

RICHMOND GUARDIANS

BASKETBALL

HANDBOOK



GUARDIANS BASKETBALL



This handbook is intended to serve as the Guardians Basketball program guidelines and key principles outline. The Richmond Guardians reserves the right to clarify, interpret, and alter the statements in this handbook as the athletic season progresses.

The Richmond Guardians Program, playing under the name of Richmond Guardians, is a Christian-based program.

Guiding Scripture

The guiding principle for the Richmond Guardians Program comes directly from Proverbs 4:23: "Above all else, guard your heart..."

Vision Statement

The vision of the Richmond Guardians is to prepare student-athletes spiritually, physically, and mentally, both on and off the field of play.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Richmond Guardians is to develop young people of high character who wish to compete athletically to the best of their abilities.

The Four C's

The Richmond Guardians operate under four pillars. We are a CHRISTIAN organization, centered on providing a COMPETITIVE experience, where athletes grow in both skill and CHARACTER. In addition, the organization is a COMMUNITY in which all involved are considered valuable members and contributors.



Teams

Teams

Girls' Basketball – Varsity (18U), Junior Varsity (16U), Middle School (14U)
Boys' Basketball – Varsity (18U), Junior Varsity (16U), Middle School (14U),
Elementary (12U)

Age and Participation Requirements

Participation and eligibility in the Richmond Guardians Program is limited to home-schooled students as defined by the National Christian Homeschool Championships as well as age and gender requirements. To view eligibility guidelines as set by NCHC visit <http://nchclive.com/guidelines>.

Eligibility for individual players is determined by the following age cutoffs:

Minimum Age – Students must have attained their 10th birthday before August 1.

Maximum Age – Students cannot have attained their 19th birthday before August 1.

* NOTE - Exceptions to the minimum age may be handled on a case-by-case basis

Team eligibility is based on the following age cut-offs:

12U – Players cannot have attained their 13th birthday before August 1.

14U – Players cannot have attained their 15th birthday before August 1.

16U – Players cannot have attained their 17th birthday before August 1.

18U – Players cannot have attained their 19th birthday before August 1.



Competition

League Affiliation

The Richmond Guardians are active members of the Ohio River Homeschool Conference (ORHC). ORHC membership ties the Richmond Guardians directly to their rules and standards. As members, Richmond Guardians understand that it has necessarily agreed to follow these rules and standards during competition.

Player Agreement

The players of the Richmond Guardians are athletes who desire to learn and compete in a sport, but who desire to do so in a supportive, loving, and fun atmosphere. Guardians players will commit to working hard, improving their individual skills, and supporting & respecting their teammates and coaches.



Playing Time

The Richmond Guardians Program is a 'Pay to Participate' organization. This is different from a 'Pay to Play' organization. As such, the Richmond Guardians' payment assures that each player, with dedicated effort and attendance, regardless of skill level, will receive attention and training in practice and other dedicated activities. Payment does not assure anything with respect to playing time in officiated games.

Often seen as “athletes in development”, the Richmond Guardians views 12U and 14U players differently than 18U and 16U players. 12U and 14U players are the future of the Guardians program. Because of this, these athletes are likely to experience more regular playing time, as well as practice decisions with a stronger focus on early-age player development.

During an officiated game, the coach may elect to play or not play certain players based on many factors. These include, but are not limited to, such things as the opponent, the game situation, the combination of skills needed, the attitude, the emotional/physical state of players, and practice attendance. No player is guaranteed any playing time, and occurrences may even arise where an individual player does not enter the game at all.

Playing time in officiated games is completely the coach's decision. The Richmond Guardians work under the guideline that “a player may ask to come out of the game, but never to go into the game.”

A request to enter the game necessarily is a request that a teammate is taken out, which of course is always a decision only to be determined by the coach.



Off Season

Sports Physicals

Every season each athlete will be required to get a sports physical.

The expense of the physical will be paid by the families of the athlete. If the athlete gets a sports physical for another sport they can use this as a valid physical for the Richmond Guardians organization as long as it took place during that year.

Off Season Workouts

The Richmond Guardians also offer off-season workouts/shootarounds to those athletes who choose to participate. The workouts typically run from June through the end of August and offer the option for athletes to improve themselves physically in preparation for the next season. Workouts will often occur weekly and are taught by the Guardians' coaches. The off-season workouts are always considered optional and are not a requirement to participate on the teams.



Standard of Conduct

Richmond Guardians players must always consider and pursue 'guarding the heart' for themselves, their teammates, their coaches, and all members of the Guardians family. Additionally, with Richmond Guardians being an active member of the ORHC (Ohio River Homeschool Conference), all athletes are required to adhere to ORHC guidelines, conduct, dress code, etc. Regardless of league or conference membership, all Guardians players are expected to hold Proverbs 4:23 as a backdrop. Richmond Guardians participants are expected to protect the organization, now and into the future, by "guarding" their own actions and words, on and off the court.

The following standards must be observed for one to continue as an active member of the Richmond Guardians.

Guardians players are expected to pursue a way of life that shows support, displays grace, and expresses love. These behaviors will be expected when interacting with Guardians teammates or others involved in the Guardians program, as well as fellow Christian and public school athletes.

No form of bullying, cocky, vulgar, demeaning, belittling, or similar conduct will ever be tolerated toward teammates, opponents, referees, coaches, or other families on or off the court. This includes displaying these behaviors using ANY FORM of social media such as Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, etc. In addition, all male athletes will be expected to show respect to Guardians female athletes as well as all female athletes in the league. Similarly, all Guardians female athletes will show respect to Guardians male athletes, as well as all male athletes in the league. Any form of threatening by a player will NOT be tolerated. The coaches, AD, and Guardians Board reserve the right to discipline and/or dismiss from the program any athlete who fails to comply with these standards.



Standard of Conduct cont.

If players are involved in a dispute, they must immediately work out problems amongst themselves. If they are unable to resolve their problem immediately, they must meet with the coaches until their problems are resolved. Problems between players must never be left unresolved.

Drugs, alcohol, vaping, and smoking are prohibited.

No inappropriate public displays of affection will be permitted at Guardian's events (quick hugs and hand-holding are acceptable.)

While the Guardians do not monitor or require any specific proof of successful academic performance, the organization fully supports our athletes' academic success as primary. Therefore, the AD, Guardians Board, and all coaches expect that athletes will prioritize their education. While at the same time, the hope is that students will manage their time wisely in order to be present and dependable as team members.

Handling Disputes

All disputes should be handled first by the individual parties involved in the dispute. If significant effort has been made to handle the dispute between individual parties and a resolution cannot be reached, the dispute should be brought forth to the Athletic Director or Board of Directors for resolution. Once brought forth to the Athletic Director or Board of Directors it is at their discretion how the dispute is handled for the betterment of the Guardians Organization.



Finances

Richmond Guardians' participation fees are currently made up of the following components:

All Players

Enrollment Fee - \$50

Shooting Shirt - \$30 (as needed, not annual)

12U/14U Players

Facility, Uniform & Insurance Fee - \$100

16U/18U Players

Facility, Uniform & Insurance Fee - \$150

Based on these components, the Participation costs per player are:

12U/14U - \$150-\$180

16U/18U - \$200-\$230

A discount will be provided for families with three or more children in the program.

Method of Payment:

Payments are accepted via cash, check, or PayPal.

Most athletes make full payment upon registration. However, if necessary, families may discuss a payment plan with the Guardians' AD or Guardians Board. Athletes **will not be able to play in games** until full payment is made or a payment plan has been set up and is up to date.



Fundraising

All fundraising money or donations with Richmond Guardians are program-oriented and goes toward overall program costs now and into the future, including financial assistance. No fundraising money will be applied toward individual player fees except as specifically allocated for financial assistance. No player fee discounts will be provided except as allocated for financial assistance. This means that all player fees will remain fixed as stated above, except for cases where financial aid is granted. All players are expected to participate in fundraising activities, regardless of financial assistance needs, etc.

With fundraising considered a “team activity”, it necessarily implies an investment in the long-term nature of the program. With that as a backdrop, it will remain clear that anyone who sees Richmond Guardians as the right fit for them, yet needs assistance financially, will have an avenue to discuss and receive aid in privacy and trust. The Richmond Guardians are committed to working diligently, privately, and creatively to find a way for all who passionately want to participate.



Uniforms

Athletic tuition covers the cost of the use of game uniforms. Some sports may require additional uniform pieces or equipment not covered by athletic fees. Coaches will inform the parents and athletes of the additional items needed.

Game uniforms will be issued at the beginning of the season and must be returned at the end of the season. Parents will be charged replacement costs for any uniform not returned by the established due date. Parents will also be charged replacement costs for any uniform not returned in good condition.

Any undershirt that is worn during games must be the same color as the uniform (**Maroon/Away, White/Home**).

Any additional basketball apparel that is worn during home or away games must be white or black (sleeves, knee pads, etc.)



Contact

The Richmond Guardians make use of various forms of communication. Email is often used. We also use an app called GameChanger to communicate game and practice schedules. The

AD or Guardians Board Members will notify parents and team members of the communication methods to be used each season.

email: richmondguardians@gmail.com

website: <https://richmondguardians.com>



Standard of Conduct: Players/Parent

The following standards must be observed for one to continue as an active member of the Guardians.

1. Guardians players/parents are expected to pursue a way of life that shows support, displays grace, and expresses love. These behaviors will be expected when interacting with Guardians teammates or others involved in the Guardians program, as well as fellow Christian athletes in our league.
2. No form of bullying, cocky, vulgar, demeaning, belittling or similar conduct will ever be tolerated toward teammates, opponents, referees, coaches, or other families on or off the court. This includes displaying these behaviors using social media such as Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. In addition, all male athletes will be expected to show respect to Guardians female athletes, as well as all female athletes in the league. The coaches and AD reserve the right to discipline athletes who fail to comply with these standards.
3. If players/parents are involved in a dispute, they must immediately work out problems amongst themselves. If they are unable to resolve their problem immediately, they must meet with the coaches until their problems are resolved. Problems between players must never be left unresolved.
4. Drugs, alcohol, and smoking are prohibited always.
5. No inappropriate public displays of affection will be allowed at Guardian's events. (quick hugs and hand-holding are acceptable.)
6. Successful academic performance is required. This means maintaining at least "C" average during the prior semester.
7. Players must show up for team commitments unless communicated to the coach.
8. Players/Parents must be on time for team and program commitments unless communicated to the coach.
9. Players must immediately report all physical injuries or illnesses to their head coach. The preference is for injuries or illnesses to be handled between the player and coach, but circumstances may warrant parent involvement.
10. Players are required to take proper care of all equipment, keeping uniforms clean and neat.
11. While competing, players are encouraged to have fun on the basketball court.

Player Name (print): _____

Player Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian 1 Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Signature: _____

Date: _____



Standard of Conduct: Coaches

1. Guardians coaches, by nature of their position of influence and authority, will be held to the highest standards of conduct. Guardians coaches are expected to exemplify the characteristics upheld by the organization and to be role models of the values being taught to the athletes.
2. Guardian coaches are expected to pursue a way of life that shows support, displays grace, and expresses love. These behaviors will be expected when interacting with Guardian families or others involved in the Guardians program.
3. No form of bullying, cocky, vulgar, demeaning, belittling, or similar conduct will ever be tolerated toward teammates, opponents, referees, coaches, or other families on or off the court. This includes displaying these behaviors using social media such as Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.
4. If coaches are involved in a dispute, they must immediately work out problems amongst themselves. If they cannot resolve their problem immediately, they must meet with the Athletic Director or Board of Directors until their problems are resolved. Issues between coaching staff, or coaches and parents, must never be left unresolved.
5. Coaches must communicate often and effectively with the players, families, Athletic Director, and Board of Directors. Healthy communication can avoid many misunderstandings. Coaches should be open and approachable-willing to have discussions with players and families that will lead to healthy relationships and outcomes for the team.
6. Coaches must understand the specific culture in which they are coaching. This means they know the population they are serving- a group of closely knit homeschooled Christian athletes from central Kentucky. While the organization strives to better our athletes on the court, compete at a high level, and win games, we will not do so at the expense of our core values of support, grace, and love.
7. Coaches are encouraged to have fun when they are coaching at both practice and games.

Coach Name (print): _____

Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____