

Buddy Guide

Thank you for volunteering your time to help with our club. We could not run it without the support of volunteers like yourself, and we hope that you will take out of these sessions as much as you give to the players you support. Here is how you can help:

We ask for your commitment for at least one term. This will enable us to provide the consistency of contact that many of our players need, and to plan our sessions to ensure that they are fun and safe for all.

We want you to have fun, but we want you to have fun while supporting the regular members. It is important that you use this time to engage with the entire group.

The players need our full attention, so please keep mobile phones off the court. You can use them during water breaks. Please also do not take photographs during sessions, or post images of sessions online.

Many of the kids we work with are easily distracted and look to us for appropriate social behavior. For example, if we ask them to stop bouncing balls we hope that you will model that behavior.

There will be a wide range of abilities in the gym, and we may have an athlete or two who needs a 1:1. By this we mean a buddy who does every part of the session with them, from each drill to running up and down the court and positioning them during the game. We will try to mix these up throughout the weeks, so that you can get involved with all aspects over the various sessions. But the 1:1s really need you, so if you are taking on that job, please keep your attention with your athlete and help him/her focus and get as involved in the game as possible.

It is encouraged to set boundaries with the kids. You are encouraged to remind our athletes of the expectations and of what is appropriate. If you want support doing this, please find the coach, who will be happy to help you. This is about having fun, but there needs to be safety and rules to do this. If our players cannot follow those rules, they may need to take a break during part of a session to calm down.

The parents of the kids are wonderful, and most will have nothing but wonderful things to say, and will greatly appreciate everything that is being done. Occasionally a parent will have a concern about something in the gym. If a parent approaches you with one of these concerns, please direct the parent to speak directly with one of the coaches. Also, if you have questions about the player and can't get the answer from the player him/herself, you can always ask the coaches for ideas and support.

Please make sure that you fill in the sign in sheets at the beginning of each session. This helps us to keep a record of your volunteering activities, so that

you can put these towards credit for any school based programs that you are part of. Also, if we need you to complete a DBS form, please complete it promptly, so that we can fulfill our safeguarding duties towards our players.

And lastly, please let us know if you cannot attend a session, or if you are planning to withdraw from volunteering, so that we can adjust accordingly.

THANK YOU

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