected to be students first, and athletes second. Both of these go hand in hand. Be a winner in the classroom and on the court. At all levels, emphasis will be placed on skill level, skill development, and **attitude**. The varsity level will focus on the top players and we are here to be highly competitive. Under all circumstances, coaches and advisors will provide an atmosphere where athletes who have the desire to progress and who exhibit a positive attitude will be given a fair opportunity to succeed. We will maintain a high standard of sportsmanship and carry ourselves in a way that projects class and pride.

Being a member of Panther Basketball is a privilege. Being a member of Panther Basketball is a commitment. I will hold myself to a higher standard and I will be **ALL IN**.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will make the commitment to attend all practices, weight-lifting sessions, games and team functions and adhere to the "Players Code of Conduct".
- I will work hard, put my team before myself and support my teammates in practice and in competition.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship in victory and defeat by demonstrating positive support for ALL players, coaches and officials. I understand that my actions are a reflection of my family, team, school and community.
- I will treat players, coaches, fans and officials, on and off the court, with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or performance.
- I will let the coach's coach and the officials officiate and the players play. The penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct is under the jurisdiction of the officials. A player who breaks the rules and is ordered from the playing area must comply.
- I will not use any trash talk or profanity.
- I will demand a sports environment that is free from alcohol, drugs, and tobacco and will refrain from their use at all times.
- I will accept constructive criticism and not take it personally. I will address any concerns I have to the proper people at the appropriate time.
- I will respect and adhere to the rules governing eligibility and competition.
- I will believe in myself and play with confidence. I will not let fear of failure hold me back or dwell on my mistakes.
- I will have fun!

Failing to adhere to the commitment and Code of Conduct will have implications on: playing time, dressing for games and being a member of Panther Basketball.

As a member of Panther Basketball, I, _____, will adhere to the commitment and Code of Conduct. I have read it and understand its implications.

Team Philosophies and Playing Time: Below you will find a description of each team and our philosophy for playing time with each team:

1. **7th and 8th Grade:** The focus of this team is skill development and teamwork. Participation is very important at this level. Kids are still developing and growing into their bodies at this level. Playing time will be given to all players in grades 7 and 8. Coaches will do their best to provide quality playing time for all players. Playing time may be based on skill level, personnel, game situations, and other factors like attitude, conduct, and attendance. Playing time decisions are solely at the coach's discretion and are not debatable.
2. **"C" Squad Team:** This team will consist of, mostly, players in grade 9--there are always exceptions. The focus of this team is skill development and teamwork. We do look to provide each individual with playing time throughout the season, but playing time may not be equal. Playing time and its equality amongst players will be at the coach's discretion, based on skill level, personnel, game situations, and other factors like attitude, conduct, and attendance. Playing time decisions are solely at the coach's discretion and are not debatable.
3. **B Squad/Junior Varsity Team (JV):** This team will typically consist of players in grade 10 and others who are not getting varsity minutes. This team will continue to build upon the skills, teamwork, and expectations of our program that were introduced in 9th grade basketball. Our focus is to put the most competitive team we can on the court to try and win the basketball game, while still working on player development. Playing time will not be equal at this level, and all playing time decisions will be at the coach's discretion and are not debatable. In addition to commitments to skills and teamwork, other factors such as skill level, personnel, game situations, attitude, conduct, and attendance are taken into account when determining playing time.
4. **Varsity:** The Varsity basketball team will be made up of the very best players in the entire program, regardless of grade level. The goal of varsity competition is to put together the best representative basketball team that GSL can provide. Those individuals who display strong basketball skills and a solid commitment to the team will be players that have a strong chance of earning playing time at the varsity level. Decisions about playing time will be made based on what is best for the varsity team at the given moment during the season. These decisions will not be debatable, and these decisions are at the coach's discretion. In addition to commitments to skills and teamwork, other factors such as attitude, conduct, and attendance are taken into account when determining playing time.

Playing Time: *"It is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit":*

One of the hardest jobs of a coach is determining playing time. All of our players work hard at improving their skills, trying to earn playing time to help the team win. Unfortunately, not every player has been blessed with the same skill/ability level. As players progress through each level of basketball, the competition improves, and some players find it hard to keep up. We do not guarantee playing time, but rather we believe that playing time should be earned through hard work, attitude, commitment to basketball, commitment to the team, understanding of system, and consistent effort. In order to keep consistency, we generally use a rotation of 7-9 players/game. Each player needs to understand and accept their role. Players need to also understand that roles can and will change throughout the season. Some players will play the majority of the game. Some players will play mostly JV and be a vital role on

PLAYING TIME CRITERIA

It is a **privilege** to be a Panther basketball player! There are many benefits to being a member of a team, and **every player is important**. To be an effective player, all players should have a strong desire to play. However, this does not mean players are **entitled** to playing time. There will be situations in which the coach decides to give players little or no playing time, while others will play a majority of the game. This is the nature of high school athletics, especially at the varsity level--The coach's decision will be final.

Players will receive playing time based on the following criteria:

- Commitment
- Talent
- Effectiveness and effort in practice
- Effectiveness and effort in games
- Knowledge of the system
- Physical and mental preparation
- Physical and mental conditioning
- Attitude
- Following team rules

Every Panther player has a role to fulfill on the team, and the team depends upon each player to fulfill their role.

GSL Panther Basketball Captain Qualities

Definition of a Captain:

- A captain is a person chosen to lead and represent a team. It is an honor and a responsibility to be a captain of the GSL Panther Boys Basketball Team.

Expectations of a captain:

1. Leads by example—being the hardest working and most unselfish player on the team.
2. Attends all practices and works as hard in practice as he does in the games.
3. Encourages rather discourages—has positive attitude.
4. Always keeps his head up and never gives in to self-pity or frustration. A captain continually motivates and inspires teammates through his example, actions and behavior.
5. Stays positive, doesn't complain, listens to his teammates and communicates effectively with both players and coaches.
6. Takes to learning new things with an opened mind.

Lettering: In order for players to earn a varsity letter, one of the following requirements must be met:

- All seniors on the varsity roster who have played all four years of their high school career will letter.
- If a player appears in at least 12 varsity halves during the varsity season, he will earn a letter. (Anyone who fails to acquire the minimum # of halves due to an injury, but in the opinion of the coaches would have lettered, will be eligible for a letter as well.)
- All managers, film managers, and statisticians who have worked at least 15 games will earn a varsity basketball letter.
- A letter can be earned by the coach's discretion for a significant contribution to the team.
- If at any time a letter winner behaves in a manner which is disrespectful to himself or his teammates or breaks team rules, he may lose his right to letter and earn postseason awards. This is solely at the coach's discretion.

PLAYER/PARENT COMMUNICATION

1. Player connects with coach to discuss issue. Meeting is set up with head coach, player and an assistant coach.
2. If, after the player/coach meeting, the parents still want to meet, a meeting will be set up with the head coach, parents and assistant coach. The meeting will take place at school and at a time that works for the head coach. It will not take place during practice time.
3. If the issue is still not resolved a meeting with the head coach, parents, assistant coach and athletic administrator will be held.
 - THERE WILL NEVER BE DISCUSSION FOLLOWING A GAME.
 - THERE WILL NOT BE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT PLAYER'S ROLES COMPARED TO ANOTHER PLAYER'S ROLE OR PLAYING TIME.