



THE PANTHERS CREED

The Panthers Basketball Club views basketball, along with other team sports, as a source of enjoyment and fulfillment for all participants personally and collectively. Above all the Club seeks to foster good sportsmanship together with a competitive spirit, always tempered by a sense of fair play.

Our Club constitution proclaims the following aims:

- To promote the ideals of fair play and competition
- To promote basketball as a family sport
- To promote a healthy lifestyle
- To encourage participation in sport generally

Panthers Basketball Club recognizes that the aspirations of participants and the nature of competition will change as they progress towards senior status. However the Club also expects that good sportsmanship and the ideals of fair play will always be maintained as keystone principles of Panthers players and supporters at all levels.

The youngest players participate for fun and enjoyment. Parents, supporters and coaches should foster this attitude. Players at early levels should not be over-trained and should share court time as equitably as possible. Without limiting their enjoyment, players should be encouraged to play games in a competitive spirit and to try hard, even in adverse circumstances. Coaches, parents and supporters should applaud good play and willing effort. They should encourage fair play and respect for team-mates, opponents and officials. They should also foster an understanding that the outcome of the game is due to the comparative performance of the teams alone.

As players progress through different grades the Club understands their desire to win will naturally increase. However the principles already espoused should continue to be upheld at all levels. That basketball is a game to be enjoyed should always remain foremost.

Respect for officials is inviolable. Players must adapt to each referees interpretation of the rules and accept all decisions gracefully.

Likewise respect for team-mates, coaches and opponents remain paramount. Players can demonstrate respect for their team-mates by applauding worthy effort by their peers and continuing to compete at their best under all circumstances. Fair and resolute competitiveness no matter what the state of the game is the ultimate accolade to an opponent. And perhaps the pinnacle of sportsmanship is to be gracious whether winning or losing, whether victorious or vanquished.

While coaches should attempt to rotate players as much as possible parents, supporters and players must expect that at higher levels court time will not necessarily be equal for all players. Irrespective of this fact all team members should be treated as equals in a team.

The Club expects that senior players will uphold the principles stated above. The Club understands that at senior levels of play tactical plays and gamesmanship are an accepted practice. However fair play and the basic principles of sportsmanship should not be compromised.

Panthers players and supporters are expected to respect and support their coaches. The Club is grateful to our coaches for their time and effort in managing the various teams. It is unusual for such a commitment not to involve some inconvenience to each coach at some time during the season. Players may in time become more skilful than some coaches but this should not diminish the respect due to the coach. Developing players should note that at elite levels of basketball non-playing coaches are considered tactically and managerially superior to on-court practitioners.

The Club expects its coaches to facilitate the transfer of the Club's sporting philosophy to the players. All players should be encouraged to perform at their best and be given the maximum opportunity possible to do so. Every player should be regarded the equal of their peers. Coaches should enforce excellent standards of fairness and sportsmanship and demonstrate these through their own actions. Coaches should be aware of the safety and well-being of their players and generally adhere to the Panthers Code of Conduct for Coaches.

Just as the Club expects the players and coaches of Panthers teams to uphold the principles of sportsmanship and fair play, it intends to defend those players and coaches against infractions by other teams. At times the tactics of opposing teams or coaches, or the actions of referees, might unfairly disadvantage our players or teams. If reasonable consultation with the other party during a break in play fails to resolve the matter then a member of the Panthers committee should be advised. The Club will not condone abusive interactions or unreasonable retaliatory behaviour on the part of our players or officials. Where a reasonable and valid complaint is evident the Club will make an official representation to the governing association (usually the Hills Raiders Basketball Association) at the earliest opportunity.

The Club expects that parents and supporters, being part of the Panthers fraternity, will observe the Creed of the Club. It is the Club's wish that our followers demonstrate the same good sportsmanship we expect of our players. The Club encourages enthusiastic support for our teams but condemns derisive or derogatory acts towards opponents or officials.

The Panthers Basketball Club has a proud record of good sportsmanship and fair play. This Creed seeks only to build on that record and articulate what have always been the aims and actions of the Club. Let us continue to proceed proudly.

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