



# NORTH METRO BLAZERS

Program Policies

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# North Metro Blazers Program Policies

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# North Metro Blazers Program Policies

## Article 1 – Purpose and Desired Outcomes

### Section 1 – Purpose and Mission

The North Metro Blazers (NMB) program exists to provide home school student athletes an opportunity to use their God-given athletic abilities in varsity and junior varsity level competition while glorifying God in the process.

### Section 2 – Desired Outcomes

The policies explicitly define desired outcomes so that all NMB planning and performance activities can be directly assessed as being in support of achieving the desired results of the program. This dramatically increases the likelihood that all NMB program stakeholders are aligned to our God-centered outcomes and are working together to achieve and sustain these goals.

These desired outcomes are articulated by category as listed below:

#### **Players**

- Each player understands what it means to glorify God in his/her play.
- Foster a healthy balance between desire to win and upholding the dignity of all people involved in competing (coaches, team members, opponents, referees, fans, etc.)
- Grow in their knowledge and love of the game
- Play to win but never at the expense of their Christian principles
- Each player comes away from the season having exceeded their own expectations of what they thought they could do
- Each player recognizes that they are an important and valued contributor to the team regardless of their role on the team

#### **Team**

- We play together as a unit
- We play to the strengths of all team members
- We always look for ways to genuinely build up our teammates when they are struggling
- We may challenge each other to perform to/beyond our potential but we don't tear each other down
- We exhibit Christ-like behavior on and off the court
- We always play to win - but never at the expense of our team's dignity, the dignity of our opponents or the dignity of the referees.
- We understand that when we play our best as a team we are victorious regardless of what the scoreboard reads at the end of the game

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## Coaches

- Glorifying God through their actions and words
- Foster a healthy balance between desire to win and upholding the dignity of all people involved in competing (coaches, team members, opponents, referees, fans, etc.)
- Successfully facilitate the attainment of players' individual and team goals
  - Paradoxically when a coach's primary objective is to win (e.g. coaching to win), it usually means that player and team goals become an after thought
  - Coach to attain the players' individual and team goals and the wins will take care of themselves
- Successfully teach the fundamentals, strategy and technical aspects of the game
- Successfully teach each player to understand the success criteria for their position and role on the team
- Uphold the dignity of all those that he/she interacts with (players, opponents, referees, parents, etc.) in their role of coach.

## Parents

- Review the mission and desired outcomes of the Blazer organization
- Support the players and coaches in their efforts to attain the desired outcomes as communicated in this section of the bylaws
- When Blazer adult behavior that does not align with the desired outcomes of the program, provide constructive feedback to the appropriate people within the Blazer program. Of course it is the prerogative of every parent to manage issues in a manner they deem most appropriate. However, in the event a parent is looking for recommendations on how to effectively deal with program related conflict, the following Biblical approach to conflict (Matthew 18: 15-17) is recommended:
  1. Directly and respectfully communicate one-on-one with the person with whom you perceive the problem (e.g. the coach, board member or parent)
  2. If step one proves ineffective and the perceived problem persists, have a follow-up conversation and include another concerned Blazer family member (e.g. parent, coach, AD, board member; etc.)
  3. If step two proves ineffective and the perceived problem persists, then the concern should be formally escalated to the board via the AD or a board member. It then becomes the responsibility of the board to formally address the concern with the objective of correcting the problem in a manner that best suits the greater interests of the Blazer program.

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## Opponents

The collective actions and behaviors of the NMB family demonstrate faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ in such a way that our opponents are exposed to and attracted to the Christian life.

## Referees

The collective actions and behaviors of the NMB family demonstrate faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ in such a way that the referees are exposed to and attracted to the Christian life.

## Opposing Team Fans

The collective actions and behaviors of the NMB family demonstrate faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ in such a way that our opponents' fans are exposed to and attracted to the Christian life.

## Article 2 - Membership

Qualifying members for the NMB program are dependent on a number of criteria at the point in time when team rosters are being formulated and finalized. The criteria and associated circumstances are listed below:

### Section 1 – Team size

- It is the preference of the NMB program to run both Varsity and Junior Varsity (JV) teams. If there are not enough kids to field both Varsity and JV teams, then only a Varsity team will be managed
  - This applies to both boys and girls
  - There may be a transition year to allow the program time to select coaches, establish a game schedule, obtain gym space, etc.
- The ideal number of players is between 10 and 15
- Student Athletes already in the NMB program will have first priority for participation.
- Siblings of current participants in the NMB program are the next priority assuming they fulfill the basic requirements of the program and coach.
- Wait List
  - A wait list will be established when interested families are wanting to join the program and there isn't space on the roster or in the event that the player is not of junior varsity age and desires to play in the future
  - Preference on the waiting list is always given in the following order
    - Siblings of existing players
    - Siblings of past players
    - New families

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- If there are more siblings of current players than there are roster spots, preference will be given in the order of when the family expressed interest in their child playing.

## Section 2 – Player Selection Criteria for Team Rosters

The NMB is a high school basketball program that targets 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade players. This is a guideline only. There are and will continue to be exceptions to this guideline as needed to meet the needs of an NMB team at any point in time.

- When fielding the NMB Varsity team the coach will select the ten best players from the pool of Varsity and JV player candidates
- The NMB Junior Varsity team will be made up from the remaining players who were not selected for the Varsity team

## Section 3 – Playing time

The NMB program is designed to provide high school level competition for players. NMB coaches are empowered to manage their team in a manner they deem most effective while still complying with the coaching guidelines/desired outcomes articulated above. Based on this, players and parents should understand there are no guarantees for equal playing time for players.

## Section 4 – Home School Players

The NMB program is intended for homeschool student athletes. The National Christian Homeschool Championships (NCHC), the organization with which the NMB program participates in season ending regional and national tournaments, defines a homeschool student as one who receives at least 51% of their education from their parents at home. A student may participate in PSEO. If the student receives less than 51% at home, a hardship exemption would need to be completed for that student to be allowed to participate in the regional or national tournament.

There are not issues with regular season play for a student to who receives less than 51% of their education at home.

The NMB program may consider online education if program participation is down. Never will an online education student be given preference over a homeschool student athlete.

## Section 5 – Senior Seasons

A family may decide to have their student athlete repeat a year of school. That student athlete may play during that additional year. Once the student has registered as a Senior for a season, then the player cannot rejoin as a Senior the next year. A player may not have two Senior seasons.

The NMB will admit new players entering their Junior year or younger. Typically, the program will not admit a new player entering the program as a Senior, except if the new player has had an unforeseen change in circumstance (i.e. moving into the area), and this must be approved by the Board.

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## Article 3 – Coach Selection and Approval Process

Coaches can have a great impact on student athletes, the opposing team players and coaches, and the public in general by the way they conduct themselves and their teams. Therefore, it is critical that these positions be filled by individuals that exhibit the qualities that uphold the mission of the program. Coaches need to be Christians and in agreement with the statement of faith, as well as be of sound character and integrity to help fulfill the mission of the program. Those interested in head coaching may contact a current board member and indicate their interest and the board member is responsible to bring it to the attention of the chair to be discussed at the next board meeting.

### Section 1 – Head Coach

Because the head coach is a volunteer position it is preferred that the coach be either a parent of a current or former athlete, a former NMB player or an assistant coach (past or present). Other candidates may be considered by the board but it should be understood that the objective of the program is to have coaches who are vested in the program and in agreement with the mission and desired outcomes of these bylaws.

Recommendations for head coaching positions will be received by the board for their consideration from those within the program (e.g. coaches, parents). The board will consider recommendations, and, if more than one candidate is interested in the position, the board will request an interview with each candidate asking them to explain their coaching philosophy, their qualifications and approach to fulfilling the mission and desired outcomes stated in these bylaws. The board will then vote and approval will be based on a majority of 2/3 or more.

### Section 2 – Assistant Coach

A Head coach may seek another coach to serve as their assistant. Assistant coaches will typically be selected from parents of current/former athletes or former Blazer players. Assistant coaches must be recommended to the board by the head coach for approval. Final approval will be made by a vote of 2/3 majority vote of the board.

## Article 4 – Gender Policy

As a Christian organization, the North Metro Blazers believe that God created males and females in His own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female. We believe that divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God's original creation design and are meant for human good and human flourishing. We believe that that self-conception as male or female should be defined by God's holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture.

As such, we will require players born male to play on the boys' team and those born female to play for the girls' team.