



## **WELCOME**

The Carolina Elite AAU Basketball Club would like to welcome you to our boys and girls basketball program. This program was started in the Spring of 2014. Carolina Elite was founded to help young men and women become aware of their potential in becoming leaders, team players, and influential role models on and off the courts through the evangelical tool of basketball.

Our vision is a program that develops strong basketball skills in a competitive Christian environment, develop young men and women of character, to be good citizens throughout their lives, also use basketball to encourage a life of faith and teach the importance of hard work on the court and in school. The Carolina Elite AAU Basketball Club expects its coaches and leaders to take time during practice to teach and disciple players on such things as: positive attitudes, personal commitment, teamwork, determination, respect, honesty, academics, citizenship and faith in Christ Jesus.

In 2014, we started with four teams. We anticipate and hope for future teams at every grade level in numerous cities throughout the Carolinas for both boys and girls. The Carolina Elite AAU Basketball Club hopes all of the players will graduate from our programs, not only better basketball players, but also better citizens within our community. We strive to empower future Christian leaders capable of leveraging what they have gained from their CE experience to have a shaping influence on generations to come.

We thank you for your participation, support and dedication to our program!

Troy Smith, President  
Carolina Elite Basketball

## **TEAM PHILOSOPHY**

The Carolina Elite AAU Basketball Club believes, for any athlete to be successful in life and in sports, that the athlete must dedicate themselves to their family, to their academics, to their team and to their self-improvement. We do not prioritize these commitments for the players, but we provide the players with guidelines so that each player can establish a level of dedication that the individual feels is necessary for them to be successful on and off the athletic court. Many guidelines have been developed and are continually modified so that the players can mature and develop their own personalities and skills.

The following are some of the guidelines that have been established and will be discussed in more detail in the handbook:

- Each player must maintain a predetermined grade point average set by each coach.
- Each player must attend practices, service projects, fund raising activities and team activities.
- Each player must respect their teammates, coaches, opponents, officials family and peers.
- Each player must impact their community in a positive manner.

These guidelines are presented in no particular order, but we feel that if these guidelines are followed and the players are committed to our program, we will develop superb athletes, basketball players and good citizens for our community.

## **PLAYER EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is a true statement to say, “That you will play in game situations in the same manner and with the same intensity as you play in practice”. Therefore the coaches will expect each player to show up for practices as if they were going to be playing in a tournament game.

Players will wear the proper athletic gear, NO jewelry (rings, watches, earrings and hairpins) will be permitted, fingernails trimmed (they will be periodically checked by coaches), and no gum chewing will be allowed. Gum is both dangerous and messy on the gym floor. If players have ankle, knee or other trouble areas, they need to make sure that they purchase the appropriate athletic support equipment they need so that they are not re-injured during practice sessions.

Attendance will be taken and recorded for each practice, service projects, fund raising events, and team activities. Missed practices and events could directly effect playing time. Repetitive tardiness will not be tolerated unless prearranged. If a player is to miss practice for whatever reason, please make every attempt to notify the coach so that necessary adjustments can be made to their practice schedule.

### ***a. RESPECT/ BEHAVIOR/ ATTITUDE***

There will be a no tolerance policy for the following items:

- Unsportsmanlike conduct by players or parents.
- Players will not disrespect officials, opponents, peers, parents or the coaching staff.
- There will be no use of profanity at practice or during games.
- Vandalism at practice or during league and tournament games.
- Defiance towards coaches.
- Extra talking during drills / while the coach is talking will not be tolerated.
  
- Discipline problems at school. If a player is being disciplined at school (i.e.: three day suspension etc.) they will not be able to play in any weekend tournament games.
  
- Use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco are strictly prohibited. Penalties will be applied for players not following these guidelines.

Penalties could consist of: running at practices, reduced playing time, not starting or not playing in the next game, loss of gym time for the entire team or being removed from the Carolina Elite Basketball Club.

## **b. CAROLINA ELITE BASKETBALL CLUB TEAMS WILL STRESS**

- Sportsmanship by all players, coaches, and parents and family members.
- Fundamental development, both in basketball and good citizenship.
- Players are expected be on time or early for practices and games.
- Player's work ethic, on and off the floor.
- Player self-discipline.
- Players will be well mannered and presentable at all games and tournaments.

Remember, being a part of any program is a **privilege** not a right!

## **4. PLAYERS GRADES**

All players belonging to the Carolina Elite AAU Basketball Club will be required to maintain a specified grade point average (GPA). The Club places great emphasis on maintaining grades while participating in our basketball program. The coach of each team will determine the player's required GPA.

Players may be required to provide their coaches with a copy of each quarter's report card. This copy and the player's grades will be maintained on file by each teams coach and will be held confidential.

The following is the guideline on how grades may be used for player participation. We feel guidelines are necessary so that it will be clear to all players and their parents what the penalties will be for falling below the required GPA.

### ***How Grades will be used to Determine Eligibility***

- Quarter GPA's will be used throughout the school year for determining eligibility. For summer eligibility, the last quarter GPA or the school year total GPA will be used (which ever is higher).
- Each penalty listed will remain in effect for the duration of the quarter following the quarter that the player falls below the required GPA. If the school year GPA and the last quarter's grades both fall below the predetermined GPA, the penalty will remain in effect for the summer and first school quarter of the following year.

### **Players Grade Below Predetermined Average for 1 Quarter**

- Player will not start any league or tournament games

and / or

- Player will not play in the 1st quarter of any game.

### **Players Grade Below Predetermined Average for 2 Consecutive Quarters**

- Player will not be allowed to participate in tournament play.
- Player must continue to attend all practices, service projects and fund-raising events.
- Player will be required to bring completed homework / or assignments along with all books to practice in case coach requires player to do some extra work during practice time.
- The player's spot on the team will not be compromised unless multiple players fall below the required GPA. In this situation, the suspended player will be required to earn back their position on the team. So long as the player is committed to improving in school and meeting all other team obligations, the player will be permitted to continue to play.
- Practice, service projects and fund raising event attendance will be recorded as usual. Due to the financial and time considerations, we will not require that the players attend tournaments that they are not allowed to participate.
- If the player misses multiple practices, service projects and fund raising events during the suspension period, the player could be asked to step down from the team.

### **Players Grade Below Predetermined Average for 3 Consecutive Quarters**

- Player will be asked to step down from the team until academics are back on track

## **ROSTER SIZE, STARTER SELECTION AND PLAYING TIME**

The teams will maintain a roster of eight to ten participating players, on rare occasion, with the coaches approval, a larger roster may be necessary to allow all players the opportunity to be placed on a team. More than ten creates problems getting all players playing time during league and tournament games. Less than eight creates problems for scrimmaging at practice. Tryouts are typically held in the early fall of each new season, or at any time if the player roster falls less than ten or at the Club's discretion.

Playing time may not be equal and will be determined by the coach. Playing time will be based on many factors, such as: attendance, attitude (positive or negative), participation during practice, performance and skill level.

## **PRACTICE, LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES**

Practice sessions will be held approximately twice per week, based on gym availability. Each practice session will be approximately 1.5 to 2 hours long, depending on coach availability. Practice starts at the time designated by the coach. The players should be ready to play at that time, not 5 minutes late. Arrive to practice 5-10 minutes early to put on shoes and equipment.

It will be left up to the coaching staff and with parent involvement to decide how many and which tournaments the team will play. There are many tournaments that are held throughout the year. At the beginning of each new season, a tentative schedule of targeted tournaments, location, and costs associated will be made available for each team. The tentative tournament schedule will be provided to each parent for review. Based on potential player conflicts, financial constraints, and other factors, the team may or may not decide to play in these, or in some instances change tourneys as the season develops.

## PARENT EXPECTATIONS

The coaching staff appreciates all the help we can get, but we must insist that the coach's decision are respected and followed by everyone. Please review items 1-14 on the concepts of an "Ideal Parent".

1. Support your child and attend as many games as possible.
2. Avoid putting pressure on your child to ***start, score, or be the star of the team.***
3. Support the coach in public around other parents and fans.
4. Avoid speaking negatively about the coach in front of your child. It may create a major barrier in the child's hope for improvement in the sport.
5. Understand the purpose of athletics. It exists as an integral part of developing character and an educational mission. Participation in athletics is a privilege not a right.
6. Serve as a good role model for the students, athletes, and other fans. **This will help show your character and emphasis how important character is.**
7. Appreciate the educational opportunity that your child is receiving in the program. This includes the enormous time provided by the coaches and volunteers to make the program work.
8. Serve as a beacon of good sportsmanship.
9. Show respect to everyone involved in the game - Coaches, athletes, fans, and officials.
10. Talk to the coach if you have a concern with the program (away from the court). Not your child!
11. Avoid disparaging comments about any player on the team. If you don't have something good to say, keep it to yourself.
12. Express concerns and questions in a courteous, civil manner and at the right/proper time.
13. Understand that the goals of the team and Carolina Elite Basketball Club program are built around the team concept not your child.
14. Avoid constant and chronic complaining.

Parents are always welcome to attend and watch practices sessions, but it is recommended that this be only periodically. We have found that players will look to the sidelines for parental approval or recognition, instead of the coaches. In addition, siblings, friends and relatives are not allowed at practice due to the noise and disruption is causes.

The coaches would also like the involvement of parents in managing the team in the following areas:

**Fund Raising Chairperson** - Helps organize and runs fund raising meetings.

**Travel Parent Coordinator** - Looks into accommodation for out of town tournaments, helps organize team activities, etc.

**Snacks / Water Coordinator** – Organize who brings snacks and water for games.

## **FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES**

The cost of running an active AAU team ranges from \$2,500-\$15,000/year or more. This depends on how many tournaments the team decides to play in, and if the team needs to replace club equipment, or purchase gear or shooting shirts or any other extra expenses. All parents/players will be expected to participate in any fundraisers approved by the team and the club.

The cost of each tournament fee is approximately \$200-600 for the team. Teams may hold fund raising activities such as: car washes, garage sales, raffle and bake sales. **Teams MUST seek Club approval before planning any fundraising events.**

We also ask that each team provide volunteers for any tournaments the Carolina Elite Basketball Club participates in. Teams will be required to run the clocks, man the door, sell concessions, monitor gyms and other duties as needed. The profits from these tournaments are used to fund club expenses.

Parents will be expected to pay a club due each year; the membership fee will be used to pay for gym rentals, to purchase uniforms and/or other equipment that each team may need, purchase player AAU / USBA memberships, and provide the team with an allowance for tournament registration. Other tournament fees, travel and accommodation expenses are the responsibility of the parents or fund raising activities of the teams. The coach/team parent will talk to each player's parent prior to tournaments to collect the necessary money needed to send in with the player roster. Many of these costs may be tax deductible as CEB operates under an AAU 501(c)3 non profit subordinate status.

Team uniforms supplied by the club are the property of Carolina Elite Basketball Club. Rental fees and/or damage fees may be assessed in certain circumstances.