



MISSION STATEMENT

Purpose

Provide the Libertyville community with a developmental basketball program that prepares middle school girls to play basketball at the high school level, and teaches them life lessons they will value beyond high school.

Goals

1. Teach the fundamentals of the game, and progressively introduce game strategy as players progress through the program.
2. Develop teamwork, integrity, pride, courage, self-discipline, accountability, respect, and a belief that "I can do just about anything if I give it everything I've got."
3. Nurture a growth-mentality by teaching the kids to not be afraid to fail.
4. Teach the girls to win with grace and humbleness. We also will teach them to lose with dignity, accountability, and a focus on learning rather than excuses and blame.
5. Have fun. If we accomplish the goals above and live true to the principles detailed below, fun will come naturally.

Principles & Core Beliefs



1. The development of basketball skills and personal character will never take a back seat to winning in this program because we believe that, over the long term, winning will be a natural outcome of excellent skill and character development.



2. Time commitment of at least two or three practices per week and multiple games or tournaments on weekends requires Lady Cats to make this their primary extra-curricular activity during the season.



3. Attitude and hustle overcome many shortcomings, and are often more important than skill.



4. We strive to have non-parent head coaches at each level if we can achieve the quality of coaching necessary. The only time we will have parents in key coaching positions is when they have a proven track record of objectivity and coaching capability that significantly exceeds what we can achieve with a non-parent coach.



5. The coach is the coach, and the players are the players. Everyone else should be a fan...support the entire team, and be positive: "Catch them doing something well." Coaching from the stands will not be tolerated.



6. Playing time will be determined by attitude, commitment to the team, ability, progress, and fit with the needs of the team versus competition. We will comply with the "Playing Time Policy" approved by the Board each season.



7. If a player has an issue, we encourage her to talk to her coach directly. These are learning opportunities for her to solve issues more independently, with parental coaching if needed. If that does not work, we expect parents to set up dedicated time to discuss with the coach immediately without letting issues fester.



8. Most people overrate scoring in most sports. Other aspects of the game, like defense, passing, moving without the ball, setting picks, rebounding, hustle, teamwork, etc. are so much more important to the success of a team than most people realize. We appreciate your help in managing this uneducated bias with the kids when you dish out accolades.



9. Balance is key: When we find ourselves taking a sport too seriously, we must remember that we all hang up our shoes someday, while the life lessons we learn will live on.

