**Stingers Basketball Parent/Player Handbook**

**Mission Statement**

Stingers Basketball exists to provide young athletes with a positive environment where they can grow as players and as people. Our mission is to help athletes improve their skills, build confidence, and develop a love for the game. We aim to create happy, healthy, and motivated players by providing a safe, fun, and competitive experience.

**Coaching & Learning Philosophy**

Our coaching approach combines different methods to maximize player development:

* **Instruction** – Coaches provide clear teaching and feedback.
* **Repetition** – Improvement comes through consistent practice.
* **Example** – Players learn by watching advanced athletes and coaches.
* **Teaching Others** – Athletes reinforce their learning by helping teammates.

**Coaching Goals**

We have two primary goals:

1. **Skill & Character Development** – Provide quality instruction in basketball fundamentals while teaching discipline, dedication, teamwork, and confidence.
2. **Competitive Preparation** – Support athletes with the desire and ability to compete at higher levels (high school and beyond).

Basketball is more than a game – it builds social skills, mental toughness, and lifelong values.

**Selection Process**

Players are evaluated during tryouts and other basketball environments. Selection is based on:

* Attitude and teamwork
* Basketball skills (defense, shooting, ball handling, etc.)
* Work ethic and drive
* Coachability and competitiveness
* Potential for growth

**Parent–Player–Coach Relationship**

Strong communication and mutual respect are the foundation of our program.

* **Coaches coach** – Please allow coaches to give direction during games and practices.
* **Parents support** – Encourage your child and the team positively. Avoid criticizing players, coaches, or referees.
* **Players commit** – Work hard, listen to feedback, and respect teammates, coaches, and officials.

If concerns arise:

1. **Player speaks to the coach** (if age-appropriate).
2. **Parent requests a meeting** with the coach and another staff member at a scheduled time (never immediately after games).

**Code of Conduct**

**Players must:**

* Respect coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials.
* Arrive prepared and on time for practices and games.
* Show good sportsmanship at all times.
* Avoid foul language, bullying, horseplay, or unsportsmanlike behavior.
* Refrain from alcohol, drugs, or illegal activity.
* Give their best effort at all times while remembering to have fun.

**Parents must:**

* Model respect, leadership, and sportsmanship.
* Support all players, not just their own child.
* Avoid negative comments, taunting, or arguing with referees.
* Keep basketball fun by focusing on effort and enjoyment, not just results.
* Communicate respectfully with coaches (away from games and practices).

Failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in removal from the program.

**As with our players, parents also represent Stingers Basketball. We expect parents to act with a higher set of standards than we expect from our players. Parents are the role models.**

**Playing Time & Practices**

* Playing time is **earned**, not guaranteed.
* Attendance and effort in practice directly impact playing time.
* Practices are **mandatory** unless excused in advance.
* Players must arrive early, equipped, and ready to begin at the scheduled start.
* Parents are welcome to watch (at coaches discretion) but must avoid distracting or coaching from the sidelines.

**General Information**

* Commitment to the season and team fees is required.
* No refunds if a player leaves the team mid-season.
* Players are responsible for notifying the coach if they will miss a practice/game (not the parent).

**Financial Commitment**

* Season fees: **$500** (covers gym rentals, referees, tournaments, OBA registration, and coaching support).
* Fundraising is **mandatory** to help keep costs low.
* Our goal is to keep the rep program affordable.
* Fees are due by **prior to first OBL weekend or games played**. If needed, families may contact local service clubs or programs like **Jumpstart** for assistance. Coaches will communicate with you the payment options and due dates.

**Stingers Team Agreement**

By signing, players and parents agree to:

* Pay team fees on time.
* Submit all required forms (waiver, medical release, code of conduct, financial responsibility).
* Understand that playing time is not guaranteed.
* Communicate through email, text, or team platforms.
* Abide by all rules, policies, and expectations outlined in this handbook.

Players may not begin the season until all forms and fees are submitted.

STINGERS TEAM AGREEMENT/PLAYER CONTRACT PLEASE INITIAL AT EACH CORRECT SPOT. BY INITIALING YOU ARE AGREEING THAT YOU COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO EACH STATEMENT AND CONTRACT AGREEMENT THAT PROCEEDS YOUR INITIAL.

\*\*PLEASE READ EVERYTHING YOU ARE SIGNING SO THAT THERE IS NO CONFUSION\*\*

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that there is a Team Fee per season. This goes to pay for games, tournaments and other team costs such as Ontario Basketball registration, equipment and coaching certification. There is no refund on this one time seasonal Team Fee.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that we need to pay team fee, and turn in the waiver/ medical release, liability form, parent/player contract, and financial responsibility form.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I do not meet the obligations defined in the paragraph above my athlete may not be able to participate in team practice or any Stingers events.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that all games and tournaments held outside of the Stingers program are out of Stingers control. Such as game times, gym locations, and cancellation of the games and tournament. Game times, gym locations and cancellations will be communicated to all parents as soon as possible.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that communications with the team will be done through E-Mail/text and/or Facebook. It is the parent’s responsibility to check E-Mail/text and Facebook on a regular basis.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the best form of communication is to text your team manager or coach.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that playing time is not guaranteed and must be earned with commitment and production.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that I have received read and discussed with my athlete the information in the Player/Parent handbook. I understand all of the policies as outlined in the handbook and agree to abide by the rules of the organization. I acknowledge that I have received, read and discussed with my child the information in the 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 his/her season with a Stingers Basketball Team until all required forms are signed and submitted to the Team manager. The forms include: Handbook Acceptance, Waiver and Medical Release, code of conduct, and financial Responsibility.

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We like to post photos of teams on our Facebook page and group, by signing below you give Stingers the right to post photos of your athlete.

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_