



# MENS BASKETBALL



## **COST RATIONALE**

The cost of membership was significantly reduced in 2016-2017. For \$60, each player will get a minimum of 10 sessions of instruction and gym time on Sundays for grade level practices. This is an exceptional value when compared with the cost of other programs and the cost of gym time alone when privately contracted. Nobody is making money as all of our coaches are volunteers. The Cedar Falls High School coaching staff volunteers their time by opening gyms, contracting gym time, coordinating schedules, and offering assistance during the varsity season. Money from our membership fees will be used for purchasing new equipment, gym time as necessary, basketballs, and/or general basketball-related needs/wants for our basketball program.

## **PARTICIPATION AND COMPETITIVE TEAMS**

WE DO NOT WANT TO EXCLUDE ANYONE BUT IT TAKES VOLUNTEERS! Several teams have been formed, and others can be formed, with a more competitive objective in mind to allow for those that wish to practice more and play in more tournaments (at their own cost) with higher levels of competition. Practice time during the week will be provided as made available by the school district to all teams with rosters comprised of players from Cedar Falls Schools that have paid membership fees. All players and coaches are expected to participate in Sunday grade level skills and drills workouts! Although there will be tournaments, etc. that coincide and may make participation difficult on ALL Sundays, every effort should be made in good faith to attend and participate fully. We are all Tigers and we will all get better together if we work at it!

## **PHILOSOPHY**

I want this to be extremely clear. **I do not believe that we can make decisions or accurate predictions now about kids who are 4th-8th graders as to who the best players will be in high school. There are so many variables: Puberty, growth spurts, other interests, changing interests, late bloomers, injuries, gym rats, etc. I understand all of this all too well, and my goal is to see the big picture by placing more of an emphasis on the things that I see many of our players lacking (shooting, ball handling, etc.) as they enter high school.** This emphasis on fundamentals, along with having large, grade-level practices, will be the goal for our Sunday workouts; everyone will have access to the same instruction and drills. The de-emphasis on formal scrimmages and tournaments will allow us to focus more on fundamentals and keep the cost down. This will also allow for more autonomy within each grade level. At the same time, I think we must provide opportunities for teams to take a more competitive track by providing gym time throughout the week as best we can. **As with all volunteer organizations, each grade level's success and level of excellence will come from the commitment and enthusiasm of its volunteers!**

I feel this situation is a great value and is advantageous for, as well as sensitive to, all kids and all ability levels. Kids who are very serious about basketball and want to play more will have an opportunity to play more during the week, and kids who are just trying it out or have other interests going on during the week can come on Sundays and benefit from quality instruction. I believe this philosophy provides the best of both worlds. If parents and players embrace this with positivity, I believe this can be a great experience for all. We must also remember that we are a basketball program, not a recreation program. Although I believe having fun is of utmost importance, I also believe it is our responsibility to provide the best basketball instruction for all ages and ability levels. Simply rolling the ball out a few times and entering into several tournaments is not, in my opinion, the best way to make positive strides for young players. The philosophy and structure that I have outlined above is the best way that I can see that accomplishes our goals for all players, regardless of interest level or ability in order to make positive strides within our confining factors of time, costs, gym accessibility, and number of volunteer coaches. Bottom line, my objective is to create opportunities for our younger players to enjoy the game, learn the fundamentals, be exposed to levels of practice and competition that suits their interest level and ability, and move our program ahead in terms of our players being more prepared to excel as they transition through the younger grades and ultimately into high school.

Best of luck this season!

-Coach Schultz

## **TOUGHNESS – TEAMWORK - ACCOUNTABILITY**