



[dallasthunder.org](http://dallasthunder.org)

**Policy and Procedure Manual**

2023-2024 Season

# Dallas Thunder

## Policy and Procedure Manual

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# 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

- We put God first, family second, schoolwork third and, we hope each family will place basketball fourth. *Matthew 6:33 But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*
- We will strive as an organization, as a team, as individual players and parents to be the best we can be. *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 win or lose as an organization. Victories and losses are to be shared. *1 Corinthians 9:25a Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.*
- Team play and teammate support is to be encouraged and cherished. *1 Thessalonians 5:11 So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.*
- 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. *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.*
- 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. *2 Timothy 2:15a Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved.*
- We recognize ourselves as a Christian organization and expect each player and parent to conduct themselves in a manner becoming of Christ. *Proverbs 20:7 The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.*

## 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.

## Who Can Join?

Dallas Thunder is a Christian homeschool basketball organization and members are homeschooling families who:

1. Make a season long commitment to the teams, coaches and the other Thunder families.
2. Are willing and able to volunteer during games and in other events where needed.
3. Have players who are at least **51%** homeschooled and meet the **NCHC [Guidelines](#)**
4. Have not left another homeschool organization or school for disciplinary reasons in the last 12 months.
5. Are willing to abide by our Athlete and Parent Commitments and Grievance Policy.

# Team Details

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 (i.e.: 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.).
2. The Thunder leadership team must be notified by December 1st if a player will not participate in Nationals. Payments are due at this time and teams are registered.
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, the player must be of the correct age to play on a given team or younger. For example a 12U player would need to be 12 or younger on September 1st of the given year.
5. Rosters for each team will be set up by October, except for players arriving new to the organization. Changes to the roster may occur during the season due to injury/sickness, organization changes, or by the coach's decision. Each player and family is expected to accept changes and adapt.
6. Player's tuition and fundraising must be paid in full to participate in the Big South Regional and National Championship tournaments. See the Financial Agreement for details.
7. The Dallas Thunder does not schedule in-season games on Sunday or Wednesday. There can be exceptions for league play. If a game has to be scheduled on a Wednesday or Sunday, Dallas Thunder respects a family's decisions not to play and the player will not be disciplined for not playing.
8. A team needs a minimum of 7 players to go to Nationals, a 6-player team must be approved by the Basketball Committee.

## Uniforms

Dallas Thunder families are responsible for the purchase, care, and needed replacement of game uniforms, including shooter shirts.

Blue/White reversible practice jerseys are required and should be purchased individually.

## Events

During the season additional events may be scheduled for players to participate in, but these events are not mandatory. The Dallas Thunder does not schedule events for Wednesday nights or on Sundays so there is not a conflict with church events.

Organization wide events typically include a fall Tip-Off picnic, Senior Night, home games, and our Awards Banquet. Individual teams may plan bonding activities, additional practices, volunteer opportunities, etc.

# Player Participation

\*The following historically represents a typical season but is subject to change and schedule confirmation.

Description	10U	12U	14U	JV	Varsity
Level of Play	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: District, Regional & National	6-8 games District & Regional only	11-15 games	11 -15 games	12-15 games	12-16 games
Team Structure	Boys & Girls Teams	Boys & Girls Teams	Boys & Girls Teams	Boys & Girls Teams	Boys & Girls Teams
Age as of Sept. 1st of current season	8-10 years old	11-12 years old	13-14 years old (8th grade or younger)	14-16 years old (9th grade and up)	14-18 years old
Teams	10U	12U	14U	Some combination of 16U (JV) and 18U (Varsity) as decided by head coach	
Team Size	Minimum of 6 players and a goal of 8-10 players per team				
Player Development	May be necessary to have more than one team based on the number of players				
Players team responsibility	Players are required to play at their age appropriate level. Players may be selected by the head coach to play up. The player's primary team as assigned by coaches, with parental consent, takes priority.			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 first week of October				
Playing Time	Minimum amount guaranteed		<b>No minimum guaranteed</b>		

# Player Fees

Description	10U	12U	14U	JV	Varsity
Season Tuition (first payment due before first practice in September)	\$500	\$599	\$699	\$999	\$999
Monthly Fee	Is the tuition value above divided by the number of payment months selected upon registration: one or three.				
Early Registration Discount Per Player if registering by 8/15th	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Late Fee for payments made after the first practice of the month	\$20				
Fundraising	Done through the Big Serve Event. Mandatory \$300 per player (\$600 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 primary team the player participates on, not the player's age.				
Methods of Payment	Zelle or fund transfer via digital invoice. See how to pay <a href="https://dallashomeschoolbasketball.org/dallas-thunder-how-to-pay-dallas-thunder">https://dallashomeschoolbasketball.org/dallas-thunder-how-to-pay-dallas-thunder</a> or contact <a href="mailto:payments@dallasthunder.org">payments@dallasthunder.org</a>				

## Mandatory Fundraising

Our mandatory fundraiser, the Big Serve, typically takes place the last Saturday in October from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. 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 \$300/player (\$600 max per family) in the mandatory fundraisers for the year.** Families may "opt out" of raising funds for a donation of \$300/player. The player and family are required to participate in the service project portion day of the event even if they opt to pay the \$300/player fee as a buyout.

# Financial Agreement

All families are required to review and sign this Financial Responsibility Agreement. This agreement is to ensure that all Dallas Thunder parents have read and understand the financial commitments required to participate with Dallas Thunder and that they will pay the tuition and fundraising as required. Payment plan options:

- Three Payments - Tuition payment due by first practice in September, October and November + Fundraiser due after the BIG Serve. Payments must be made to practice/play in a given month.
- One time payment - Tuition. Fundraiser is due at the date of the BIG serve
- One time payment - paid in full: Tuition + Fundraiser Buyout

If the payment plan is selected:

1. Tuition or the first tuition payment of 3 must be paid by the first practice in order to start practicing.
2. The second tuition payment must be paid by the first practice in October to continue practicing.
3. Third (final) tuition payment by the first practice in November to continue practicing or play in games and the fundraising amount is due after the BIG Serve.
4. Late Fees: Registrations after the first practice are required to pay a \$50 late fee. Tuition payments received after the first practice of the month are required to pay a \$20 late fee.

## Refund Policy

A complete Registration Application, Acceptance of the Application, and the first installment payment are required to practice.

- There will be a Parent-Coach Meetings within the first 15 days of practice to define expectations.
- If a family notifies the organization of withdrawal of a player within one day of the Parent-Coach Meeting, the organization will retain Tuition and Fees equal to 10% of the full-season Tuition and Fees and the balance will be refunded to the family.
- If a family notifies the organization of withdrawal of a player more than one day after the Parent-Coach meeting, Tuition and Fees will not be refunded. If the circumstances are beyond the control of the family, then refunds will be considered on an ad hoc basis upon request from the family.



# Athlete Commitment

In joining Dallas Thunder, I agree to the following:

1. I am home educated as defined in the NCHC guidelines.
2. I will demonstrate the following character qualities:
  - a. Attentiveness - I will listen to the instructions of my coaches.
  - b. Faithfulness – I will attend all practices and games and will give my best effort to notify a coach or team coordinator ahead of time should any absence be necessary.
  - c. Orderliness – I will follow the dress code:
    - i. Maintain a clean-cut appearance.
    - ii. Practice jersey is to be worn during all practices.
    - iii. No jewelry is to be worn during games or practices.
    - iv. Both uniforms (home and away) are to be brought to all games.
    - v. Dress modestly and appropriately for all Thunder events.
  - d. Self-control – I will:
    - i. Avoid the use of profane language.
    - ii. Refrain from fighting either physically or verbally.
    - iii. Avoid tobacco, alcohol or drug use.
  - e. Discipline - I will follow the rules that my coach establishes. I will keep up my grades and the quality of my schoolwork so that I maintain my eligibility and commitment to my team.
  - f. Good sportsmanship - I will use my words and actions to encourage and uplift my teammates and coaches.
3. I will submit to the coach's decisions regarding playing time and game decisions.
4. I understand that the coaches may establish or abolish team rules.
5. I will maintain a positive teachable attitude at all times regardless of the situation, including when I perceive the officiating to be unfair and whether we win or lose.
6. I understand that all technical fouls will be reviewed by coaches and leadership and will be addressed as needed.
7. I will approach my coach with any issues or concerns at an agreed upon time. I understand that **no coach is to be approached for conflict resolution prior to, during or after a game or practice without prearrangement. I will allow 24 hours to pass before engaging** so that all parties are in the right frame of mind.
8. I will refrain from placing any negative or inappropriate content on social media at all times, especially while in Dallas Thunder apparel or at any Dallas Thunder event. This includes any use of profanity and any other content that does not reflect a Christ-like attitude.
9. I will serve at the mandatory fundraiser and will complete volunteer hours as needed/required.
10. I will ensure my actions are respectful of other athletes and families. I understand that not every family holds the same set of values and actions that may seem fine to some offer offense to others. I will make every effort not to offer offense.
11. I understand that should athlete or parent fail to adhere to this commitment and the Grievance Policy my family is subject to a warning and discipline by the organization. Multiple violations of the rules may result in suspension or expulsion without any refund of fees.
12. I have read the Dallas Thunder Policy and Procedure Manual found on our website here:  
<https://dallashomeschoolbasketball.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/DallasThunder-PolicyProcedures-2021-2022.pdf>
13. I will follow this commitment and the Grievance Policy and all guidelines as stated in the Dallas Thunder Policy and Procedure Manual.

# Parent Commitment

In joining Dallas Thunder, I agree to the following:

1. I am currently home educating my child as defined in the NCHC guidelines.
2. I understand that Dallas Thunder provides more than playing time and my commitment to the team does not guarantee my child any amount of game participation.
3. I will submit to the coach's decisions regarding playing time and game decisions.
4. I understand that the coach may establish or abolish team rules.
5. I understand that all technical fouls will be reviewed by coaches and leadership and will be addressed as needed
6. I will approach my coach with any issues or concerns at an agreed-upon time. I understand that **no coach is to be approached for conflict resolution prior to, during, or after a game or practice without prearrangement. I will allow 24 hours to pass before engaging** so that all parties are in the right frame of mind.
7. I will demonstrate self-control and set a positive example by maintaining proper behavior as outlined in the DallasThunder code of conduct at all games and functions. This includes:
  - a. Demonstrating patience with others especially opponents, coaches, and referees including when I feel the officiating to be unfair or whether we win or lose.
  - b. Using my words and actions to promote sportsmanship, encouraging and uplifting players, coaches, and other families.
  - c. Managing my temper and avoiding the use of profane language.
  - d. Refraining from fighting either physically or verbally.
  - e. Avoiding alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.
8. If my athlete or I have a problem with another athlete or parent, I will talk with that parent or athlete's parent outside of practices or games to seek a resolution. I will allow 24 hours to pass as described above (see #6).
9. I will not take my concerns or issues about any team, player, or coach up with other parents or athletes.
10. I am committed to fostering unity within the Dallas Thunder organization. I understand that repeated incidents of creating division or discord may result in expulsion from the team.
11. I will refrain from placing any negative or inappropriate content on social media. This includes any use of profanity and any other content that does not reflect a Christ-like attitude.
12. I will serve at the mandatory fundraiser and will complete volunteer hours as needed/required.
13. I will ensure my actions are respectful of other athletes and families. I understand that not every family holds the same set of values and actions that may seem fine to some offer offense to others. I will make every effort not to offer offense.
14. I understand that should athlete or parent fail to adhere to this commitment and the Grievance Policy my family is subject to a warning and discipline by the organization. Multiple violations of the rules may result in suspension or expulsion without any refund of fees.
15. I have read the Dallas Thunder Policy and Procedure Manual found on our website here:  
<https://dallashomeschoolbasketball.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/DallasThunder-PolicyProcedures-2021-2022.pdf>
16. I will follow this commitment and the Grievance Policy and all guidelines as stated in the Dallas Thunder Policy and Procedure Manual.

# VOLUNTEER & COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

I understand that I am a volunteer/contractor for a non-profit organization, Dallas Thunder Homeschool Basketball (Dallas Thunder). I further understand that either the Dallas Thunder or I can sever this relationship at any time with or without notice or cause.

## General Conduct

1. I will abide by the standards of conduct set forth by the Dallas Thunder consistent with the mission and core values of the Dallas Thunder including portraying a good role model by maintaining a positive attitude of respect, patience, encouragement, integrity, courtesy, and maturity. <https://dallashomeschoolbasketball.org/code-of-conduct>
2. I will treat program participants of all races, religions, cultures, and backgrounds with the same respect and consideration.
3. I will appear clean, neat, and appropriately dressed.
4. I will not smoke, vape, or use tobacco products at Dallas Thunder practice facilities or during Dallas Thunder games, events and activities.
5. I will not use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at Dallas Thunder practice facilities or during Dallas Thunder games, events, and activities.
6. I will not use profanity, inappropriate jokes/gestures, intimate displays of affection towards others, sharing intimate details of one's personal life, offensive mannerisms (e.g., throwing things, flailing movements, foot-stomping) and/or any other kind of harassment in the presence of players, families, staff, or volunteers.
7. I will use positive techniques of guidance, including redirection, positive reinforcement, and encouragement, rather than comparison and criticism. I will abstain from humiliating or frightening types of disciplinary actions.
8. With regard to my personal use of online media I will use sound judgment and follow these guidelines:
  - o If you use the Dallas Thunder's name (including names of players or other programs) in any such communication, you should be especially careful to support and certainly not to harm or ridicule the Dallas Thunder's image or mission.
  - o Show respect for others and avoid making defamatory statements about Dallas Thunder members/participants, volunteers, clients, partners, affiliates and others, including **competitors**.

## Child Abuse Prevention Rules

1. I will not abuse players or participants in any manner, this includes physical (such as striking, spanking, shaking, or slapping), verbal (such as humiliating, degrading, threatening), sexual (such as inappropriate touch or verbal exchange or online exchange), mental (such as shaming or cruelty), or neglect (such as withholding food, water, basic care).
2. I will ensure adequate supervision of player to player interaction and will monitor and address any concerning youth behaviors I observe or any bullying between youth.
3. I will adhere to Dallas Thunder policies and best practices regarding appropriate physical, verbal, and electronic interactions with and about Dallas Thunder youth below:

Appropriate	Inappropriate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Side hugs, pats on the back, handshakes, high-fives, fist bumps, praise, and encouragement.</li> <li>● Small treats/gifts for the whole group/team.</li> <li>● Communicating official program-related information to youth/teens via group communications or via youth's parent/guardian.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tickling, wrestling, lap-sitting, rubbing, or massaging, piggyback rides, full-body contact hugs.</li> <li>● Giving individual gifts, isolated affection, or telling secrets.</li> <li>● Discussing personal information or complimenting a child's physique or body development.</li> <li>● Sexual or illicit topics, bullying/degrading.</li> <li>● Communicating directly with youth/teens electronically or telephonically or isolating them in person.</li> </ul>

4. I will not solicit contact with program participants outside of Dallas Thunder sanctioned program times or events, this includes but is not limited to mentoring the child outside of the program, babysitting, offering rides, etc. Incidental contact with Dallas Thunder program participants due to neighborhood relationships, carpools, or child friendships, etc. are part of any community, however, volunteers should ensure their own child and/or the child's parent or guardian is present in these circumstances. Also, private one-on-one coaching and/or training with a Dallas Thunder coach who is under contract (during the season) requires a waiver.
5. I will not possess, obtain, view, download, distribute, etc. any sexually-oriented, offensive/objectionable, or inappropriate materials.
6. I will use reasonable judgment to avoid being in a one-on-one situation with a child where they cannot be observed by others. If an emergency requires or I find myself in a one-on-one situation with a child I will take immediate action to protect myself and the child including, but not limited to, the following steps:
  - I will attempt to eliminate being one-on-one by moving into the view of others, asking a person to stay with me, or calling a parent or coach person to be on the phone with me until another person is present.
  - I will avoid physical touch unless it is an emergency or necessary to protect the child from harm.
  - I will document and immediately report the details of the situation to the Basketball Committee.
7. The Dallas Thunder will report any situation or behavior that is concerning in any manner or inconsistent with the Dallas Thunder Child Abuse Prevention rules to the appropriate authorities.
8. I will be aware of and report to a Dallas Thunder Leadership Team any signs of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse, or neglect.
9. I will monitor the actions of other coaches, volunteers, and adults and will bring any behavior that is concerning in any manner or inconsistent with the Dallas Thunder Child Abuse Prevention standards to the attention of the Dallas Thunder Leadership Team. All reports of inappropriate behaviors or suspicions of abuse will be taken seriously and will be reported, in accordance with state law, to law enforcement, Child Protective Services, or other appropriate agency.
10. I will immediately report any suspicion or allegation of abuse or neglect to local law enforcement and Child Protective Services by calling 800-252-5400. I understand by law I am a mandated reporter.
11. I will fully and unconditionally cooperate with all internal and third-party investigations related to any complaint, concern, or allegation of child abuse or otherwise.
12. I understand the Dallas Thunder will pursue the prosecution of child abuse to the full extent of Texas state laws. Any person accused or reported will be placed on temporary suspension pending the outcome of the investigation. This code of conduct and

behavior standards may be updated from time to time at the sole discretion of the Dallas Thunder, with or without prior notice. When revisions are made the updated version will replace the previous one.

## Grievance Policy

The Dallas Thunder Grievance policy seeks to follow the Biblical plan for conflict resolution with a goal of restored relationship and unity. Unresolved conflict leads to problems, bitterness, broken relationships, and division.

General guidelines for grievances are as follows:

1. Grievances are handled on an individual basis.
2. Grievances must be submitted between September 1 and May 1 of the season in which the offense occurred. Basketball Committee members and Board members are all volunteering their time and are unavailable during summer months.
3. If reconciliation is not reached after all steps of the Grievance Policy have been followed, the Basketball Committee will make a decision and that decision will be final.

If a parent or athlete has a concern or complaint about a coach the following steps are to be followed:

4. The athlete and/or parent should discuss the concern with the coach and work to a mutually agreeable solution. Until a coach is made aware of an issue, nothing can be done to alleviate it. Athletes and parents are to request a meeting with the coach at a mutually agreed-upon time. **Never approach a coach before/during/after a practice or game to discuss conflicts unless the conversation has been prearranged.** To benefit the player, it is recommended to avoid waiting until the end of the season to discuss concerns.

“If your brother or sister sins against you go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.” Matthew 18:15

5. If the concern is not resolved, the athlete and parents may make an appointment to speak privately to the coach and a member of the Basketball Committee.

“But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” Matthew 18:16

6. If a solution is still not reached, the athlete or parent may make an appointment to meet with the athlete, parents, coach, and Basketball Committee.

“If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church...” Matthew 18:17a

7. If no solution can be reached, the athlete or parent may elect to resign from Dallas Thunder without a refund of fees. The athlete and parent should be aware that the abandonment policy will apply if they choose to resign.

<https://dallashomeschoolbasketball.org/abandonment-policy/>

# Abandonment Policy

Abandonment is defined as when a player **leaves a team during the season**. The season is defined as the day after the parent-coach meeting through the day of the last game of the season. The last game is the last game at Nationals, unless the family notifies Thunder Leadership before December 1st that they are not attending, in that case it would be the last game of regionals. The purpose of this policy is to encourage players to consider the team before themselves, to emphasize the importance of continuity for a team, and to encourage our families **not to quit, but to work out differences per the Grievance Policy**.

If a player abandons the team during the season by preference (for example the player wants another coach, different playing time, or to play for a different organization) then the player will not be considered for registration until *after the next full season*, but will only be accepted upon approval by vote of the Dallas Thunder Leadership Team.

If a player leaves the organization before or after the season, then this is not considered abandonment. The player is permitted to re-apply the next season per normal registration protocol.

If a player leaves the team because of a higher priority than basketball (1. God, 2. Family, 3. School) and has NOT broken any policies, then this is not considered abandonment. The player is permitted to re-apply the next season per normal registration protocol.

# Background Checks

All Caretakers of players and the Dallas Thunder Board and Basketball Committee will be subject to a criminal background check. Caretakers include volunteer assistant coaches and coaches, including parent volunteers in supervisory roles with players. The following is a list of automatic disqualifiers. Other reasons to disqualify a candidate are at the discretion of the Dallas Thunder Basketball Committee.

Automatic disqualifiers:

1. The volunteer refuses to complete the screening process
2. Sex offenses and misconduct
3. Violent felonies
4. Felonies (other than sex or violence related) within the past 10 years
5. Any child abuse or domestic violence convictions
6. Misdemeanors within the past seven years excluding traffic violations

Additionally, pending convictions and/or arrests for the above items will be considered as a disqualifier.

# Financial Hardship Approval Procedure

In the 2018/2019 season, the Dallas Thunder Board established a financial hardship fund to allow the organization to provide some relief to families who want to join The Dallas Thunder for the upcoming season but may be prevented from doing so due to a temporary financial hardship. The following procedures will be followed by the Board to disburse the financial hardship funds:

1. During the application process for each upcoming season, families will be notified of the availability of financial assistance, including a deadline for application.
2. Collect financial hardship assistance requests in the application process.
3. After the deadline for making application for financial assistance has passed, convene the Board to review:
  - a. Financial assistance applications
  - b. Summary of financial assistance requested (Total amount requested)
  - c. Financial hardship assistance account balance available for the current year
4. In general, the Board shall approve or reject applications and set a Maximum Percentage of fees + fundraising which the organization will provide to approved applicants as assistance. The Maximum Percentage shall not exceed 50%.
5. Assistance will be provided in an amount equal to that Maximum Percentage to those applicants requesting that percentage or greater and in an amount equal to the percentage requested to those applicants requesting a smaller percentage than the Maximum Percentage.
6. Each season, financial hardship assistance of no more than 90% of the financial hardship assistance account balance will be committed, leaving at least 10% of the pre-assistance balance to carry over to the following season.
7. The board will vote per normal voting procedures on all the solicited hardships and two thirds approval is required to pass the assistance.
8. The board will approve and communicate all hardship scholarships before the first practice of the year.

## Volunteers

Every family is required to provide volunteers to serve in at least 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 Official Bookkeeper:** 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.
2. **Team Clock Keeper:** One individual per team is needed to run the clock for Thunder home games and during some tournament games.

#### **Team duties:**

3. **Team Admin:** Team Admins 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, and posts team updates to social media.
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 and works with team to create spirit door sign.
6. **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.
7. **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:**

8. **Concessions:** Team workers to manage concessions for home games.
9. **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.

#### 10. **Set up/Clean up**

**\*Additional ways to volunteer include Fundraising, Special Events, Newsletter, Sign Up Genius Coordinator, Spirit Wear, Social Media, etc.**

# Board of Directors

Board of Directors member terms are 3 years and expire in March. Members can be extended by a 2/3 vote for up to two additional years before taking at least one year off. Priority will go to Board of Director members whose terms have expired, but wish to remain on the Team. The Board of Directors Team will elect new members based on a candidate's contributions, ability, attitude, demonstrating a servant's heart, 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 season 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 or others.
- You must be able to attend approximately 12 meetings per year.
- Members average between 10-15 hours a month to complete their respective duties.
- Members position is as a 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

This committee is responsible for the basketball operations and all violations of the Parent/Athlete Commitments, Code of Conduct, Abandonment Policy, and the Grievance Policy. Please review the grievance policy for the detailed process to handle any issues during the season. You may contact them with any questions or concerns at [basketball@dallasthunder.org](mailto:basketball@dallasthunder.org).

## Dallas Thunder Communications Process

The primary means of communicating information to Dallas Thunder players and families is email and TeamApp. The most up to date schedule can be found on TeamApp (official calendar tab) as well as our website, [dallasthunder.org](http://dallasthunder.org). Dallas Thunder also uses Facebook and Instagram 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 website.

**Please notify Dallas Thunder if your email address changes [info@dallasthunder.org](mailto:info@dallasthunder.org).**

## Home Games

A "home game" simply means we pay court rental fees and referee fees to host a game. To offset these additional costs, the Dallas Thunder will 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 and under your watch. Additionally, Dallas Thunder will sell a limited number of concession items in an effort to further cover the 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

“Homeschooling” is defined as a student’s education that is parent-directed and done at home.

Clarification: The Online at Home rule excludes students enrolled in their local school district who are doing school online. If a player does not meet all the requirements below, they may fill out a [Hardship Exemption Form](#) to request an exemption.

### Basic Eligibility Rules

1. Grades: Each member team and/or program shall have standards to ensure that all participating players maintain at least a 2.0 GPA (on a 4-point scale) during the active season.
2. HomeSchooled Continuously: Must be HomeSchooled continuously from the start of the school year. If a student started the year in school, they must request a [Hardship Exemption](#).
3. Age Cut Off: A player’s age group is determined by his/her age on September 1.
4. A player is only eligible to play in the gender division that the player was born, as recorded on their original birth certificate - No exceptions.
5. 1st Game Policy: Players must begin playing on their team before the team’s 1st game. Any players seeking to join a team after the 1st game must request a [Hardship Exemption](#).
6. A player that has *already* participated in a graduation ceremony is not eligible to participate at NCHC events.
7. Pre-Approval (requested by [Hardship Exemption](#) six or more weeks in advance, is possible, for student-athlete(s) who are participating in ceremonies to celebrate the completion of their classes in a *coop*. These individuals may receive a “Certificate of Completion” (NOT a diploma). In these situations, student-athlete(s) may wear a cap and gown for this ceremony if it is announced at the ceremony and in the program that the designated student(s) will receive a “Certificate of Completion” on that day.
8. Full-time enrollment in a traditional public or private school is not homeschooling because the child’s education in such schools is not parent-directed. A player that attends any type of school full-time is not eligible. Even if the school is small and does not offer sports. The student must maintain at least 51% of his/her education from classes that meet the homeschooling definition.
9. Participation in cooperative and/or umbrella schools is permitted in multiple circumstances. In these situations, please confer with Dallas Thunder leadership.
10. In some states, “HomeSchool students” are permitted to take classes at vocational schools. A student may take classes at such schools as long as he/she maintains at least 51% of his education from classes that meet the homeschooling definition.
11. For clarification purposes, a normal course load for a full-time student is six (6) core courses; therefore, if a student-athlete is taking more than three (3) courses at a public, private, or vocational, he/she is not considered 51% homeschooled (dual credit/enrollment classes are not counted against the student.)

12. Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior HomeSchool Student-Athletes taking advantage of Dual Credit/Enrollment Programs are required to take three (3) High School Courses per semester.
13. Senior HomeSchool Student-Athletes that are taking advantage of Dual Credit/Enrollment Programs are required to take a minimum of two (2) High School Courses per semester. High School Courses can be electives (like Physical Education, etc.). High School Courses can be taken through Co-Ops or any other eligible parent-directed definition.
14. Any student who transfers from a public school, Christian/Private School, or another HomeSchool team and is under disciplinary action(s) must go through the [Hardship Exemption](#) process OR wait one (1) year before he/she is eligible to participate.
15. In-season upperclassmen transfers. A zero-tolerance policy on in-season upperclassman transfers. Automatic denial.
16. **Marriage:** A player cannot be married.
17. **Attended School as a Senior:** An upperclassman transfer that attended school as a Senior is not eligible.
18. If a student started the year in school, they must request a [Hardship Exemption](#)
19. A player must live within a 100-mile radius of the team's practice facility.
20. A player's registration must be completed by their parents.
21. A player must live at home with his/her parent or court-appointed legal guardian. In the case of foster children or other family hardships, an organization can seek NCHC Pre-Approval\* from the person legally responsible. To gain NCHC Pre-approval, the 1st step in these situations is to fill out a [Hardship Request](#).

# Contact Information & Responsibilities

*\*check website for most current information*

## Board of Directors

**Alan Smith, President**  
Organization Operations

[president@dallasthunder.org](mailto:president@dallasthunder.org)

**Josh Brannon, Vice President**

[info@dallasthunder.org](mailto:info@dallasthunder.org)

**Wendy Crawford, Secretary**  
Communications & Registrar

[info@dallasthunder.org](mailto:info@dallasthunder.org)

**Christina Behrens, Treasurer**

[payment@dallasthunder.org](mailto:payment@dallasthunder.org)

**Marilyn Short, Fundraising**

[fundraising@dallasthunder.org](mailto:fundraising@dallasthunder.org)

**Krista Thomas, Events Coordinator**

[info@dallasthunder.org](mailto:info@dallasthunder.org)

**Dan Platte, Basketball Liaison**

[info@dallasthunder.org](mailto:info@dallasthunder.org)

## Volunteers

**Jenny Gouge, Scheduler & Social Media**

[dallasthunschedule@gmail.com](mailto:dallasthunschedule@gmail.com)

**Paul Leininger, Basketball Committee Chairman**

[basketball@dallasthunder.org](mailto:basketball@dallasthunder.org)

**Matthew Bullinger, Website**

## Coaches Information

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