

Blue Devils Boys Youth Basketball

Handbook

2025-2026

BLUE DEVIL BOYS' YOUTH BASKETBALL MISSION STATEMENT

Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball is the vehicle that provides that opportunity for players to take their game to the next level. We exist to make a positive difference in the lives of our players. Our goal is to develop happy, healthy and confident players. We strive to provide a safe, fun and successful experience for every person involved in the organization.

PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize parents, coaches and players with Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball, and to create expectations for the Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball experience. For our program to be successful, the rules of this handbook must be followed and will be enforced. We want to be known as one of the finest boys' youth basketball programs available, and players' and parents', and coaches' adherence to a Code of Conduct will help us reach this goal. If you have questions or concerns that are not addressed in this Handbook, please contact the Director.

OUR GOALS

Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball has two main goals. The first is to provide quality instruction in all aspects of the game. This instruction will include both skill building but also the development of self-discipline, dedication, and confidence in each athlete; qualities that will assist them as they progress through life. The second goal is to prepare those players that have the desire, athletic ability and academic standing to play at the high school and possibly the collegiate level. We believe that a competitive athletic experience can enhance social development, contribute to mental and physical health and teach the values of teamwork and responsibility.

Our program is dedicated to providing all athletes with the opportunity to be successful. Playing basketball in our program requires a strong commitment to the game, the coaches, and your teammates. It is important that everyone involved understands that each coach is willing to make this commitment in order for our athletes to become the best basketball players they can be.

The Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball program does not discriminate based on age, religion, race, creed, gender or sexual preference.

COACHING/LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball has many coaching styles that are designed to effectively accomplish our overall goals. We want to develop young men with sound values, competitive spirit, great work ethic, and fundamental basketball skills. Coaches will at all times have the safety and general well-being of the players in mind. Our coaches will not intimidate, embarrass, or ridicule our players. Our coaches will treat our players with respect and motivate them to be the best they can be.

BLUE DEVIL BOYS' YOUTH BASKETBALL SELECTION PROCESS

Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball is open to all male students 1st -8th grade students looking to attend Davenport Central High School. Prospective players are evaluated at formal player evaluations as well as in games and practices. Players are considered based on attitude, teamwork, and how they execute basic basketball skills such as defense, ball handling, shooting, etc. We select athletes centered on the following criteria: work ethic, coach ability, attitude, potential and athletic ability.

After your son has been placed on a team, Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball reserves the right to move them to a different team at any time during the season to continue to improve the level of play for all considered. This means that a player may be added to a team during the season, or that a player may be asked to move to another team to better match the player with the appropriate team.

BLUE DEVIL BOYS' YOUTH BASKETBALL PARENT/PLAYER/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball believes that strong coaching is at the core of a great basketball program. All of our coaches have volunteered because they believe in making a difference in our youth and each one brings unique talents to our program and our kids. One of the most important aspects of coaching youth sports is having good communication between players and their parents.

We understand that basketball can be an emotional sport and sometimes parents are prone to issue instructions to their player from the stands. If these instructions are contrary to those of the coach, this will only cause confusion for the player. **Please encourage your athlete to follow their coach's instructions and leave the coaching to the coach.** We believe that parents need to align themselves with the coach in teaching their player how to cope with the natural frustrations of being a member of a team. Sports provide an excellent opportunity to teach young athletes about the realities of competitive situations. They must be taught how to be a cooperative team member, make use of both positive and negative feedback, cope with adversity, achieve mental toughness, and be a gracious winner or loser.

When a player or parent has a concern, parents have the responsibility of teaching their athlete the steps necessary to remedy the situation. **Parents are asked to wait 24 hours following a game or practice where a concern formed before contacting the coach.** If the concern deals with player safety this rule does not apply. Both parties should do their best to come to a solution that satisfies both sides. If this is not attainable the parent or coach should contact the Youth Basketball Director to schedule a meeting. This should only be done if all possible solutions have been exhausted.

Under no circumstances is a parent to approach a coach with a complaint or an evaluation of coaching philosophy. The above procedure must be followed in dealing with any situation that may arise. Coaches have the right to bench a player for inappropriate behavior or any behavior detrimental to the success of the team.

The parents and families of our Blue Devil players have been very supportive in the past, and we hope that support will continue to grow each year. We hope that parents support their athlete(s) by attending their games and giving positive encouragement. We expect you to refrain from criticizing your child, their teammates, their coaches, or the officials.

The administration of the Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball will NOT ALLOW THE COACHES OR PLAYERS TO BE BERATED by parents or fellow teammates. If you or your athletes refuse to follow the guidelines set forth, you will be asked to leave the program with no refund.

PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball is committed to all of its players exercising good sportsmanship at all times. Our program philosophy is that our athletes should represent their team in a positive and respectful manner.

- Absolutely no foul language.
- Show respect to those around you.
- Value the instruction of your coach.
- Respect the game of basketball and give it your all during practice and games.
- Be respectful in public and display good character as a representative of Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball.
- Appreciate your teammates. Every player on your team has certain strengths and weaknesses. Basketball is a team sport. Success will only come when the entire team works and plays well together.
- Never question an official or express your feelings at a call. Officials are part of the game. Never talk back or show up an official. Remember being an official is not an easy job and mistakes happen.

PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT

As with our players, parents also represent Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball. We expect parents to act with a higher set of standards than we expect from our players. Parents are the role models.

- Act as a leader. Leaders are people whose actions inspire others.
- Do not draw attention from the players. Youth basketball is for the kids. If you find yourself becoming too emotionally involved in what's happening on the court, take a step back and relax.
- Value your child's commitment. Please arrive on time. Make sure they have their uniform and sneakers. Help them eat and drink right before, during and after the game. The more your children see you acting responsibly, the more they will do the same.
- Act in a respectful manner. Nothing is better for a young player than having their parents on hand to watch them play. Offer applause and cheers of encouragement for both teams following a good play or a great effort, otherwise keep quiet.
- Refrain from questioning an official or expressing your feelings at a call vocally. Officials are part of the game. Parents should demonstrate proper behavior to the players. It is not the parent's job (or the players) to officiate the game. Accept the call and move on. Remember being an official is not an easy job and mistakes happen and are part of the game.

- Try and identify a positive from every game or practice to help build confidence. A young player's sense of achievement is the greatest motivator. Don't analyze your young player's performance following every game. They know how they played and if you give them the opportunity and situation they will open up to you. If you do, chances are they will avoid talking to you at all after games or worse yet, not want you at the games at all. Let your children come to you for advice.
- Parent involvement during tournaments held at Central is vital to the success of our program and to keep costs down. Without volunteers to run concessions and the admission gate player fees would be phenomenally higher. Parents should anticipate working a minimum of 1-2 hours at Central run tournaments benefiting Boys' Youth Sports.

PLAYING TIME AND PRACTICES

We know that all players want to play and many concerns by players and parents involve the amount of playing time that is allocated to the player. The following sets our general philosophy on playing time.

- **Playing time is not guaranteed, is not equal and must be earned.**
- **Playing time is based on the player's performance at practice. If you are not at practice, for whatever reason, it is difficult to earn playing time.**

Your coach will determine who plays and how much. They will take into account many factors in coming to that decision but the decision is theirs.

Practices will usually be two times per week. They will last normally for 60-90 minutes depending on the age group. You will be notified of practice times and locations by your Coach or Team Manager. We will make every effort to not change practice times and locations: however, things happen! Please be flexible and cooperative.

If a player must miss a practice, the parent should make every effort to contact the Coach or Team Manager as soon as possible. Athletes who miss practice are missing valuable information and potentially may have their playing time affected by consistent absences or tardiness.

INFORMATION

GENERAL:

- If a player quits their team before the end of the season for any reason, there are NO refunds.
- Blue Devil coaches have full discretion to move players from one team to another.

- Administrative staff for the Blue Devil Boys' Youth Basketball program including coaches are strictly volunteers and receive no compensation for their time. Player fees go directly to administrative costs such as paper, postage, printing; equipment such as balls, whistles, clipboards; league and/or tournaments entry fees.

CONTACT:

Director of Youth Basketball:

Troy Muilenburg

muilenburgt@davenportschools.org

(641)-373-0256