



Education First, Athletics Second Coalition

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2014-2015

Welcome to the ED First *Greyhounds Basketball Club*

GREETINGS PARENTS AND STUDENT ATHLETES!

Education First, Athletics Second Coalition (EDFIRST) Greyhounds are excited that you have chosen to be a member of this year's educational programs and basketball teams. We are going to work hard and play intense together over the next several months. This packet of information provides you with the organization's expectations for you as a player, parent, and spectator of the game. Hopefully, this letter will answer many of your questions as we start the new season.

If you have any additional questions or concerns as the season progresses, feel free to contact the EDFIRST information line at (816) 924-5147. You can email walldave@EDFIRST.org or kwallace@EDFIRST.org. Someone from the organization will respond to your inquiry within 24-48 hours. You may also visit the website at www.edfirst.org for additional information.

We all look forward to another exciting year of Greyhounds Basketball and educational activities.

Sincerely,
David Wallace
David Wallace
President and CEO

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club is to provide boys and girls the opportunity to learn and enjoy the game of basketball at a highly competitive and/or introductory fun level. Our program will focus on the student athlete's academics, develop and improve individual as well as team skills, promote good sportsmanship, team spirit, and display of good attitude. The EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club demands a high degree of ethical conduct by all its coaches, players, volunteers, and parents in order to provide a good example for community, opponents, and its participants, thus helping their growth to adulthood. By accomplishing these goals, the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club will provide our players with additional exposure to the game of basketball, thereby enhancing their opportunity to play at the elementary, junior high, high school, college level and beyond.

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Website: www.edfirst.org



Education First, Athletics Second Coalition

Player & Parent Commitment

Members of the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club are encouraged to participate in multiple sports at their middle and junior high schools. The youth may become involved in multiple recreation activities. This is okay with the Club as long as the player and their parents understand that their playing time in the Club could be reduced. This is done in order to be fair to the boys and girls that don't participate in other activities and give 100% of their time to the Club. Also, participation and attendance at team practice will dictate playing time. If you miss practice for another sport, you should be prepared to watch some of your teammates from the bench during games. This applies to youth in grades 3rd-High School.

High school players in grades 9-12 have mostly committed to basketball as their primary sport. We have had exceptions and will work with the players. Please communicate this information to the coaches ahead of time. Since practices are so important to the success of the team, missed practices will decrease a player's playing time.

The teams train one to two times per week for up to two hours per session. Practices and games can run from October through August. Commitment from both players and parents is essential. An uncommitted player is unfairly occupying a position that a committed player would love to have.

Playing Season

Our program will offer an extended playing year for our younger boys and girls. Our season consists of the following:

1. Team formation
2. Open gyms, fundraising, and team meetings. We expect our players to devote fall and winter to their school/select teams and high school teams.
3. High School practices officially start after the 4A High School State Tourney, usually around March 1st.
4. The K-4th, 5th-6th grade teams will play in local leagues and tournaments in October - July, and possibly a season ending tournament in August.
5. The 7th-8th grade teams may start the season by playing in local leagues and tournaments and an AAU tournament in March, USSSA local tournaments in April-June, local tournaments in May and June, and the MAYB / Show-Me-State Shootout and traveling season ending tournament in July.
6. The 16U teams may start off by playing in local tournaments and an AAU tournament in March, Elite Invite and local tournaments in April, Show-Case / USSSA State tournaments in May and June, and the MAYB Shootout, AAU and possibly a traveling season ending tournament in August.
7. Our developmental teams will play 25-30 games, and our competitive teams will play 50-65 games.

For the older teams, (9th grade – 12th grade), the month of June slows down to give our players time off to play with their high school teams, hoping to get them back for the very busy month of July.

All Competitive Greyhound teams will play competitive tournaments only

(unless special consideration given by both coaches and a parents).



Education First, Athletics Second Coalition

Parent/Player/Coach Relationship

Club basketball can teach many positive traits, such as the spirit of cooperation, self-discipline, and regard for physical fitness. **We ask that parents refrain from criticizing opposing players, other parents, other clubs, teammates, or officials.**

In our spectator enthusiasm, we are often prone to issue instructions to the players that are contrary to those of the coach; this only causes confusion for the players. **PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR DAUGHTER OR SON TO FOLLOW HIS OR HER COACH'S INSTRUCTIONS AND LEAVE THE COACHING TO THE COACH.** Parents need to align themselves with the coach in teaching their daughter or son how to cope with the natural frustrations of being a member of a team. Sports provide an excellent opportunity to teach young women and men about the realities of competitive situations. They must be taught how to be a cooperative team member, how to make use of both positive and negative feedback, how to cope with adversity, how to achieve mental toughness and, how to be a gracious winner or loser.

When a player has an issue with the coach, parents have the responsibility of teaching their daughter or son the steps necessary to remedy the situation. The following steps should be taken if a player has a grievance with the coach:

- STEP 1:** The player should discuss the problem or concern with the designated team parent communication liaison and try to arrive at a solution to the problem.
- STEP 2:** The parent should call the team parent communication liaison and schedule an appointment for the player, parent, and coach to meet at an appropriate time.
- STEP 3:** If the above steps do not remedy the problem, the parent should call the president of the Education First, Athletics Second Coalition Greyhounds to schedule a meeting with the player, team parent communication liaison and coach to arrive at a solution.

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. The Administration of the Education First, Athletics Second Coalition Greyhounds will **NOT ALLOW THE COACHES OR PLAYERS TO BE BERATED** by parents or fellow teammates. If you or your daughters or sons refuse to follow the guidelines set forth, you will be asked to leave the program.

The parents and families of our Education First, Athletics Second Coalition Greyhounds players have been very supportive in the past, and we hope that support will continue to grow each year. We hope that parents will support their players by attending their leagues and tournaments and giving positive encouragement. We encourage you to refrain from criticizing your child, their teammates, their coaches, or the officials.

Our number one rule for our players at all times is: **Don't Let Your Teammates Down.** A player or spectator may be asked to leave the premises if they become disrespectful to other players, coaches, or officials. Please be careful and respectful.

Team Rules and Guidelines

- No jewelry, hair clips or piercings may be worn at practices or games. Please remove these items prior to arriving at the gym.
- Arrive to all practices at least 15 minutes early. Use this time to prepare yourself for practice (change your shoes, get your water, use the restroom).
- When playing games locally, arrive 45 minutes early.



Education First, Athletics Second Coalition

- **Parents, please be on time picking your player up from practice or games. COACHES WILL NOT STAY LATE IF YOU DO NOT ARRIVE ON TIME. If necessary, please make arrangements with other parents if you can't make it to pick your player up on time.**
- You, the player, will determine your playing time by:
 1. Having good grades
 2. Not using foul language or displaying a negative attitude
 3. Being responsible and respectful (no talking while coaches are talking or talking back)
 4. Getting and staying in shape
 5. Staying healthy
 6. Great defense
 7. Knowing your plays
 8. Knowing all positions
 9. Hustling at all times
 10. Being a team player
- A technical foul by a player or parent for poor sportsmanship will immediately cause the removal of that player or parent from the game. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated.
- If you are injured, you are still a member of the team and are required to attend practices and games.
- **Don't let your teammates down!!!** This means practice hard, pay attention and don't mess up in the classroom, at home, or on weekends.

Actions detrimental to your team and teammates may result in less playing time, having to sit out games, being sent home early from a tournament, and possibly being removed from the team



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“In Order to Play the Game, You must first know the rules of the Game”

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How does my son or daughter get on a Greyhounds team?** Register on our website and come to the open run. Open runs are ongoing and each player has a chance to make one of the teams.
2. **How many teams are there?** There can be as many as 2 teams per age group that are formed by ability level during the open runs. Coaches may also use other settings where they have seen the player as a part of the open run evaluation process.
3. **How is the age group determined?** The teams are currently structured as grade level teams. However, the organization is in the process of restructuring teams according to their age as of January 1st, so that we can compete during age level events.
4. **What is involved in the commitment to a Greyhounds team?** It is expected that a player will make all the games and practices. There are always conflicts but absences disrupt the team and are unfair to the player's coaches and teammates. Communication with the coaches is crucial about these items.
5. **What about the time involved?** There normally may be at least one to two practices during the week. Teams will play in one weekend tournament a month if available,
6. **Is there fundraising?** Fundraising opportunities will be offered throughout the year for individuals to earn credits to be applied to their account. We will also have other mandatory fundraisers to support organizational activities as needed.
7. **What are the goals?** For the players to play and for everyone (coaches, players, and parents) to have fun.
8. **Are coaches paid?** All coaches within the **Greyhounds** organization are not paid and volunteer numerous hours managing individual teams and handling administrative duties. Coaches will receive a gas stipend
9. **Are there discounts for multiple family players?** Families registering two or more players will receive 10% off.
10. **Are players required to call if they miss a practice?** Yes, they are to contact their coach or parent liaison.
11. **Is there a payment schedule?** Yes, see the fee schedule for the appropriate grade level of student-athlete.
12. **What does my registration fee cover?** Admin cost, medical supplies, equipment, and gym rentals.
13. **Are there education classes that the player will have to attend?** Yes, the association uses the Champions of Character curriculum, WIN FOR KC, Financial Literacy, Health and Nutrition, and Higher Connections programs players need to attend and many more.
14. **What is the association's philosophy on playing time?** Players earn playing time by hard work, perseverance, and attending practice. Players with constant absences will reduce their playing time.
15. **Practice day preparations!** Have proper athletic shoes, socks, shorts, and t-shirt. If you don't have proper practice gear, you will not be permitted to practice. Make sure you keep valuables in a safe place. Bringing your own water bottle to practice will save time waiting at the fountain and minimize “germs/winter sniffles” spreading to the team.
16. **Punctuality!** Be on the court and ready when practice starts, and arrive 45 minutes before game time. Practice starts at 6:30pm and ends at 8:30pm unless otherwise scheduled. Be flexible during Kansas City's fall/winter/spring weather! Announcements will be made at the end of practice in the team group circle along with a bi-weekly team newsletter. (News will not be repeated once communicated and newsletter distributed unless absent from practice.)
17. **Uniforms!** All new players will need to purchase a uniform top/bottom. Once uniforms have been distributed, it is the player's responsibility to bring their uniform to every game. Extras will not be provided.
18. **Community Service!** Players will be required to work 5 hours of community service each season, which we will schedule.
19. **Holiday Support!** The organization will adopt 2 families during the holiday season. We are asking that a \$5 donation be given to support the families.
20. Any customer that writes a bounced check will be put on a cash only account. All payments will need to be paid on-line, in cash or by money order or cashier's check. Payments can be mailed and post dated before the due date.
21. Practice Jerseys are to be worn every practice.
22. As the team travels to any out of town tournament, parents of that team will pay for the coach's room.

Refund Policy

After a player has committed to a team and has attended one practice or participated in a tournament, **NO REFUND** will be issued for the registration fee which is **\$155 for new players. September –February. Returning players with uniform, registration fees are \$125.00 September –February. If returning player has a uniform but is in need of a new one. He/She will have to purchase the new one at cost. Registration fees are \$155.00 March – August.** An 80% deposit will be accepted to register for players experiencing hardships. Balance will need to be paid by the 2nd month of participation. **K – 5th Grade (\$25 Monthly Fee) 6th – High School (\$50 Monthly Fee)** (Ervin/Raytown League only) fee for a **6-10 week program** will be **\$85 for new player/\$75 for returning player. 10% off for second child in family.**

Absolutely **NO REFUNDS** are issued for uniforms after a uniform order has been placed and/or filled for a specific player.



Education First, Athletics Second Coalition

EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club is a recreational and competitive, youth basketball program for the Metropolitan Kansas City area. Our organization strives to develop participants' individual skills and teach them the principles of teamwork and fair play.

Fundraising Opportunities (Year Round)

Chiefs Games
Youth Basketball Tournaments
Trash Bag Sales
Candy Bar Sales
IHOP Breakfast Fundraiser
Car Wash
Bowling Fundraiser
Baby Bottle Change
Golf Fundraiser
Lutfi's Fish Fry
Wal-Mart donations

*A schedule is being put together for opportunities that are available to raise funds to assist with fees and raise funds for the organization.

Practice Days

Greyhound practice sites are as follows:

Monday & Wednesday /Tuesday & Thursday at Location T.B.A. 6:30pm – 8:30p.m. **(Tentative)**

Other tentative locations and dates include Monday/Wednesday at a local Community Center, National Guard Armory or the local High School.

Upcoming Tournaments

MAYB, Plaza Lights, BCI, USSSA Tournament, AAU Super Regional, Sports. Additional information will be provided.



Education First, Athletics Second Coalition

Parent Permission Form, Liability Waiver Release, and Authorization for Medical/Dental Treatment

I, the undersigned, the parent and/or legal guardian of (if Player is a minor, e.g. under 18 years of age), or the person (if Player is age of majority, e.g. 18 years of age or over), _____ (Player) acknowledge that the Player is receiving valuable instruction and experience by his / her involvement with Greyhounds Basketball Club. In consideration thereof, I hereby grant permission for the Player to play, compete, train, and otherwise participate in the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club including but not limited to practice, games, tournaments, clinics, camps, fundraising, volunteering, social activities, travel by any and all means including private, public, and commercial transport by ground, air, and water based vessels, and other activities sponsored by the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club.

I further authorize the Administration of the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club to release pertinent information about my son or daughter to college coaches, media, etc. for the purpose of enhancing the recruiting process. This information includes but is not limited to photographs, email addresses, telephone numbers, press releases, game summaries, etc.

I recognize the fact that girls and boys basketball is a contact sport and that serious injuries can and does occur. I accept the full responsibility for any injuries that may occur to the Player as a result of her trying out for and participating in the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club Program. I waive any and all liability against EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club, its officers, employees, coaches, trainers, volunteers, affiliated organizations, sponsors, vendors/suppliers, the school districts, and the owners and operators of any facility utilized by the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club, and hereby release and discharge the same, from any claim, loss, injury, cost, damage or expense incurred/sustained by or on behalf of the Player as a result of the Player's participation in the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless all of the above organizations, employees, officers, coaches, trainers, volunteers, and sponsors for any judgment awarded, attorney fees, and other expenses with respect to any claims, loss, damage, or expense which may be sought by or on behalf of the Player or her family/guardian.

I, the undersigned, the parent and/or legal guardian of (if Player is a minor), or the person (if Player is age of majority), _____ (Player) hereby grant permission for the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club, its officers, employees, coaches, and trainers, to authorize medical or dental treatment for the Player by any available and qualified physician/dentist or other trained medical personnel. In addition, this permission extends to and includes authorization for emergency treatments, procedures, and surgeries for the Player. Furthermore, on-going medical treatment is authorized until such time as the undersigned shall dismiss these physicians/medical personnel in writing and have engaged another qualified physician. This permission and authorization includes admission to a hospital or medical facility if the attending physician deems it necessary.

I understand that monies paid, raised through fundraisers, and donated to the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club are non-refundable. I understand that participation in the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club is done in accordance with the acceptance of this permission, authorization, release, and waiver. The permission for participation and authorization for medical treatment is effective for thirteen (13) months after the date of my signature hereto (Participation Period). The waiver and release of liability for causes of action arising under or related to the Participation Period continue into perpetuity.

_____	_____	_____
Player Name (printed)	Player Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Parent or Legal Guardian Name (printed)	Parent or Legal Guardian Signature	Date



Education First Athletics Second Coalition

Handbook Acceptance Form

I acknowledge that I have received, read and discussed with my player the information in the Greyhounds Basketball Club Player/Parent Handbook. I understand all of the policies as outlined in the handbook and agree to abide by the rules of the organization. A player may not begin her season with the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball Club until all required forms are signed and submitted to the Team Business Manager / Coach. The forms include: Handbook Acceptance, Medical Release, Insurance, Code of Conduct, and Financial Responsibility. In addition, each player must submit a copy of their Birth Certificate and a copy of her most recent report card before she will be eligible to start the EDFIRST Greyhounds Basketball season.

Parent or Legal Guardian Name (printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Player Name (printed)

Player Signature

Date