



# BASKETBALL LEAGUE

“Where All Kids Play”

## PARENTS’/COACHES HANDBOOK 2019-2020 SEASON

Anaheim First Church of the Nazarene  
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*AIM HIGHER!*

[Si usted tiene alguna pregunta,  
tenemos personal que habla español y con gusto le dará ayuda.]

# WELCOME!

***Welcome to Candlewood Sports Basketball.*** We are pleased that your family is participating with us this year. This informational handout has been assembled to help make this an enjoyable time for you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Candlewood Sports League Commissioner, Gabe Purcell, via email at [candlewoodsports@a1naz.com](mailto:candlewoodsports@a1naz.com) or the church office, 714-635-1331, for more information and assistance.

As soon as registration is closed and teams are formed, we will provide all coaches their player assignments and will then contact the parents of all players to notify them of their team numbers and date and time for their first practice. **Please note:** the first practice session will include a team meeting with the parents. If you have not heard from your coach by Monday, November 4, please call the church office.

All practices and games will be held in the Gym at Anaheim First Church of the Nazarene: 1340 North Candlewood Street, Anaheim. There will be one weekday one-hour practice, at either 5:30 or 6:30 pm. Games will be on Saturdays. Games times may rotate, so you may not have the same time each week.

We will break for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays and the season will end on **Saturday, February 1, 2020**. The complete schedule is posted on our website: [www.candlewoodsports.net](http://www.candlewoodsports.net)

This year, practices will begin on **Monday, November 11** and the first game will be on **Saturday, November 23**.

Uniforms are included in the registration fees and will be provided to the player. The only equipment you will need to provide your child is a pair of basketball or tennis shoes. The shoes should be worn at games, as well as practices.

All spectators at games will be asked to complete a “Star Card” for a non-related player each week (see page 14). The “Star Card” is intended to make a positive comment about a child on your team who is **not** your own. In other words: “Write something good about somebody else’s kid on your team!”

Our league emphasizes participation, sportsmanship, character building, skill and fun. To ensure that we accomplish this for all involved, we have established some special rules for our league. This is a developmental league, meaning we are not trying to emphasize competition or wins and losses. **Our desire is for this to be a positive experience for all levels of play.**

**WE WILL USE BASIC BASKETBALL RULES;  
HOWEVER, WE WILL ALSO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:**

- Prayer will be said before each tip-off.
- The first team listed on each game's schedule (to be provided) is the "Home Team" and will wear the white jersey.
- The second team listed on each game's schedule is the "Visiting Team" and will wear the black jersey.
- The league furnishes the game balls.
- A set substitution plan will be used to permit equal playing time to the extent possible, given team size.
- All teams will be taught man-to-man defense.
- Free passage will be given to half court (no full-court press).
- Coaches will ensure that no one offensive player dominates the game (e.g., temporarily restrict a given player to defensive play).
- No stalls will be allowed.
- Officials will call all violations, but will be more forgiving in initial games for the younger kids (minor league or less-skilled players).
- No technical fouls are allowed; remember we are not emphasizing competitive play.
- A referee's decisions can only be appealed to the League Commissioner — who will support the referee.
- No league standings will be maintained.
- All non-shooting fouls will be taken out of bounds. Shooting fouls will result in two free throws.
- The referee will be encouraged to "coach" on the court, as he or she makes a call. The call will be explained to all the players on court. The level of officiating will increase with increasing player experience and age levels.

- We will play each game with a game clock. All teams must be ready to play at their game's start time.
- There will be no time-outs except for injury or an observed dangerous condition. Under no circumstances will the game extend beyond its allotted time period, per schedule.
- Players arriving after tip-off cannot play until the second half (provided sufficient players are present to play the game at that time).
- Spectators are expected to adhere to the "Parents Pledge" (see page 13).
- Other special rules may be contained in the official league rulebook. If you have any questions regarding our rules, please see the League Commissioner.
- After each game, each team will go to a designated room to read their "Star Cards" and enjoy refreshments provided by that day's scheduled parent, as coordinated by the Team Parent.

## **DIVISIONS:**

We will place the players into teams, based upon each child's grade in school. This will all depend on the number of players we receive in each of the age groups and can be subject to change.

All games will be played on Saturdays in the Gym at Anaheim First Church of the Nazarene; game schedule will be provided and also posted on our website. End-of-season pizza parties will be held at the church on the final **Saturday, February 1**, immediately following each game.

PLEASE NOTE: In previous years, the Sunday following the last game of the season has been designated “**Candlewood Sunday.**” During the regular morning service, at 10:30 am, all teams and individual players were recognized and parents will be celebrated. The celebration then continued in the Gym, immediately following the service. A free lunch was served to all players and their families, photos and videos of the season were displayed, and there were drawings for door prizes. **This season’s parents will be notified if this will be repeated this year.**

Another great basketball season is about to begin. We’re glad that you are a part of it. **We’ll see you on the court!**

***AIM HIGHER!***

Gabe Purcell  
League Commissioner

# YOUR CHILD'S PROTECTION

## Prevention

Because your child is important to us, we have developed an intervention plan for his or her protection following our church denomination's "**Naz Safe**" guidelines, to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for all children. It includes the following four components to help prevent the possibility of child abuse before it starts.

- Create policies that promote child protection.
- Screen volunteers for past violations.
- Train volunteers in child protection policies.
- Promote education and awareness to all participants.

**For any further questions, please contact the church office.**

**Proactive Environment** – We want an environment that is strong and focused on the children, and that helps prevent the possibility of child abuse. The following measures have been adopted to help pave the way toward positive, healthy child development.

- Cultivate meaningful relationships with each child's family.
- Make the kids the focal point of our program.
- Promote positive behavior by all participants.
- Model and teach conflict resolution.
- Encourage kids to speak out.
- Help kids develop positive self-images.
- Teach excellence in individual achievement.
- Keep things FUN!

# CORE VALUES

## All Kids Play

We believe that all kids should play at least one-half of each game to the extent possible, given team size. Playing, not watching, develops confidence in players. All children have equal rights to play regardless of race, religion, gender or ability. Kids of all skill levels and abilities play together on the same team. While it is encouraged, no church affiliation or attendance is required. Our policy is that teams are formed annually to be as equal as possible. This results ideally in equal teams playing each other in interesting, competitive games. Due to this policy, players are placed on teams based upon team balance only. That means that parents can't choose coaches or teams for their children.

## Character Matters

We believe that character values should be should be taught along with playing skills. This allows the emphasis to be on fun and participation, rather than on winning games at all costs. Also, all players and their coaches participate in weekly "huddle-times," where Christian character values are taught. Part of what we teach is that kids are important to God; therefore, prayer is offered before all games and practices.

**PLEASE NOTE: SMOKING AND DRINKING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT ANY CANDLEWOOD SPORTS EVENT IS NOT ALLOWED, AND SWEARING WILL NOT TOLERATED.**

## **Positive Coaching**

We believe positive comments from coaches help build character in kids. Therefore, coaches are asked to make positive comments to each player every week. They will instruct without condemning. This helps build kids up. Berating of players is not tolerated at any time under any circumstance. To further protect players, all coaches are subject to background screening. They are also trained in coaching techniques to praise the individual while correcting the group. They endorse Christian values and are committed to excellence.

## **Sportsmanship Counts**

We believe that winning isn't the only important thing. We teach kids to play hard and show high regard for everyone on the floor. That means they are taught to respect the opponent as well as all officials. We ask spectators to cheer for both teams rather than only their child's team. To help us with sportsmanship, parents receive a Parents Pledge that outlines some key sportsmanship points. Spectators are also asked to fill out a "Star Card" for an unrelated player at every game whereby they make positive comments to someone else's child. This is all designed to emphasize that sportsmanship counts.

## **Instructional and Recreational**

We believe that kids come first in our sports program. Everything we do revolves around making this the best place for kids to play sports in this area. Our focus is on teaching players the basics of the sport while they are having fun. That removes league standings from being kept. This

approach creates no undue pressure from coaches to win games. This also means that players will learn the game in a safe, fun, positive and Christian environment from trained coaches.

## **Unity**

We believe that unity is important among all aspects of our basketball league. Our desire is for the coaches, referees, scorekeepers, staff, kids and parents to be united in what are trying to accomplish through the program. We will seek to resolve any issues in a healthy manner, rather than being argumentative.

# WHAT MAKES OUR PROGRAM UNIQUE?

## **Our Purposes:**

- Provide a Christian atmosphere for players and their families.
- Build relationships between Candlewood Sports and the participants.
- Share character and spiritual values with every participant.
- Teach each person they are important to God.

## **Our Goals:**

- Teach Christian Biblical values.
- Promote core values that are unique for a sports organization.
- Teach sportsmanship and respect for authority in every situation
- Teach children that character matters.
- Lead children and their parents to grow as Jesus grew: spiritually, physically, mentally and socially.
- Teach children the fundamentals of basketball and to help them grow in their understanding and enjoyment of the game.
- Provide a safe, fun and positive environment for the children of our community.
- Promote children's wellbeing.

## **Our Policies:**

- We will say prayers before each tip-off.
- All kids play and every player is a winner; we will use the "Star Card" system (see sample on page 14).
- All kids play at least one-half of each game to the extent possible, given team size.
- Trained leaders lead huddle-time talks during each practice session.

**Our Leaders:**

- Christians, many of whom are members of Anaheim First Church of the Nazarene
- Committed volunteers to service and to ministry
- Leaders are screened and trained.
- Enthusiastically serve in a program recognized for its quality.

## PARENTS' PLEDGE

- Talk about all children on both teams in the same manner you want other parents to talk about your child.
- Give the coach an encouraging comment after every game – whether won or lost.
- Make a positive comment to the referee(s) after every game.
- Remind your child that playing hard and doing their best is what counts – not just winning games.
- Avoid post-game criticism of your child on the way home – even if it's friendly.
- Smile a lot at the game – it's catchy.
- Be a good sport at every game – kids copy your behavior.
- Take time to learn the rules of the game.
- Shout only praise and encouragement at every game – always avoid NEGATIVE comments. Cheer for even minor accomplishments.
- Support your child regardless of the final score; be there for them at
  - Support your child by participating in all “huddle-times.”
- Complete a “Star Card” at each game to make positive comments about someone else's child on your team.

# STAR CARDS

Every spectator will be given a “Star Card” at each game (see below). They will be asked to write at least one good thing about the play of **someone else’s child** during the game. The team mom will assign the players randomly to the spectators.

After the game, the coach will assemble the team and spectators together (off court) and read the cards to the players. This reinforces the positive nature of our program. Remember that the only positive comments some children will hear during the course of the week may well be those words, which you have recorded on his or her Star Card on game days.

<b>Team</b>		
	<b>STAR CARD</b>	
<b>Star Player</b> _____	<b>#</b> _____	
<b>Comments</b> _____		
_____		
_____		
<b><i>AIM HIGHER!</i></b> _____	<b>Date</b> _____	