

Coaches,

We have many new coaches to the league so I thought I would give everyone a quick update and some expectations for the league. Now that all teams have been formed I want to let you know where you should be in the process.

First, now that you have a team you should have contacted your players to let them know that they are on a team. If you have left messages but not heard back from a player you should keep trying until you get an answer back. It's important that everyone be contacted. If you have been unable to reach a player for the contact info on the registration form please contact me right away and I will see if I have some different contact information from past years. Also, if you have contacted a player and they have decided not to play let me know as we have many players on a wait list.

Next set some sort of practice schedule and communicate that with your players. Check the DFAC website at the link below to make sure I have your practice scheduled correctly. The summer league has half as many teams as the winter league so it should not be a problem finding practice days and locations. Practices slots are reserved for a half court.

<http://dfacsports.com/basketball/practice.html>

If you want to practice on a different day than your scheduled time slot that is fine. Check the practice schedules and find an open slot. In most cases there is an open time each day of the week. For example, if you want to add a practice on a Wednesday there are open spots pretty much everywhere except Horseshoe Trails. Keep in mind that other teams may do the same thing so if several teams show up at the same time please share and work it out peacefully.

Reminder, at the schools with lights, we have 2 practice times each night. If your team is scheduled for the early time please make sure you are off the court promptly so the next group can start their practice on time. Example, if you practice at DAMS and you have the before 7:00pm time slot please make sure you finish and are off the court at 7:00pm so the later group can start on time. We have 40 teams practicing so we need to make it work with the limited courts that we have available.

We suggest that each team get in at least 5-6 practices before the games begin on June 11th. You may have to modify your schedule to make it work. For example, I am coaching a couple teams and we will practice once this week and 3 times next week and 2 or 3 practices the following week. We will practice on different days than our schedule to make it work. You may also practice on weekends if you like.

Also, we have had complaints from several of the schools that our teams are not picking up all of their garbage after practices. When your team is finished with practice please ask all kids and parents to pick up any water bottles or other garbage that may be left even if it is not from your team. This should only take a minute or two and if all teams pick up regularly we shouldn't have any more problems.

The schools have also mentioned that parents are parking in no parking zones and ask that everyone park in designated parking areas.

The local schools allow us to use the facilities and it's important that we keep them clean and abide by their rules so that we may continue to use the outside courts for practice.

Most of the schools lock their gates early in the evenings and on weekends. Please check the Lights and School Practice update located on the bottom of the coaches message board for lock information and other suggestions to make your practice go smooth. The link is below.

<http://dfacsports.com/basketball/lights.html>

If you practice on a court that has a locked gate, and you are the last one off the courts in the evening (or practice on weekends) please make sure the gate is locked when you leave.

Practice notes. Ask each player to bring their own ball to practice. All leagues except the 7th-8th grade boys will use the intermediate sized 28.5" ball. Tell them to put their name and phone number on the ball. You should remind them to bring plenty of water. It's hot and practices will be outside so 1 small water bottle is probably not enough. Have them wear basketball or tennis shoes and wear loose comfortable clothing like shorts and a t-shirt.

All teams should be at this point in the process. If you are not starting practices until next week do your best to get 5-6 practices in before the games begin. To help with practices we have posted a coaching manual. It is about 30 pages of practice drills, suggestions and tips. Although the introduction is geared towards the younger players the drills can be used for all ages. It is a work in progress and not very polished but the material is very good. It can be found on the coaches message board and at the link below.

<http://dfacsports.com/basketball/Manual%203.pdf>

I make references to the website and specifically the coaches message board. I suggest that everyone take some time to get familiar with the DFAC website and especially the coaches message board as you will find updated league information there. The link is below.

<http://dfacsports.com/basketball/coach.html>

This should be enough information to get started. Information about games and uniforms can be found here. In a couple weeks I will send another email going into detail what to expect with games, schedules and rules.

One final note. The schools have put a glitch in our gym usage for the summer essentially taking away more than half of our normal usage. I am not sure what is behind it or the ramifications to our program will be at this time. I will try to post updates on the coaches message board.

Thanks,
Mark Machin
DFAC Basketball

