

## LKY Basketball Playing Time Policies and Expectations

LKY exists to provide Christian competitive athletic opportunities for homeschool students. As a competitive league, we do not offer a recreational program that guarantees playing time or provides equal game opportunities for all athletes. There is no guaranteed playing time in games. However, every child will have equal attention and opportunity in practices to develop, be coached, learn and grow in basketball fundamentals.

Specifically for our basketball program, we want to reiterate that there is no guaranteed playing time in games. However, we also want to share general expectations for playing time are that typically characterize our season at each level of play. **If there are exceptions to these general expectations, coaches will review this information in preseason team specific meetings.**

Elementary School (3rd-6th) — For the 3rd/4th grade teams, in general each player will enter the game at least once each half. For the 5th/6th grade teams, in general each player will enter the game at least once. For both levels, the amount of time in which the athlete is in the game may not be even or equal to other athlete's time on the court. *Note: At the elementary level, we may need to have 1-2 players that play majority of game (ball handlers) while rest of team rotates through other 3 positions to ensure that we can get the ball up the floor.*

Middle School (7th-8th) — For the 7th/8th grade teams, in general each player will play at least once in a game for most of the games, but not necessarily every game. There will be some games that one or more athletes may not get in to the game at all. There will be games where not everyone gets in for playing time depending on the opposing team's skill and/or the score. There is no guarantee of playing time for any tournament games for any athlete, even if they previously experienced playing time throughout the regular season games.

High School (9th-12th) — For the high school teams, there is no guarantee of playing time at any game or tournament. There could be athletes on our varsity teams who never are entered into a game throughout the entire season. All of this playing time is earned in practices and subject to coach discretion. Athletes should not expect automatic playing time as a result of having a spot on the roster.

As a reminder, LKY participates intentionally in the world of Interscholastic sports and not recreational leagues. *Note: If you want recommendations for recreation leagues with equal playing time, let us know and we can help you get connected!* Coaches look at effort, hustle, attitude, skill, practice, scheme and structure of offense/program, positions needed on each team, opponents strength and weaknesses, emotional and mental state of players etc. to decide who they play and when they play.

If your middle school or high school athlete has a question about playing time, players may ask their coach at the beginning or end of a practice if they can talk about their role. Players are encouraged to approach their coach and ask, "How can I improve on my skills so I can be a more effective player for our team and earn more playing time?" or "What areas do I need to most improve in attitude or skill to earn more game time?" Players should never talk to a coach about playing time on game days, whether before, after, or during a game. Coaches will seek to affirm and appreciate players and players should seek to work hard, be confident, and be content.

Lastly, help us teach our athletes to celebrate various roles on the team! Not everyone gets to play point guard on the court! :) To develop great teams, the best shooters should shoot. This isn't selfish or being a ball hog but rather good management of resources we have as a team. Skills like ball handling, defense, rebounding, hustle...all the same. Help us as we help teach athletes to encourage one another and to appreciate varying skills at each position and person!