

COACHES CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- ◇ Be reasonable in your demands on young players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- ◇ Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
- ◇ Whenever possible, group players according to age, height, skills and physical maturity.
- ◇ Avoid over-playing the talented players. The "just-average" players need, and deserve, equal time.
- ◇ Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of their motivation. Never ridicule children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
- ◇ Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
- ◇ The scheduling and length of practice times and competition should take into consideration the maturity level of players.
- ◇ Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
- ◇ Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence play.
- ◇ Be aware of the role of the coach as an educator. As well as imparting knowledge and skills, promote desirable personal and social behaviours.
- ◇ Seek to keep abreast of changes in the sport; ensure that the information used is up to date, appropriate to the needs of players and takes account of the principles of growth and development of children.

ELTHAM WILDCATS POLICY DOCUMENT

DISTRIBUTION OF COURT TIME IN SATURDAY JUNIOR COMPETITION

Coaches vary in their views about court time. Some coaches believe in "equal court time", particularly in the younger age groups, while others vary from that somewhat. The following policy sets the boundaries.

PREAMBLE

As a club, Eltham is concerned for the development and enjoyment of all those who participate in the teams organised by the club. This principle of justice is reinforced by the consideration of the long term interests of the club in the maintenance of morale and motivation of team members who may not have an important immediate contribution of terms of winning games.

The club therefore endorses and brings to the attention of coaches the following policies, while leaving their administration to coaches. We request that coaches implement these policies. However provided that coaches are making a genuine effort to share court time around, coaches will be protected against the complaints of "parents with stop-watches" who demand as a right what we are suggesting as a wisdom. The club is aware that the coach has a wide range of considerations to take into account in any particular game.

GENERAL POLICY

Each player in the team should have at least nine minutes per half, and more when the game situation permits. Coaches are encouraged strongly to compensate players who receive less time in close games by giving them more time in other games.

EXCEPTIONS

- (A) Finals, the game or two immediately before finals which determine whether or not the team makes the four, the first hard game after a series of games when every player has had a long run, decisive grading games.
- (B) Where players are disciplined for non-attendance at practice, for misconduct at practice or on the court, where players fail to carry out instruction by wilful disobedience or carelessness rather than lack of ability, where players are injured, ill or making a slow return after injury or illness.
- (C) Where teams have nine or ten players in attendance for whatever reason.

IMPLICATIONS

By following the above policy, the team may lose an odd game or two per season which might have been won by more ruthless substituting policies. That is understood and accepted. Many more games may be "risky".

However, the winning of games is meant to be a serious goal of teams and coaches. Coaches should endeavour to think out substituting patterns which will combine giving everyone a go and maximise chances of winning games.