Chaska Boys Basketball Team Handbook

Coaches
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Website (game schedules, calendars and more):
https://chs.district112.org/athletics/teams/boys-basketball

The Chaska Boys Basketball Team Handbook provides families with a clear overview of our program's values, expectations, and guiding principles. We encourage you to take some time to read through it so you can better understand our coaching approach and what we expect from your son as a member of the Chaska Boys Basketball program.

Our goal is to build a program rooted in sustained competitive excellence while supporting the growth of our players—both on and off the court. Being part of a team offers meaningful experiences that help prepare student-athletes for their future, and we're excited to have your son be part of that journey.

We also invite you to stay connected by attending games, volunteering, and participating in team activities. Everything in this handbook is intended to enhance your son's experience and contribute to his development—not just as a basketball player, but as a young person.

Thank You: First and foremost, you as parents deserve a huge "thank you" for all that you do. Parents are an integral part of any program, and we want to make sure we express our gratitude to you for everything you do for your son, our school, and our program.

Program Values

Relationships: Building positive relationships is at the heart of our program. Our primary goal is to ensure that players feel connected to their teammates, coaches, and the overall program. All coaches are committed to fostering an environment that supports this sense of connection and enhances each player's experience. Equally important is the expectation that players treat one another and their coaches with respect and kindness. Basketball offers a unique opportunity to build lifelong relationships, and we are committed to fostering and nurturing those bonds.

Leadership: We believe that everyone in our program has the potential to be a leader, both on and off the court. Our leaders play a crucial role in shaping the culture of the team by being intentional about the behaviors we encourage and the values we emphasize. Coaches are

responsible for modeling leadership and supporting the growth and development of leaders throughout the program.

Communication: Effective communication is essential for the success of our program. Open, honest, and intentional communication—particularly in challenging situations—helps keep everyone motivated, provides clarity and purpose, resolves conflicts, and ensures accountability for all involved. As coaches, we are committed to sharing important information with our student athletes as promptly as possible.

Here are some specific instances that involve communication, and then our policies for each instance:

24 Hour Rule: After games, emotions can be strong and influence our thinking beyond a reasonable level. Please refrain from approaching or contacting a coach to discuss an issue regarding your son, the game, or anything related to basketball other than your support. Instead, please wait until the next day to decide if you are going to contact the coach. Of course, it is always the best course of action to have your son approach the coach and have them handle the challenging conversations. This is the most impactful course of action for relationship building between the player and coach while also providing opportunities for the player to learn valuable life skills.

Chain of Command: Players and parents are expected to follow the proper chain of command when addressing any program concerns:
a. Player talks to the coach at their level (9th, Soph, JV, V)
b. Player talks to the varsity coach along with their direct coach
c. Players and parents meet with the coaching staff
d. Player and parent talks to the athletic director

Program Roles

As coaches, parents, players, referees, or even bus drivers, we all have different roles in any athletic program. It is important that everyone understands their role and the expectations in their role. Be a star at your role!

Coaches' Roles: Below are the expectations we have for ourselves as coaches and leaders.

1. Build positive relationships with players and genuinely care for them as individuals.
2. Use basketball as a tool to teach valuable life skills.
3. Clearly communicate roles and expectations to players.
4. Prioritize the success of the program and the team.
5. Maintain discipline, consistency, and preparedness in all aspects of coaching.
6. Approach players, fellow coaches, and officials with a positive attitude.
7. Focus on what we can control and let go of what we cannot.
8. Maximize the potential of our team, striving to be at our best when it matters most—by March.

Players' Roles: Below are the expectations that we have for our players. Please note that each player has control over these attributes.

1. Always give your best effort and maintain a positive attitude.
2. Be committed, coachable, prepared, and on time.
3. Put the team first—show loyalty to your teammates and the program.
4. Communicate openly and honestly with teammates and coaches.
5. Be a star in your role—embrace it fully and understand that roles may evolve throughout the season.
6. Show genuine care for your teammates by supporting, encouraging, and holding them accountable.
7. Demonstrate positive sportsmanship toward opponents and officials - you represent our team and our community
8. Make healthy decisions and take care of your body to stay at your best.

Parents' Roles: Roles are important on any team. Parents have an important role in the program. We feel that the following roles are very important for parents to follow:

1. Support the Growth of Your Son and the Program
   Encourage the development of your son as a player and person, and support the overall growth of the program. As coaches, we make decisions based on what is best for the team and the players involved. If your son has concerns or frustrations about team-related decisions, **please encourage him to speak directly with the coach.** This approach fosters open communication and helps your son develop valuable skills in handling difficult conversations.
2. Be a "Chaska Hawks Basketball Fan"
   While it's natural to focus on your child's individual success, please remember to support the entire Chaska Hawks team. Cheer for all players, not just your own child, and maintain a positive attitude towards the team as a whole. Refrain from gossiping about other players, coaches, or team decisions, especially in front of your son. Negative conversations can harm team chemistry and player development, so be mindful of the tone you set, particularly in family discussions.
3. Display Good Sportsmanship
   Represent the Chaska Hawks community positively at every game, both home and away. Show respect for referees, coaches, players, and fans from all schools. Engaging in positive sportsmanship is not only a reflection of our program's values but also an important life lesson in responsibility and respect.
4. Allow Your Player to "Skin Their Knee"
   Being part of a team and working toward a shared goal can be incredibly rewarding—but it also comes with challenges. There will be times when things don't go as expected or when goals feel out of reach. Our program is designed to help players grow both on and off the court. While developing basketball skills is important, we also focus on building life skills like perseverance, teamwork, and a positive mindset. Your support plays a big role in this process. Encourage your player to see frustrations and setbacks as opportunities to learn and improve. These moments help them build resilience, confidence, and the determination that will serve them well beyond the game.

Team Philosophy and Miscellaneous Important Items

Team Philosophies: Our program philosophy is to build program depth by developing as many players as possible in each class. Below you will find a description of each team and our philosophy for playing time with each team:

Freshman Teams (9A and 9B)

The primary focus at the freshman level is skill development and teamwork, while implementing the Chaska Basketball system. This is a key transition for players, as they adjust to the demands of high school basketball. Unlike middle school, where players typically have one or two practices per week and several games, the practice-to-game ratio at this level is reversed. Players will experience growing pains as they develop physically and mentally. There are two freshman teams, 9A and 9B, and both teams will practice together daily. Player placement on each team is fluid, with some players possibly switching between the two teams. Playing time will be given to all players on both teams, and coaches will strive to ensure fair opportunities for everyone. Playing time may be influenced by skill level, game situations, attitude, conduct, attendance, and other factors. Decisions regarding playing time are at the discretion of the coaching staff and are not open to debate. There will typically be 15-20 players on the freshman roster.

Sophomore Team

This team will consist of players in grades 10 and below. The focus of this team is skill development and teamwork while implementing the Chaska Basketball system. We do look to provide everyone with playing time throughout the season, but playing time will not be equal. Playing time 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. There may be opportunities for players on the sophomore team to sit on the bench and potentially have some playing time during the Junior Varsity game. Players are allowed 3 halves of competition per night. These decisions are based on skill level, work ethic, and other factors like attitude, conduct, and attendance. It is important to note that those who are asked to be involved with the JV game are fluid and can/will change from game to game. 10-12 players are typically on this roster.

Junior Varsity Team (JV)

This team will typically consist of players in grades 11 and below. This team will continue to build upon the skills, teamwork, and expectations of our program while practicing with the Varsity team. The JV is composed of players who are in our top 16-18 in our program. Our focus is to put the most competitive team we can on the court to try and win the basketball game while developing and preparing players for future varsity roles. 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 considered when determining playing time. Lastly, players are allowed 3 halves and may play both JV and Varsity minutes on a given night – this situation is fluid from game to game and is based on the factors listed above.

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 Chaska can provide. Those individuals who display strong basketball skills and a solid commitment to the team will be players who 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 coaching staff's discretion. In addition to commitments to skillset and teamwork, other factors such as attitude, conduct, and attendance are considered when determining playing time. Players are allowed 3 halves per night, and sometimes will play a half or two of JV to support their development. 16-18 JV/Varsity players on the roster.

Playing Time: One of the most challenging parts of coaching is deciding on playing time. Every player works hard to improve and earn the chance to contribute on the court. However, players have different skill levels, and as the level of competition increases, the game becomes more demanding. We don't guarantee playing time—but we do believe it should be **earned** through hard work, a positive attitude, dedication to basketball and the team, understanding of our system, and consistent effort in both practices and games. At the varsity level, we typically use a rotation of 7–9 players per game. Coaches will clearly communicate each player's role and expectations. It's important for players to understand that roles can change throughout the season as the team evolves. Every role—whether it's starting, coming off the bench, or pushing teammates in practice—is vital to our team's success. Great teams are built on players who embrace their roles for the good of the group. While we can't promise equal playing time, we **can** promise three things when it comes to how we handle our players:

1. We will not quit on any player. It does not matter if a player plays every minute of the game or no minutes at all; we will not quit working to help that player improve.
2. We will be honest with each player in our assessments of their skills. The coaches will determine the strengths and weaknesses of each player, and we will attempt to help the player improve weaknesses, while helping strengths to flourish.
3. We will communicate as clearly as we can. It is our job to communicate roles and information to each player, and we will give our best effort to communicate with each player.

Team Selection: Due to the size of our school, interest in our program, and to maintain appropriate numbers for each level within our program, we will conduct tryouts for each level. The members of each basketball team within our program are selected on the following criteria, in no order.

- Basketball ability
- Work ethic, competitive drive, willingness to be coached
- Behavior in school / in the community

Academics: Your education will carry you farther than basketball. We follow the academic eligibility expectations set forth by the Chaska High School Activities Department. Players who are not committed to the classroom risk practice time, playing time, and team membership.

In-Season Reminders/Information

Picture Day
Friday, Dec. 5th, is our picture day. Players' order packets will be emailed before picture day from our athletic office.

Volunteering
We will be going to Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen on 12/23/25 from noon - 1:45 pm.

Shakopee Holiday Tournament
All 5 teams play in the Shakopee Holiday Tourney.
12/29 & 12/30: Game times are at 12:15 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:45 pm, & 4:30 pm

Busses
We will take buses to all away games except the Chanhassen game. Coaches will communicate bus times to the players in practice the day before games. If your son isn't going to ride the bus home after a game, they need to communicate that to their coach.

Fundraising
We are running a Vertical Raise fundraiser - **Instructions on how to join**

Metro West Website
Link to the Metro West website: **https://www.metrowestconference.org/**

- This is the best spot to go for game times/locations

Varsity/JV Teams Info:
Practice Schedule
JV/Varsity Calendar 2025/26

Below are the links to the pre-game meals and snack sign-up if you are able/willing to host a pre-game meal and/or contribute to away game snacks:
Team Dinners - signup
Away Game Snacks - signup

Youth Team Pairings

- We will be pairing our players up with Chaska Youth Traveling teams. Our players are expected to go to a few of their youth team's practices and at least one of their tournaments this season