

Vision & Guiding Philosophy

South Metro Huskies

Christian Homeschool Basketball Program

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

1. The South Metro homeschool basketball program shall seek to be a God-exalting, Christ-centered option for Christian homeschooling families that desire an opportunity for their children to engage in competitive basketball.

2. The South Metro homeschool basketball program shall seek to complement the homeschooling experience in aiming to achieve the main objective of the general Christian homeschooling venture – to teach students that their ultimate purpose is to glorify God and to prepare them to pursue that lifetime endeavor. This shall be the foundation of the South Metro homeschool basketball program.

3. The South Metro homeschool basketball program shall seek to be guided and informed by biblical truth in its operation, decision-making, and activities. This shall be its undergirding commitment and biblical principles should be applied in its pursuits and actions. All associated with the program (players, coaches, families, and board) shall be expected to pursue Christ-like character and demeanor in all conduct associated with the South Metro program. This will be outlined in further detail in subsequent points.

4. The South Metro homeschool basketball program shall seek to complement the homeschooling experience in aiming to achieve another of its objectives – character development. Discipline, diligence, self-control, loyalty, teamwork, perseverance, Christ-honoring unity, and a strong work ethic are among the qualities that this program is committed to instilling in its players.

5. The South Metro homeschool basketball program, beneath these foundational commitments, shall be committed to competitive excellence and this program shall:

- Uphold historical individuals, e.g., Eric Liddell and Jim Elliott, who exemplified both Christian commitment and athletic excellence, as models of spiritual discipline and leadership.
- Promote a competitive playing situation, i.e., it shall enlist and engage its players to play competitive basketball against teams likewise committed to playing in the same manner.
- Attempt to foster an environment that aims to help its players strive to be the best that they can be and better prepared for other, more significant life endeavors that they

will undertake.

- Seek to move its players toward greater responsibility-taking and initiative.
- Strongly encourage coaches to invest their energies in developing players and raising their level of basketball skill and play.
- Assign to each of its coaches the responsibility of determining playing time for each player under that coach's direction and guidance.
- Promote the betterment of the team over and above the interests of individual players.

6. What the South Metro homeschool basketball program is not:

- It is not a Physical Education class or an intramural program or purely for recreation or exercise.
- It is not seeking to create a pressurized environment that characterizes some contemporary athletic programs by demanding too much of young athletes in regard to training and competitive demands.
- It does not guarantee equal or a defined minimum percentage of playing time to its participants. See points 5 and 7 and the "EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES" section for further explanation.

7. The South Metro homeschool basketball program, in keeping with its commitments and priorities, shall seek to avoid a "win at whatever cost" mentality in its persona. This should be evident in at least three areas:

- The South Metro program does not mandate that coaches distribute equal game playing time to each player. However, coaches are encouraged and directed to attempt to give equal skill-developing attention and direction to each player and to seek to raise the playing level of each one so that more balanced playing time among the team's players may potentially be the natural result. In this manner the coach does not shoulder full responsibility for a player's playing time but the player has responsibility as well and player initiative is encouraged.
- The South Metro program shall not mandate that current or prospective players participate in offseason activities as a condition for being a starter or playing during the regular season. Instead, starting and quantity of playing time shall be determined by the coaches in accordance with in-season player performance and initiative balanced by team needs and individual game circumstances. Coaches may certainly plan to provide offseason activities/training for the South Metro players and encourage participation but should not override the emphasis on player initiative by requiring their involvement in

these activities.

- The South Metro program, in our relationships with competitor programs/teams, shall be careful to avoid the manipulation of competitive situations to our advantage. We shall avoid using players who have attained and are established at one level of play to participate in games at a lower level.

Although the South Metro program has a strong interest in winning, it has a stronger interest in teaching our players to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner and to compete well, so that their competitive endeavors are characterized by wholehearted effort, diligence, and endurance.

TEAM COMPOSITION

1. The South Metro program shall seek to operate on a first-come, first-served basis without regard to ability, although experience and skill level may be a factor for prospective players seeking to join the team initially at the Varsity or sophomore year Junior Varsity levels.
2. Adding new players each year shall primarily be directed at the lower grade levels – 9th, 8th, 7th, and 6th (when there are openings for 6th graders) although adding upper class players under certain circumstances (such as a small Junior or Senior class) is not ruled out.
3. Siblings of current and former players shall have priority in the first-come, first-served system. When a team has filled its allotted number of roster slots, prospective players can add their names to a waiting list if they choose to do so.
4. Juniors and seniors generally, under normal circumstances, shall be expected to play at the Varsity level. This is the general guideline although they may be permitted to play for the Jr. Varsity at the discretion of the Varsity and Jr. Varsity coaches.
5. Freshmen and sophomores may attain the Varsity level but must distinguish themselves from upper classmen who they may be playing ahead of. It would not be expected that an upper classman would move to the Jr. Varsity level solely because a freshman or sophomore reached the Varsity.
6. The Varsity coaches may ask particular Jr. Varsity players to dress out for Varsity games but the Jr. Varsity players are not required to do so. Dressing out for the Varsity game does not guarantee any Varsity game playing time for the Jr. Varsity player.

EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES

In the pursuit of competitive excellence, South Metro coaches shall be expected to:

1. Promote and encourage discipline, hard work, endurance, and teamwork.

2. Embrace and pursue the interest of the team in competing and winning, while not elevating one's own personal desire to win over that team interest.
3. Make every effort to give equal attention to raising the skill level of all players, regardless of ability and current playing skills.
4. Strive to engage and utilize all players' abilities and to get every player involved in the competitive effort, as much as is feasible, with the knowledge that the South Metro program does not mandate coaches to provide equal playing time for all players.
5. Strive to be fair in assessments of the players under his/her leadership.
6. Make every effort to utilize and mesh together the team's talent while promoting team unity and individual player development.
7. As much as possible, connect with parents to cultivate an environment of family discipleship where parents lead their children in the pursuit of excellence and individual goals.
8. Help advance the spiritual development of South Metro players by leading them in prayer and devotionals as a part of games and practices.
9. Model Christ-like conduct in their interactions with players, other coaches, other teams, game officials, parents and families, and fans.
10. Eagerly receive and respond to any reasonable feedback and suggestions offered by participating families or others who have the best interests of the South Metro program at heart.
11. Move quickly to resolve any issues, concerns, or grievances that arise from their participation with the South Metro program.

EXPECTATIONS OF PLAYERS

In the pursuit of competitive excellence, South Metro players shall be expected to:

1. Work hard, be teachable, desire to grow spiritually, and have a mindset to enjoy their participation with their team.
2. Accord respect to their coaches, their families, game officials, other teams and their coaches, and to all fans.
3. Respect and submit to the decisions and authority of their coaches and other adult authorities within the South Metro program.

4. Respect and submit to the decisions and authority of the game officials.
5. Enthusiastically encourage all teammates, those who are in competition for playing time and those who are just learning the game, and do the same from the bench when not playing in a game.
6. NOT habitually complain or else be working diligently to grow in that aspect of personal character.
7. Take concerns with a coach directly and respectfully to the coach involved and to earnestly seek resolution.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS AND FAMILIES

South Metro parents and families shall be expected to:

1. Enthusiastically support their players and the South Metro teams and have a mindset to enjoy their participation with the South Metro program.
2. Respect South Metro coaches, opponents, and game officials – and demonstrate good sportsmanship.
3. Take concerns about the team or coaching directly to the coach involved (if their player has first initiated discussion with the coach), earnestly seek resolution, and be reasonable with expectations.
4. Avoid nurturing an environment of complaint in speaking of concerns about the team or coaching to others before the matter has been addressed with the coach.
5. Direct concerns about the South Metro program as a whole to the South Metro homeschool basketball program board.