

## ***Philosophies We Live By:***

1. The following three philosophies are held in equal esteem by the West Michigan Hornets.
  - a. At ALL levels of the WMHB, EVERY player will be valued and will have a role to fulfill on a team.
  - b. At the highest levels of basketball Varsity and Junior Varsity (18U and 16U) the WMHB will seek to compete at the highest levels possible.
  - c. Basketball is a team sport and most successfully played with an unselfish attitude and team perspective. Issues arise when selfish behavior is displayed. This same perspective holds true for the WMHB, whether it comes from a player, parent, coach, or board member. We are committed to making decisions based on what is best for the organization, the team, the well being of every player, and most importantly to the glory of God.
2. At the Varsity and Junior Varsity levels playing time is a “meritocracy” (playing time is earned through performance). This means that the coach may field the team in each game and over the course of the season that positions the team for the greatest opportunity to win consistently.
3. At the Elementary (12U) and below levels the WMHB values the development of player skills, knowledge of the game, and developing basketball IQ. At this level of play, the goal is, as close as possible, equal playing time. There is an emphasis on developing the fundamental skills, knowledge and IQ to become proficient at the game of basketball. All players should be viewed as potential standouts in the game.
4. The WMHB views the Junior High (14U) level as a transitional level of play. While maintaining that each player must feel valued and have a role on the team and a focus on teaching the fundamental skills, knowledge of the game and developing a high basketball IQ,

there is a movement toward the meritocracy of the higher levels of playing time. All players must have significant, but not necessarily “equal” playing time over the season.

5. Team Formation: The WMHB expects that players will play within their age group as a general rule. However, there may be times when a younger player exhibits extraordinary talent and is able to compete at a level of play higher than their age. There may also be times that players will be asked to move up a level to create more opportunity for more players to participate in the program. The decision to move a player to a higher level of play, in consultation with their parents, must consider what is best for the player, the team they are moving to, the team they are leaving as well as the overall WMHB program.
6. The WMHB values providing an experience that rivals or exceeds a traditional school experience both in the quality/competitiveness of basketball play as well as the community and team spirit experience.

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