

October, 2017 | Issue 2

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

**Colleen Hansen** joined the board in 2017 and will be shadowing to learn a role for next season. She has been involved with the Irondale basketball association for over 7 years as a parent and has 2 boys in the program currently.

Colleen loves the outdoors spending time up north at the family cabin and enjoys taking long walks with the family's golden retriever!

Welcome Colleen!



## COACHES MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the IBA held its annual coaches meeting. We had strong attendance but wanted to outline a few items for those coaches who were unable to attend and provide a few insights for parents regarding what was discussed:

### *Practices*

Every coach was asked to submit requests for practice/gym times for their respective teams. Forms were collected and our scheduler is working diligently to put together practices for every team based on a number of factors including: gym *availability*, *age of the team*, and *the type of league*. Competitive practices have begun already, and in house practices are set to start in the coming weeks. Please email your coach, check the website, and make sure you are aware of when/where your team will begin practicing. Coaches are strongly encouraged to email practice cancellations ([Scheduling@irondalebasketball.org](mailto:Scheduling@irondalebasketball.org)) as gym times represent a significant related expense for the program and with proper notice, we are able to recoup costs from unused gyms. As a reminder, kids are not allowed to be in the gyms unattended, and should be sure to respect the facilities rules regarding bouncing balls in hallways and general conduct. *If you are on a competitive team and have not heard from your coach or started practicing yet, please reach out to our competitive directors (Chris Wilmet – Boys/Kristin Gullickson – Girls) for information.*

### *Annual Coaches Code of Conduct*

Each year we review and reiterate that the IBA has a strict coach's code of conduct geared at ensuring fair play, sportsmanship, and a general positive experience for players, parents, and teams. Coaches are asked to sign and turn in the coach's code of conduct and are encouraged to review the parent code of conduct with their respective parents. We work hard every month to ensure a highly competitive and developmentally sound framework for our kids to enjoy and would ask that parents and coaches do their part in supporting their kids overall experience with the program as well. Documents can be found at [irondalebasketball.com](http://irondalebasketball.com) or by pasting the following link into your browser:

([http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0014/6891/Rules\\_and\\_Policies\\_2011.pdf](http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0014/6891/Rules_and_Policies_2011.pdf))

### *Sportsengine Team Site*



As coaches gear up to begin to prepare for their seasons, it goes without saying that any additional help is usually appreciated. One area of focus is in adding the teams practice and game schedules to the sportsengine website. For those tech savvy parents who are willing to help in this regard, please reach out to your coach to get the appropriate information and feel free to utilize the following guide when uploading your team information:

<https://team.help.sportsengine.com/customer/portal/articles/2066490?topic-guide=team-management>

### *Trusted Coaches*



The Irondale Basketball Association is a member of Trusted Coaches, a comprehensive membership program that offers essential training, education and screening necessary for a youth coach via a nationwide criminal background check, first-aid training, concussion instruction and Positive Coaching Alliance character education course. All IBA head coaches are required to complete the program and we encourage our assistant coaches to do so as well. For more information and to obtain a Trusted Coaches program registration code, please contact Aaron Ferrier at [ibaboard@irondalebasketball.org](mailto:ibaboard@irondalebasketball.org)

## **PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

As the season kicks off there are several activities that the IBA participates in and supports that are worth noting and calling attention to. Please take advantage of these opportunities as the season unfolds.

### *Water Boy/Girl at Varsity Games*

In conjunction with the boys and girls Varsity programs the IBA provides opportunities for in-house players to attend games and act as helpers to the varsity players. Kids gain free entry to the games by wearing their respective in-house jerseys and have an opportunity to sit behind the bench, right up close to the action. They provide water to players on the bench and during timeouts, are given free t-shirts, and get to play a scrimmage at halftime out on the court. This is a very exciting opportunity so please look for more information throughout the year as opportunities become available.

### *IBA Youth Night*

On February 27, 2018, Irondale Highschool opens its doors to the entire youth program and invites kids to attend a game free of charge. Kids are allowed to grab a free snack and there are plenty of fun and exciting activities throughout the night including an on court shooting display that always entertains! More information will be sent out prior to this event.

### *Timberwolves Sponsorship*

The IBA has a long standing relationship with the Minnesota Timberwolves that provides benefits to both kids and their families. Through our partnership:

- **Jerseys.** Every child who plays for our inhouse program receives (and gets to keep) their jersey.
- **Timberwolves Clinic.** The wolves coaches and players provide a high value clinic every year for the IBA. We usually host this at Highview and will provide more details as the date draws near.
- **Ticket Discounts.** You will see emails periodically throughout the season with ticket discount offers that the Timberwolves sponsor. Look for an email in the weeks ahead.



# IRONDALE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

## IN CLOSING

As the season is set to unfold, we would like to extend our best wishes to you all throughout it. To our volunteer coaches who spend countless hours in gyms conducting practices, creating game plans, working with our kids, and putting in time and effort leading our teams, we would like to extend a heart felt "thank you". It is only through your efforts that we are able to have a basketball season and we sincerely appreciate your willingness to help out.

Please also remember, as the season begins, that this is, in fact, youth sports. We do our best to formulate teams, provide help, equipment, and training, but we have only so much control regarding what happens on the court. At all areas across these programs, there are volunteers working tirelessly to provide a good experience. Please remember this during the next blown call, close game, or whatever situation arises. We are all setting expectations for our kids, and at the end of the day (or game), how we conduct ourselves is what truly matters.

Last, and certainly not least, I would also like to add in a plug for any parents who have younger children in the program and are interested in potentially joining the board of directors. Many of our current members have kids at the older levels and will be looking to move on in the coming years. It would be ideal to bring in new volunteers to shadow and learn roles so the board can continue to provide a high level of service when these transitions occur. If interested, please reach out to an active board member for more information.

Have a safe and enjoyable start of the season and we'll look forward to hearing success stories! Please share pictures and post to our IBA Facebook page as you are able.

Sincerely,

Chris Draack, President IBA

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## IRONDALE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 120238  
New Brighton, MN 55112

### UPCOMING KEY DATES:

#### November

**Wednesday, Nov 8th**

**What:** Board Meeting

**When:** 7:00 pm

**Where:** TBD

#### December

**Saturday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**What:** IBA Fundraiser-Adults Only

**When:** December 2, 2017 - 4-7pm

**Where:** NE Palace in Minneapolis

**Add'l Info:** Tickets are \$20 per person which includes:

- Beer and light dinner along with entertainment by GB Leighton.
- There will be \$100 cash drawing with the tickets of those folks who show up.
- We will have an awesome array of baskets to bid on and even a few large ticket items to buy raffle tickets for.

**Tuesday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>**

**What:** Irondale Hoops Hysteria Night (vs Moundsview)

**When:** 7:00 pm

**Where:** Irondale High School