

GREAT FALLS BASKETBALL SELECT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The purpose of the Select Program is to provide the opportunity for children in the Great Falls area to play at the highest level of competition available in Fairfax County. Although sharing may goals, the Select Program has some different ideas from the House Program. A brief comparison of the Select and House Programs is listed at the bottom for reference. While Great Falls, including its nearby neighborhoods, is smaller than many of the programs that participate in the Fairfax County league, it is our strong belief that we can field teams that are competitive and afford our children the opportunity to develop skills required to play at the high school level. To accomplish this, the Great Falls Hoops Board actively recruits coaches with extensive playing and coaching experience and seeks talented and dedicated players for our program. We hope that the combination of good coaching and committed players and families will enable us to achieve our goals.

Overall Select Goals:

- To field competitive teams in each age group and within the appropriate league division levels.
- To make significant and demonstrable progress throughout the season in developing individual and team skills, evidenced by improved game performance, but not necessarily by win-loss record.
- To make Select a rewarding developmental experience for all team members.

Playing Time Guidelines for Coaches:

- While there may be instances when a player will not play in a game, a goal for the coaches should be that every player should play at least a few minutes in every game.
- Games where the score is out of hand in either direction should be considered opportunities to involve players with lower than average playing time.
- Teams are encouraged to carry 8 to 10 players. This is to ensure acceptable and enjoyable game and practice experiences for all members of the team. However, there may be instances where more than 10 players are on a team and playing time will be impacted.

Reminders for Parents:

- The Select program requires a significant time commitment by parents and players alike. Teams practice twice weekly for a house and a half each practice. Games may be during the school week or twice on the weekends. No games are played in Great Falls and may instead be played in the southern and western parts of Fairfax County.

-Coaches expect players to make every practice and may reduce game time for unexcused absences. Families should expect to make the same commitment to basketball as required by other select/travel/all-star sports teams. Select basketball should be the primary sport and primary team of the child in that season.

-The success of a team should be evaluated on the basis of developmental progress rather than on win-loss records alone. While our goal is to field competitive teams, we also value sportsmanship, player development, and fostering a love and appreciation for the game.

-With this approach in mind, please feel free to provide feedback on how your or any other Great Falls team is progressing throughout the season. Family opinions matter to our coaches and to our Board members. Please be mindful to not let your child's expectations grow to unreasonable levels, especially with regard to playing time. Select is a competitive basketball program and decision about playing time and team strategy will be guided in large part by that objective.

-Please model good sportsmanship toward the coaches, all league players, and the referees. Our children learn by example. Do not become so wrapped up in the game that your behavior is less than exemplary. The focus of the game should be on the players not the spectators.

Below please find a brief comparison of the House and Select programs for Great Falls Basketball.

House Experience:

- Great introduction to the game
- Chance to play with and against friends
- All games played in Great Falls area
- Develop basic skills
- Less time commitment than Select
- Less expense/travel than Select
- Play time rules to ensure a minimum of 50% game play for all
- Participation of all skill levels encouraged

Select Experience:

[Very different than house](#)

- Extremely competitive
- Lots of travel and additional expenses.
- Playing time could be diminished depending upon situation

Sportsmanship still paramount
Team play and development important

I have read the above and my child and I understand the Select Program Guidelines.