

John H. Reagan Girls Basketball

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Coaching Staff Expectations

Purpose

This letter will clarify for parents and student athletes the expectations imposed on all players in the girls basketball program. It is also designed to let you know what to expect from us as a coaching staff.

Mission Statement

The John H. Reagan Girls Basketball Program will provide a positive experience to each and every athlete. It is based on hard work, teamwork, discipline, dedication and selflessness. All Coaching Staff members, student athletes and parents are expected to demonstrate honesty, integrity and sportsmanship in keeping with the Houston Independent School District Code of Ethics.

Program Philosophy

The John H. Reagan Girls Basketball team is intended to be a positive experience for each and every player who participates. Our philosophy is based on providing a high quality, competitive, hard working, and character driven program. At all levels of play the goal is to develop a **Varsity** team that is both competitive and exemplifies the qualities that are presented in our mission statement. Team will always come first over the individual and each player will be responsible to exhibit this quality in practice, at home and in games. It is a difficult and time-consuming responsibility being a Girls' Basketball parent. We all want what is best for our student athletes. The only thing that we, as a staff can promise you is that we want your daughter to succeed. We will work as hard as we can to help her succeed. Playing time and her role on the team is based on effort, skill, team play, practice habits, attitude, and performance.

Playing time is not a guarantee to any player participating on Varsity. Some players will not get as much playing time as others and in some games a team member may not play at all. We as a coaching staff believe that there are many rewards that come from being part of a team. They include the improvement that comes from every day effort, the friendships made and the lessons learned. These benefits far out weigh the game time played. Success is earned through commitment and team play. Every girl will have a role on the team that will be specifically spelled out to her. No role is less important than another. The success of our team as a whole, and the success of your daughter as an individual, will be based on how well each player performs their specific role.

Player Responsibilities

All student athletes will be made aware of these responsibilities and will sign a "basketball code of effort" before the first day of practice. These responsibilities include:

- Performing at the highest level in practice, games, the classroom, and on campus.
- Putting the goals of the team above individual desires.
- Participating in spring, summer, and fall off-season conditioning and team games.
- Conducting themselves in a manner which will bring honor to our program and school.
- Working hard at all times to improve skills and conditioning to make the team better.

The effort and time that is required as a result of being a girls' basketball player is extraordinary. This will require a special sacrifice of time and energy from each and every player. It is a privilege to be selected to the team and not all players that tryout for the team are selected. Being selected is a tremendous achievement. With the selection comes a responsibility to work hard and be positive at all times. Each player is a key component to a team and must learn and understand their role.

Parent and Spectator Responsibilities

- Applaud during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Accept the decision of the officials. Do not boo or heckle regardless of your feelings.
- Refrain from name calling or using profane or disrespectful language when addressing players, coaches and officials.
- Be an encouraging person to fellow parents.
- Be respectful and supportive to coaches at practice, games and at home. It is very important that a positive atmosphere is fostered at home about your girls' role on the team. Many successful teams are destroyed at home when parents are not supportive of fellow players or coaches.
- Support you daughter at all times (both good and bad).
- Lend a helping hand at fundraisers and team functions. All parents are needed. In order to run a successful, first class program everyone must be involved in fundraising.
- Fundraising activities will be coordinated by the parents in the athletic booster club.
- At no time will parent financial help or time invested in the program equate to playing time or making the team. All time, money, and equipment should be donated for the betterment of the program, not individuals.
- The John H. Reagan Athletic Booster Club is in charge of all fundraising and we **encourage** all of our athlete parents to join.

Coaches Responsibilities and Policies

- **Team Selection:** This is solely the coaching staff's responsibility. Selections are made on a year to year basis. Players are selected based on skill level, understanding of their specific role on the team, effort, knowledge of offensive and defensive systems, and attitude.

- **Playing Time:** As stated before, a lot of things go into determining playing time. A player's ability and skill, work ethic, adherence to team rules, and the ability to fit into our system determines playing time. Coaches will not discuss playing time and a player's role on the team with parents but will discuss those topics with the individual player.

- **Practice times:** Players are required to be at practice fifteen minutes early to stretch and warm up. Our schedule is set in advance and because four teams use the same facility. Practice attendance is mandatory. Players will be asked to practice on some Saturdays at the beginning of the season and during Christmas breaks. Practices may conflict with family events, jobs and other school functions for both players and coaches. This presents difficult choices. Being part of a successful team requires commitment and sacrifices. When a player is selected to a team they are making a commitment to put team needs over individual needs.

- **Game strategy and decision-making:** This is the sole discretion of the coaches. It is based on their knowledge of the game of basketball and their evaluation of your daughter at practice. You may not always agree with a coach's strategy or substitution pattern. However, being negative in the stands or at home will cause damage to team morale and never helps.

- **Tryouts and player cuts:** In October all freshman players and non-returning players are asked to tryout for their respective teams. Returning players will tryout during the basketball class. Some players will not make a team. Making cuts is the hardest part of being a coach, but there is only so many uniforms and space in the gym. Individual coaches recommend the final teams but the head varsity coach makes all final decisions. Players are evaluated on skill level, team play, knowledge of the system, and work ethic. The most talented player is not always selected. The number one criterion for making the team is the player's ability to help his team.

- **Parent Meetings:** Parent meetings will be scheduled as need be. If consistent times need to be arranged, then parents and coaches will discuss an appropriate time in which most, if not all, parents can attend. Items to be discussed in the meeting may include, but are not limited to, finances, fundraising, and the general well being of the program

Player Expectations

• **Academic performance and development:** Players are expected to attend class regularly and to perform at a high level in the classroom. Academic achievement is a major priority in our program and continual poor academic performance will result in probation and in a major case dismissal from the team.

• **Behavior on campus, on the bus, at team functions, and at games:** As student athletes we are representing John H. Reagan High School, John H. Reagan Basketball, and the coaching staff every time we are with the team. We expect all players in our program to behave in a mature and responsible fashion. Being disrespectful to teachers, administrators, parents and other players will not be tolerated. Being a John H. Reagan Basketball Player is a privilege and with that privilege comes a responsibility to represent the team in an appropriate manner.

• **Dress Code:** All basketball players will dress in a respectful and appropriate manner when at a team event or function. Special attire will be worn on game days unless instructed otherwise by a player's coach.

• **Use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs:** The use of these products is illegal and using them at any time will not be tolerated. As a program, we believe in being drug free and players who partake of any of these substances will be suspended from the team for a minimum of two weeks and possibly dismissed from the team. A player – coach – parent meeting will be held at the beginning of the suspension.

• **Earning a letter:** In order to qualify for a varsity letter, a player must be a member of the varsity team for half of the year and finish the season as a member of the team in good standing. The basketball season is defined as the start of spring practice through the awards recognition ceremony.

Spring, summer, and fall basketball: Participation in spring practice, summer class and conditioning, summer leagues and tournaments, fall basketball class, and after school conditioning are mandatory. Spring and fall leagues are voluntary but highly encouraged.

John H. Reagan Girls Basketball

Please review the Coaching Staff Expectations thoroughly and sign below to indicate that you have read and understand the purpose and policy of the John H. Reagan Girls' Basketball Program. Also, by signing below you and your son promise to adhere to the policies set forth in this packet. Providing phone numbers will help facilitate communication if found necessary.

Thank you and welcome to John H. Reagan Basketball!!!

Player's name _____

Signature _____

Home phone number _____

Parent's names (if applicable)

Father _____ Signature _____

Work phone number _____

Email Address _____

Mother _____ Signature _____

Work phone number _____

Email Address _____