

ZIMMERMAN GIRLS BASKETBALL HANDBOOK



Handbook Acknowledgement:

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ZIMMERMAN HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

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School Colors: Navy, Columbia, Grey
Conference: Granite Ridge
Section/Class 5AAA

INTRODUCTION

The information in this handbook is an ongoing work. The primary purpose is to try to clarify the role of the Zimmerman High School Basketball program in the lives of its constituents; players, parents, coaches and other supporters. While it is not inclusive of everything that may arise, it should give enough information to determine if team membership is right for a student-athlete and their family. This is a commitment that will need to be supported in order to be successfully upheld. Every eligible student-athlete desiring membership will discover a role on the team. In rare experiences, some have decided that the time and energy invested in team membership may be better invested in some other endeavor. Self discovery and understanding personal limits is a big part of lifelong learning and that should be viewed positively. The team is here to promote learning beyond the classroom. Our hope is that you will decide to join us and experience the best that you can become.

MISSION and PHILOSOPHY

The foundation of Thunder Basketball is defined in the core values of ISD 728: We believe that...

- >All people have value
- >Valuing & respecting differences strengthens the individual and the community
- >People thrive when they feel connected, supported and affirmed
- >Everyone can learn
- >Hope inspires and empowers
- >Lifelong learning is essential for personal growth
- >Change is an opportunity for growth.

When these values are applied and practiced in a team setting, positive outcomes will result. The values foster a team mindset that will promote a championship mentality and allow the victories that come on and off the court to be embraced. While we strive to build teams that achieve winning records, capture conference titles and qualify for the MSHSL State Tournament, focus on the balance of being a successful student-athlete must be maintained. Each member must commit to achieving the highest standards within their ability on the court, in the classroom and in the community.

The team exists to develop winners. Through the recognition of the role that extracurricular activities play in developing student-athletes socially, emotionally, physically, as well as academically, great attention will be given to nurturing attitudes and skills which support and exemplify the core values. In doing so, leadership qualities, healthy habits, ethical behaviors, positive self image, teamwork and goal setting will be learned. These traits will promote winning, now and on into the future. Throughout the year, organized team activities (OTAs) will be planned to strengthen the bonds of team membership and to promote fun for the participants. Often the OTAs will not have any direct relation to basketball but they will support and promote the enjoyment of the experience as a team member as well as develop the core values.

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of student-athlete eligibility is an administrative duty. The Minnesota State High School League has established basic standards which must be met to participate in sanctioned activities (MSHSL.org). ISD 728 has developed a more specific guide to academic eligibility which is published fully in the Student Handbook. In part, the policy states:

“In order to participate on a Zimmerman High School athletic team or in an activity, each participant must have satisfied all of the scholastic eligibility requirements prior to participating. Those general requirements are a GPA of 2.00 or higher and an accumulation of enough credits to be making satisfactory progress towards graduation prior to the beginning of the designated semester.”

Any student-athlete with a GPA below the district standard will be placed on academic watch by Administration. While on academic watch, participation will be limited. When they improve their academic standing to no longer be on academic watch, they may be considered for full participation.

(Eligibility chart continued onto the next page)

GRADE 9	END OF SEMESTER I	END OF SEMESTER II
Eligible	5 credits	10 credits
Probation	4 credits	9 credits
Ineligible	3 credits or less	8 credits or less
GRADE 10	END OF SEMESTER I	END OF SEMESTER II
Eligible	14 credits	20 credits
Probation	13 credits	19 credits
Ineligible	12 credits	18 credits
GRADE 11	END OF SEMESTER I	END OF SEMESTER II
Eligible	26 credits	32 credits
Probation	25 credits	31 credits
Ineligible	24 credits	30 credits
GRADE 12	END OF SEMESTER I	END OF SEMESTER II
Eligible	37 credits	43 to graduate
Probation	36 credits	
Ineligible	35 credits	

Our teams have established a tradition of academic excellence and efforts will be made to continue the award winning results. Each practice may begin with a study session intended for academics. The time is designed to be used collaboratively to assure understanding of classroom assignments. It also allows student-athletes the possibility to meet with teachers for further explanation when needed. If there is no need for academic focus, the time may be spent reviewing film or investing in other activities to improve the team.

Academic awards are designed to recognize exemplary achievement of student-athletes in the classroom. Most require Sophomore, Junior or Senior status as the younger grades have not attained a High School GPA. For younger student-athletes, this is an investment in developing good habits and setting priorities.

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS (ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES)

1. Students in regularly organized special education classes must be making satisfactory progress toward the school’s requirements for the special education programs.
2. For the purpose of administering the policy, only those students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be regarded as special education students. In order to be eligible for athletics/activities, special education students must be making satisfactory progress toward graduation.
3. The present Academic Eligibility policy applies to all students, including special education students. However, these guidelines could be waived based upon the IEP statement of progress toward graduation. An eligibility committee shall be called by the principal to hear appeals for waivers of the academic eligibility guidelines for students with an IEP. The eligibility committee shall consist of the principal, the special education representative, and the athletic director.
4. All students out for activities will be expected to abide by the attendance and training rules as established by teams, coaches, and ISD 728.

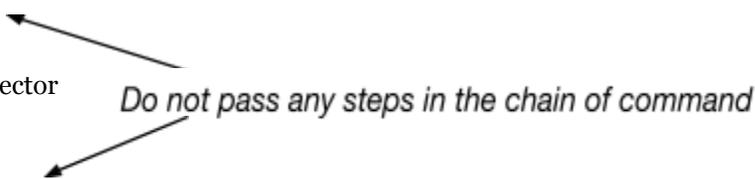
EXPECTATIONS

A student-athlete's primary function is to attain the highest level of learning possible while completing the rigorous study required to earn a High School diploma. By participating in extracurricular activities, the course of study is diversified to include many lessons that are not part of the standard workload. Success comes much easier when you practice "The Thunder Way"--Be Ready, Be Responsible, Be Respectful. More specifically, Thunder Basketball student-athletes are expected to:

- Balance team membership with the rigors of school
- Sacrifice individuality for the good of the team
- Give your best effort at everything you do
- Attend every OTA, practice or game possible
- Be early
- Arrange transportation as needed ahead of time
- Communicate proactively.

Following the chain of command is absolutely essential in any organization. The following is recommended to resolve communication issues and to ensure concerns are resolved at the appropriate level. If resolution of the issue is not achieved at the first level of communication, the next level of the protocol is followed.

- Level 1-Player to Coach
- Level 2-Parent/Player to Coach
- Level 3 -Parent/Player/Coach to Activities Director
- Level 4-Parent/Player/Coach/AD to Principal
- Level 5-All Parties to Superintendent
- Level 6-All Parties to School Board



Social media is a wonderful tool but it also presents real pitfalls for its users. Remember, EVERYTHING you do via the internet is public. Speak to people face-to-face. Promote the core values in your actions. If you "post", "like", "tweet/retweet", "share", etc., you are taking a stand on an issue. Humor and sarcasm do not come through the internet very well. You will be held accountable for your activity and as a team member, you represent the entire program. Stop and think!

ROLES

Each season starts a new process of identifying roles. There is no promise or guarantee of team placement or position from season to season. Player evaluations are ongoing throughout the season and movement across levels is common. Decisions are made with the best interest of player development and overall team success in mind. If a player is not getting play time, they may be moved to another level where their playtime will be substantially greater. Illness and injury frequently play a role in player movement.

It is a growth process for players to learn their role(s) and the coaching staff strives to help players understand how decisions are made and why they affect some players. At times, emotions and ego can cloud situations and open communication is necessary to grow through the changes.

The team promotes a very unified structure. The OTAs include all members. Whether you are a starter, a reserve or a manager, you are vital to the continued development and success of the program. Everyone's role is to learn daily and make a teammate better.

LEADERSHIP

Utilization of research based curriculum from The Academy for Sport Leadership will be in place. This leadership training program takes the place of exclusive team Captains. All of the players will have the opportunity to learn many aspects of what it takes to lead rather than a select few being chosen as Captains. Dr. Cory Dobbs, the founder of the Academy, states

that human development should be the organizing principle for student-athletics. “This proposition rests on the positive impact sports participation can have on the young people playing at the high school or collegiate levels. It is broadly accepted that sport can teach participants a wide range of social skills. However, this requires that we pave a road by creating learning environments that are both relevant and stimulating for all student-athletes.”

Other research based leadership curriculum will also be incorporated to foster the development of each player. Lessons from leadership experts such as John Wooden, Jeff Janssen and John Maxwell will help student-athletes discover and define strengths and growth opportunities. It is hoped that implementing the leadership curriculum will broaden the experience from the traditional sport knowledge acquisition, tactics and techniques, to include development of leadership and insights and knowledge into team building.

AWARDS

Student-athletes have the opportunity to earn recognition in a number of areas. Many of the recognition opportunities come from the Coaches’ memberships in professional organizations. The Varsity letter is an award to recognize substantial contributions to the Varsity team. It indicates that, among other accomplishments, the student-athlete::

Upheld MSHSL and School training rules. Students violating the rules during the season will not be eligible for lettering recognition.

Participated in 50% of the number of varsity games in a single season --or--

Maintained good team standing for 4 seasons --or--

Earned a roster position on a MSHSL State Tournament team --or--

Displayed exemplary participation in OTAs to promote basketball.

Each athlete is evaluated individually in terms of earning a letter. There are circumstances that may merit a letter award that are not covered herein. Violations of MSHSL or ISD728 eligibility policies may prevent a student-athlete from earning a letter award. Lettering decisions are made by the coaching staff.

Lettering is not the only possible recognition for student-athletes. Outstanding performance is recognized through a variety of post season awards: academic achievement, Granite Ridge Conference distinction, MSHSL honors, MSHSSCA and occasionally national recognition through professional memberships held by coaches.

Zimmerman Basketball has established a tradition of academic excellence and efforts will be made to continue the award winning results. Late week practices begin with a study session intended for academics. The time is designed to be used collaboratively to assure understanding of classroom assignments. It also allows student-athletes the possibility to meet with the teacher for further explanation when needed.

Academic awards are designed to recognize exemplary achievement of student-athletes in the classroom based on High School Grade Point Average. For the younger student-athlete this is an investment in developing good habits and setting priorities.

PARENTS

Parents are a vital component to a successful program. Without parental support, student-athletes would have very little chance of success. The most important thing parents can do is show enjoyment of your student-athlete’s experience. Encourage best effort and understand that sometimes others may be more capable in given situations. Model respect and show support for game officials, rules, opponents and coaches. Refrain from negative comments as they can become the way the game is perceived by the student-athlete Promote self advocacy when there is a lack of understanding; either in how to do something or why a decision was made. Be a good listener for your student athlete while encouraging them to advocate their concerns/questions using the chain of command. Disappointment is part of life and moving beyond it quickly is a great skill. Demand performance in the classroom so eligibility does not become jeopardized. Cheer for the entire team and the opponents when appropriate.

Do your best to foster a love for the game that you can share with your student-athlete. Even if you never played the game or think it is boring, learn to love it for what it offers. Learn to love it for what it can do for your student-athlete. This is their experience, their chance for memories. Enjoy it with them.

COACHES

A continual effort is made to assemble and retain highly qualified coaches for school activities. There are standards in place to promote safety for participants from the MSHSL, ISD 728 and ZMHS. Expectations and requirements for ongoing training and education for coaches are in place and monitored. Coaches report to the Administrative team at the school, specifically Mr. Hilyar, Activities Director.

Banquets

These will be set forth by the Half Court Club. Parents the end of the season banquet is voluntary. Parents you are responsible for your children at the banquet, this includes any dietary or allergy restrictions. The end of season banquet is set to honor students and their accomplishments. It is the coaches desire to have all student athletes be recognized at the banquet.

STAY IN THE KNOW

Here is a list of some of the ways you can stay updated on team happenings:

- 1.) Official Game schedule: www.GraniteRidgeConference.org
- 2.) General Information + links to specific information: www.zhsgirlsbasketball.com
- 3.) Last minute messages: GBB Parent Remind <https://www.remind.com/join/halfcou>