

DALLAS THUNDER

Homeschool Basketball



dallasthunder.org

**Policy and Procedure Manual
2017-2018 Season**

Dallas Thunder

2017- 2018 Policy and Procedure Manual

Policy and Procedure Manual	1
Dallas Thunder	2
2017- 2018 Policy and Procedure Manual	2
Our Mission Statement	3
Our Basketball Goals	4
Team Details:	5
Player Participation	6
Player Fees	7
Mandatory Fundraising	7
Financial Agreement	8
Code of Conduct	8
Grievance Policy	9
Volunteers	10
Board of Directors	11
Eligibility	12
Contact Information & Responsibilities	14

Our Mission Statement

Dallas Homeschool Basketball, Inc. was founded in 2003 to provide Dallas area home schooled students with the opportunity to develop their basketball skills in a competitive basketball environment. In order to help our students strengthen their Christian walk and develop Christ-centered relationships, we combine the leadership of experienced, paid and volunteer coaches with that of our believing parents to model Christian values.

Our Mission Objectives

Matthew 6:33 *But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* **We put God first, family second, schoolwork third and, we hope each family will place basketball fourth.**

2 Timothy 2:15 *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.* **We will strive as an organization, as a team, as individual players and parents to be the best we can be.**

1 Corinthians 9:25a *Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.* **We will win or lose as an organization. Victories and losses are to be shared.**

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.* **Team play and teammate support is to be encouraged and cherished.**

Philippians 3:14 *I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.* **Competition serves to measure ability, hard work, determination, focus, training and teamwork, all of which we will strive to improve upon. As a Christian we must strive not to win at all cost but for Him at all cost. We play as a team and we must strive to show Christ in all we do on and off the court.**

2 Timothy 2:15a *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved.* **We, as a homeschool organization, must demonstrate to others the values we hold dear. We want our competitors to see Christ through our actions, as well as our voices on the court and in the stands.**

Proverbs 20:7 *The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.* **We recognize ourselves as a Christian organization and expect each player and parent to conduct themselves in a manner becoming of Christ.**

Our Basketball Goals

1. Develop and model character qualities fitting of Christian athletes (God first, family second, school third, basketball fourth).
2. Play competitive basketball, while also providing maximum opportunity for every child to learn, grow, and gain game experience.
3. Develop outstanding individual and team basketball skills.

Team Details:

Dallas Thunder continually seeks to grow and improve as an organization. We strive to provide the maximum amount of opportunity to every player in the organization, regardless of skill level.

1. In the event any age group has enough players to form multiple teams, it is solely the duty of the head coach of that team to decide which player is on what team (ie: more than one varsity boys team and if so who will be on varsity boys blue and who will be on varsity boys white, etc.). Any player refusing to play on their assigned team will be addressed by the head coach.
2. The Thunder leadership board must be notified by January 1st of each player's participation in nationals. We have to know who is going so we know which teams to register and pay for. If you have not committed to going by January 1st it will be assumed you are not going and you will not be included on the roster for your team.
3. If any team has fewer than 6 players, Thunder will not register that team. Instead, Thunder will provide the players on this team the opportunity to play on a "Team Texas" team at Big South Regional or "Team USA" team at Nationals. Teams with exactly 6 players will be discussed and handled on a case-by-case basis.
4. To be included on a team roster count, each player must be of the correct age to play on a given team. Players "playing up" will not be counted on the roster as game schedule conflicts are likely to arise at regionals and nationals.
5. Rosters for each team will be solidified by mid October. After that time each team's roster will be set except for players arriving new to the organization.
6. Player's registration and tuition must be paid in full by 12/30 in order to participate in the Big South Regional and National Championship tournaments. See the Financial Agreement for details.

Player Participation

Description	10U	12U	14U	JV	Varsity
Level of Play	Developmental	Developmental	Developmental/ Competitive	Competitive	Competitive
Regular Season Games & Practices	14-16 Games ~50- 2 hr practices	16-20 Games ~50- 2 hr practices	20- 25 Games 50- 2 hour practices	35-40 Games 50- 2 hour practices	35-40 Games 50- 2 hour practices
Regular In Season Tournaments	With League	With League + 1	Approximately 2 per team	Approximately 2 per team	Approximately 2 per team
Post Season: Regional & National	3-5 games *Regionals only	7-9 games	8-10 games	8-10 games	8-10 games
Team Structure	Boys & Girls Teams	Boys & Girls Teams	Boys & Girls Teams	Boys & Girls Teams	Boys & Girls Teams
Ages as of 9/1/17	8-10 years old *7-year-olds may be eligible	11-12 years old	13-14 years old, *14-year old 9 th graders may play high school ball	14-18 years old	14-18 years old
Teams	10U	12U	14U	Some combination of 16U (JV) and 18U (Varsity) as decided by head coach	
Minimum/Maximum Team Size	Minimum- 6 Maximum- 10 players/team				
Player Development Available for Every Player	May be necessary to have more than one team based on the number of players				
Players team responsibility	Players primary responsibility is to play at their age appropriate level, may play up			All high school players will play on a 16U (JV) or 18U (Varsity) team as decided by head coach	
Team rosters	Rosters will be announced the third week of October				
Playing Time	Minimum amount guaranteed	No minimum guaranteed, playing time is earned			

Player Fees

Description	10U	12U	14U	JV	Varsity
Season Tuition	\$250	\$325	\$375	\$650	\$650
Registration Fee due by 8/26/17	\$150	\$175	\$175	\$200	\$200
Late Registration Fee	\$175	\$200	\$200	\$250	\$250
Monthly Fee	Is the tuition value above divided by the number of payment months selected upon registration: two or five.				
Fundraising	Done through the Big Serve Event . Mandatory \$200 per player (\$500 max per family) All money raised goes to Thunder's budget to cover budgeted costs, not to reduce a player's fee.				
Payment Plan	Review the Financial Agreement for more details and please contact the Treasurer for questions Participation Fee is based on the team the player participates on, not the player's age.				
Methods of Payment	Paypal is preferred method of payment but Cash and Check are options. See how to pay http://dallashomeschoolbasketball.org/how-to-pay.html Paypal email is payments@dallasthunder.c				

Mandatory Fundraising

There is 1 Mandatory Fundraiser: The Big Serve on a Saturday from 9am - 1pm

Dallas Thunder covers approximately 70% of its operating budget through Participation Fees, which makes successful fundraisers an integral part of our program. Since every family benefits equally from the financial results of the fundraisers, through meeting budget requirements, it is important that every family makes their best effort to ensure fundraisers are as successful as possible. Families must raise a total of \$200/player (\$500 max per family) in the mandatory fundraisers for the year. Families may "opt out" of raising funds for a donation of \$200/player. The player and family are needed to participate in the service projects day of the event even if they opted to pay the \$200/player fee.

Optional Fundraising

Additional fundraising dollars can be earned and applied to your player account (not including The Big Serve) through Yellowbook and Scrip. Player accounts with a credit balance are not eligible to receive a refund. Extra funds can be applied towards future expenses. For example, to pay future participation fees, off-season skill fees, and to purchase Spirit Wear. If a player with a credit balance stops playing for Thunder, any money left over in their account will be moved to the general fund and will not be refunded. If you have interest in fundraising to lower your player fees, please contact the fundraiser coordinator.

Financial Agreement

As part of becoming a Dallas Thunder player, it is required for all families sign the Financial Responsibility Agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to ensure that all Dallas Thunder parents have read and understand the financial commitments required to participate with Dallas Thunder. Their respective signature(s) affirms this understanding and promise to fulfill ALL necessary financial commitments to support the organization. This Financial Responsibility Agreement document includes a promise, from / by each family, to pay the registration, tuition and fundraising that is required.

1. Registration must be paid by the first practice, to start practices.
2. Registration and the first payment must be paid to get a uniform issued.
3. Registration and the first and second payment must be paid to start playing games in November.
4. Players must be paid in full by December 31st in order to play in games in January and post season tournaments.

Code of Conduct

In joining the Dallas Thunder basketball team, I agree to uphold the following program rules:

1. I will demonstrate the character quality of attentiveness by listening to the instructions of my coaches.
2. I will demonstrate the character quality of faithfulness by attending all practices and games that I possibly can, and I will use my best efforts to notify a coach or team coordinator ahead of time should any absence be necessary.
3. I will demonstrate the character quality of orderliness by submitting to the following dress codes:
Thunder players will not wear jewelry during practices or games.
Thunder players will maintain a clean-cut appearance during the season
Thunder players will wear a practice jersey (shirt and shorts) during entire practice and change clothes in the locker room
Thunder players will dress appropriately for all practices, games, and Thunder events.
4. I will maintain a positive, teachable attitude at all times regardless of the situation.
5. I will demonstrate the character quality of self-control by not participating in the use of profane language, alcohol, tobacco, or drugs. I will control my temper and demonstrate patience with others, especially opponents and officials.
6. I will demonstrate the character quality of discipline by following any and all rules established by my team and coaches.
7. I will honor the organization's curfew on all road trips including tournament games. I understand players must be in their rooms by curfew and in bed by midnight.
8. I will not place any negative or inappropriate content on Facebook or any other social media. This includes the use of profanity or any other content that does not reflect a Christ-like attitude. We do have parents who monitor this.

9. I will ensure my actions at all Thunder events honor God and are respectful of the other players and families in the organization. I understand not every family holds the same set of values and actions that may seem fine to some offer offense to others. We must make every effort not to offer any offense.

10. I will maintain a servant's attitude and serve at the mandatory fundraiser and in other ways to help Thunder (i.e. during home games at concession stand, HS players taking stats, clock, game book).

Grievance Policy

In joining the Dallas Thunder basketball team, I agree to uphold the following grievance policy:

GRIEVANCE PROCESS: There are two aspects of this Grievance Process. The first is when a player and/or parent has an issue or concern with a coach or team. The second is when the coach has an issue with a parent or player. In both circumstances, Dallas Thunder's goal is to follow scripture to resolve all issues.

PLAYER OR PARENT -If a player and/or parent has a concern or issue with a coach, the following procedure will be followed:

STEP 1 -The player should discuss the concern with his or her coach and work to a mutually agreeable solution. Players and parents should contact the coach before or after practice and never before/after or during a game. All of our coaches should be considered approachable. Dallas Thunder strives to ensure all coaches are willing to listen to a player's concern. Until the coach is made aware of the concern / issue, nothing can be done to alleviate it. To benefit the player, it is preferred to avoid waiting until the end of the season to voice a concern.

STEP 2 -If the concern / issue is not resolved to the player's satisfaction, the player and his/her Parents may make an appointment to speak privately with the coach and a member of the Basketball Committee: Chris Kendall - basketball@dallasthunder.org, Marc Verduin, or John Lowrie).

STEP 3 -If a solution is still not reached, a player or parent can contact the President at President@dallasthunder.org to set up a meeting with the player, parents, coach, and the Basketball Committee.

STEP 4 -Agree to disagree. If a solution is still not reached, a player or parent can elect to resign as a player of Dallas Thunder.

COACH -If a coach has a concern or issue with a parent or player, the following procedure will be followed:

STEP 1 -The coach will verbally express their concern / issue with parent or player and the High School girls/boys Head Coach. If the coach is the High School girls/boys Head Coach, they will have an assist coach attend. A review of Dallas Thunder Code of Conduct is suggested.

STEP 2 -If the concern / issue recurs, the Coach will schedule a meeting between the coach, player, parent and Basketball Committee. A warning to the parent or player that continued behavior could impact their practice, games or tournaments.

STEP 3 -If the parent or player behavior continues to be inconsistent with the "Dallas Thunder Player and Parent Code of Conduct", the Coach and Board of Directors will issue the parent or player an official ejection from the practice, game or tournament and/or program. There is no appeal process. The Parent and Player Code of Conducts are the guiding principles for determining what is or is not inappropriate behavior.

Volunteers

We count on our volunteers to make our program efficient and affordable. Therefore, every family is required to provide volunteers to serve in one of the following capacities below or on an organizational level. Minimum requirement for volunteering if not in assigned team duty is 1 hour a week (serve during the game).

Per team:

Game duties:

1. *Team Statistics Keeper:* Two individuals are needed for each team. Stats are taken for each game and submitted to the coach. Stats such as rebounds, shots attempted, shots made, assists, turnovers, free throws, 3 point shots, steals, blocks, and defensive tips are recorded. This job is easier in teams of two, with one individual to watch and call out information and one individual to record information. Stat sheets will be provided but phone or tablet apps are available to use for recording as well. Stat Chief will be assigned so all varsity games should be turned into that person to upload them into the system.
2. *Team Official Book Keeper:* One or more individuals should be identified per team. This individual sits at the score table and marks the official book with fouls, running score, and time outs, as well as confirming jersey numbers in the official book. Final scores and key game stats should be emailed to the Thunder Publicist immediately after each game. The official book is provided.
3. *Team Clock Keeper:* One individual per team is needed to run the clock for Thunder home games and during some tournament games.

Team duties:

4. *Team Admin:* Team Admin maintain contact with the team parents for game changes, game reminders, and communication from the Leadership team. At each game, the Team Admin confirms that stat sheets and the official book are maintained, works to find volunteers to take pictures and video of each game.
5. *Spirit Team Parent:* Team parent works to make sure their team has the option to purchase spirit shirts, collects items from each player for a goodie bag, works with team to create spirit door sign.
6. *Uniform Team Parent:* Team parent works with Uniform coordinator to size and fit each player on their team, collect paperwork and deposit checks.
7. *Team Videographer:* One individual per team is needed to take game video, make copies for the coaches, and works on a highlight video for the end of the season Banquet.
8. *Team Photographer:* One or more individuals per team are needed to capture still photos of games, tournaments, events, etc. Photographers provide photos to their team and the website admin.

Home game duties:

9. *Concessions:* Team workers to manage concessions for home games.
 10. *Admissions:* Team workers to collect money for admissions for home games.
- *we try to schedule for the game before or after your player's game if possible.

Board of Directors

If you are interested in being a member of the Board of Directors Team, let a member know immediately following the season. Board of Directors members terms are 3 years and expire in March. Priority will go to Board of Director member whose terms have expired, but wish to remain on the Team. If there are openings, a member will discuss the openings and required duties with those interested to establish continued interest and report discussions to the Board of Directors Team. The Board of Directors Team will elect new members based on a candidate's ability and willingness to complete their assigned duties.

- To be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors Team, candidates must have a minimum of one full year tenure in the organization.
- Leadership members are required to take a leadership role in a specific duty, i.e., Scheduling, Web/Media, Uniform/Spirit Wear, Marketing/Publicist, Fundraising, Senior/Events, Home Games.
- You must be able to attend approximately 12 meetings per year.
- Members average between 10-15 hours a week to complete their respective duties.
- Member's position is volunteer and does not offer discounts on tuition or financial benefits.

"If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ..."
1 Peter 4:11(NIV)

Basketball Committee

The committee is headed by Chris Kendall with Marc Verduin and John Lowrie, and High School Girls/Boys Head Coaches. Please review the grievance policy for the detailed process to handle any issues during the season.

Dallas Thunder Communications Process

The primary means of communicating information to Dallas Thunder players and families is our web site at www.dallasthunder.org. The web site has the most current information on practice times and dates, scheduled games, as well as announcements about other Dallas Thunder activities and opportunities. *PLAYERS AND FAMILIES SHOULD BE IN THE HABIT OF CHECKING THE WEB SITE ON A WEEKLY BASIS.*

Dallas Thunder also uses a private Facebook group and email to communicate with players and families when appropriate. Feel free to contact any Leadership Team Member with any questions or comments you may have. Contact information is located on the last page of this manual or on the website under the Our Organization tab.

Please notify Dallas Thunder if your e-mail address changes info@dallasthunder.org.

Home Games

Home games will predominately be played in January and February, to coincide with UIL and TAPPS playoffs, which severely limit the number of potential opponents we can play. A "home game" simply means we pay court rental fees and referee fees (which average \$125-\$200/game) to host a game. To offset these additional costs, it may be necessary for Dallas Thunder to charge a small admission fee to all who attend the home games, with the obvious exception of coaches and players. Please be aware that we are only renting the gym;

please keep your children in the gym. Additionally, Dallas Thunder will sell a limited number of concession items in an effort to further reduce the overall cost.

Eligibility

In preparation for Post Season Tournament play, it is our intent to adhere to the eligibility requirements of the National Christian Homeschool Basketball Championships (NCHBC). *However, during the Regular Season, there may be instances when these rules are not strictly enforced; not to win a game, but to assist in player development. An example being, a 17 year old playing on the JV team.*

NCHBC Eligibility

Academics

Each member team and/or program shall have standards in place to make sure that all participating players maintain at least a 2.0 GPA (on a 4 point scale) during the active season. The active season is defined as October through March of the following year. For example, the 2017-2018 active season begins October 2017 and ends March 2018.

Age Restrictions

Boys and Girls 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under, and 18 and under are the five different age groups offered. A player's age group is determined by their age on September 1st each year. For example, a player who is 16 on September 1st, but turns 17 on October 5th is considered eligible to play in 16 and under age group at the Big South Regional and National Championships NCHBC. Keep in mind that Thunder allows 9th graders who are at least 14 to participate in the high school program. Anyone in 9th grade but younger than 14 is not eligible for the high school program. Likewise, anyone who is 14 but not yet in the 9th grade is not eligible for high school program. However, the head coach and basketball committee will evaluate on a case by case basis.

Transfer Students

HomeSchool Players may transfer to another HomeSchool program during the off-season and be eligible immediately. Off-Season is defined as before a team's first game. Any student who transfers from a public school, Christian/Private School, or another HomeSchool team because of disciplinary reasons must wait one year before they are eligible to participate in any NCHBC activity. Public and Private School transfer classifications are based on the grade the student was in at the school they are transferring from. What this means is that if they were a Junior at their previous school, they are considered an incoming Senior, if they "reclassify", they are still treated as an incoming Senior in terms of the following rules.

Incoming Freshman and Sophomores- are eligible immediately if they join a program before their team's first game.

Incoming Juniors who transfer to a HomeSchool team before the team's first game, are not eligible to play until they have sat out 30 days, starting with their team's 1st game.

Incoming Seniors who transfer to a HomeSchool team before the team's first game, are not eligible to play until they have sat out one full semester (Definition of "one full semester" October 15th-December 31st).

Any player joining a team after their season's first game will need to request a Hardship Exemption and there is no guarantee they will receive this hardship. As previously stated the goal of these rules is to establish incoming upperclassmen as HomeSchool Students first, before they are eligible for athletics. A player who has attended private or public school as a senior is still not eligible to participate in the NCHBC.

Home School Requirements

For a player to be considered home schooled, 51% of their education must arrive from at least one of the following sources:

- **Taught at home by the player's parents, grandparents and/or legal guardian.**
- **Taught at home by an older sibling of at least 18 years of age.**
- **Taught at home, or someone else's home, by another HomeSchool parent tutor, provided that it is done under the player's parent's supervision.**
- **Taught at a central location (i.e. a Home School coop classes) by a Home School parent or tutor, given that the player is still taught at least 51% by their parents, grandparents, and/or legal guardian regardless of location.**

A player is not home schooled if 50% of their education arrives from:

- **College or vocational/technical classes taken at non- HomeSchool institution.**
- **Classes from a Christian/Private school or a Public school**

A player that has participated in a graduation ceremony is not eligible to participate at Nationals.

To be eligible for participation in the National Christian HomeSchool Basketball Championships:

- **Players must be home schooled continuously from October 1st to the beginning of this year's tournament.**
- **Players must live at home with their legal guardian to be considered home schooled.**
- **Player must be US Citizen.**

A player may apply for a hardship exemption with the NCHBC for Post Season Tournament play.

Contact Information & Responsibilities

Board of Directors

**check website for most current information*

**Marc Verduin, President
Basketball Operations** **President@dallasthunder.org**

**Paul Leininger, Vice President
Marketing** **VP@dallasthunder.org**

**Wendy McClellan, Secretary
Communications & Registrar** **info@dallasthunder.org**

Michelle Brannon, Treasurer **payment@dallasthunder.org**

**Rene Holland, Apparel
Uniforms, practice jersey, Spirit Wear** **uniforms@dallasthunder.org
spiritwear@dallasthunder.org**

**Wendy McClellan, Events
Senior, Banquet,** **events@dallasthunder.org**

**TBD
Fundraising, Volunteer Coordinator** **fundraising@dallasthunder.org**

Coaches Information

Profiles on each coach are available on <http://dallashomeschoolbasketball.org/coaches.html>

**Administrative
TBD, Volunteer coordinator, fundraising** **fundraising@dallasthunder.org**

TBD, Home Game Concessions

Michelle Verduin, Scheduling **DallasThunschedule@gmail.com**