

Lincoln East Boys' Basketball

Lincoln East High School
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Mission Statement

To develop players into confident young men by providing a positive meaningful athletic experience. Players will grow physically, mentally, and emotionally by committing to a basketball program that practices selflessness, ownership, accountability, and sportsmanship. Meaningful lifelong relationships will be the result of the commitment and dedication all participants (coaches, players, managers, alumni, youth players, etc.) have to one another.

Basketball Participation Expectations

Program Philosophy

The Lincoln East Basketball Program is intended to be a positive experience for each and every player who participates. Our philosophy is based on providing a high quality, competitive, hard working, and character driven program. At all levels of play the goal is to develop a team that is both competitive and exemplifies the qualities that are presented in our mission statement. "Team" will always come first over the individual and each player will be responsible to exhibit this quality in all facets of their life.

We all want what is best for our student athletes. The only thing that we, as a staff, can promise you is that we will work as hard as we can to help our players succeed. Playing time and roles on the team are based on effort, skill, team play, practice habits, attitude, and performance. Playing time is not guaranteed to any player. Some players will not receive as much playing time as others and in some games a team member may not play at all.

We as a coaching staff believe that there are many rewards that come from being part of a team. They include the improvement that comes from every day effort, the friendships made, and the lessons learned by being committed to something greater than one's self. These benefits far out weigh the game time played. Success is earned through commitment to team play. Every player will have a role on the team that will be specifically spelled out to him. Roles may change throughout the season. No role is less important than another. The success of our team as a whole, and the success of our players individually will be based on how well each player performs their specific role.

Player Responsibilities / Expectations

All student athletes are aware of these responsibilities and are expected to uphold them.

These responsibilities include:

- Exhibit the qualities of sportsmanship, proper behavior, and healthy living.
- Performing at the highest level in practice, games, the classroom, and on campus.
- Putting the goals of the team above individual desires.
- Participating in spring, summer, and fall off-season development and team functions unless competing for another Lincoln East High School team.
- Conducting one's self in a manner which will bring honor to our program and school.
- Working hard all the time to improve one's self to make the team better.
- Play fair, play your best, and play for the fun of the game
- Practice and promote good sportsmanship by one's actions on and off the court.

The effort and time that is required as a result of being a boys' basketball player is extraordinary. This will require a special sacrifice of time and energy from each and every player. It is a **privilege** to be selected to one of our teams and not all players that try-out for the teams are selected. Being selected is a tremendous achievement. With the selection comes a responsibility to work hard and be positive at all times. It is the responsibility of the player to uphold the dignity and honor of the basketball program while representing their school at all times. Players' behavior, both good and bad, is a reflection on their teammates, coaches, school, and family. Each player is a vital component to their team and their teammates are depending upon them to make good decisions.

- **Policies:** Players are expected to adhere to ALL basketball program, Athletic Department, Lincoln East, Lincoln Public Schools, and Nebraska State Activities Association policies, procedures, and bylaws.
- **Participation:** Players are expected to be 100% committed to our basketball program during the winter season. Participation in other recreational or competitive basketball leagues and skill contests during the winter sport season is prohibited via NSAA bylaws. During the off-season players will prioritize their commitment to the Lincoln East Basketball program over commitments made to "Select", AAU, Club, or All-Star teams. Players are expected to communicate with East High coaches about any potential involvement or interest shown by other basketball programs including but not limited to AAU, Club, "Select", All-star, and Collegiate basketball programs.
- **Academic performance and development:** Players are expected to attend class regularly and to perform at a high level in the classroom. Truancies will not be tolerated. Academic achievement is a priority in our program. Players are expected to be attentive, respectful, and participate in all classes. Players struggling academically will adhere to the Lincoln East Athletic Department interventions and academic policies.
- **Behavior on campus, on the bus, at team functions, and at games:** As student-athletes we are representing Lincoln East High School and the Spartan Basketball program

every time we are with the team. We expect all players in our program to behave in a mature and responsible fashion. Being disrespectful to teachers, administrators, school personnel, parents, and other players will not be tolerated. Being a Spartan basketball player is a privilege and with that privilege comes a responsibility to represent the team in an appropriate manner.

- **Dress Code:** All basketball players will dress in a respectful and appropriate manner when at a team event or function. Special attire will be worn on game days unless instructed otherwise by the player's coach.
- **Use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs:** The use of these products is illegal and using them at any time will not be tolerated. As a program, we believe in being drug free and players who partake in any of these substances will be suspended via Lincoln East High School Athletic Department policy.
- **Earning a letter:** In order to qualify for a varsity letter, a player must finish the season as a contributing member of the varsity team in good standing. Non-Senior players must contribute meaningful minutes in one-half of the varsity contests. Final decisions regarding earning a varsity letter will be determined by Coach Campbell.

Parent and Spectator Responsibilities

- Accept the decision of the officials. Do not boo or heckle regardless of your feelings, players model what they observe.
- Refrain from name calling or using profane or disrespectful language when addressing players, coaches, and officials.
- Be an encouraging person to fellow parents.
- Be respectful and supportive to all team and school personnel.
- Provide a positive atmosphere at home about your son's role on the team. Many successful teams are destroyed at home when parents are not supportive of fellow players or coaches and the role their son has been asked to fulfill.
- Support your son at all times (both during the good times and tough times).
- Lend a helping hand at team functions. All parents are needed in order to run a successful first class program.
- Team functions will be coordinated by parents and approved by the coaching staff.
- At no time will parents' time invested in the program equate to playing time or making a team. All the time and resources being invested should be for the betterment of the program, not the individual.
- Planning vacations and family trips during times when players will miss practices or games puts the player and coach in a very tough situation. Maximum improvement can only occur when everyone is consistently practicing to their fullest capacities.

Coaches Responsibilities and Policies

- **Team Selection:** This is solely the coaching staff's responsibility. Selections are made on a year-to-year basis. Players are selected based on the ability to be a good teammate, skill level, understanding of their specific role on the team, effort, knowledge of offensive and defensive systems, sportsmanship, attitude, and

commitment level.

- **Playing Time:** As stated before, a lot of things go into determining playing time. A player's ability, skill level, work ethic, attitude, adherence to team rules, and the ability to play within our system determines playing time. Coaches will not discuss playing time and a player's role on the team with parents unless a prior discussion has occurred with the individual player.
- **Practice times:** Players are required to be at practice each day, ON TIME. Our schedule is set in advance and because eight basketball teams (4 boys and 4 girls teams) use the same facility, our court time is priceless. Attendance at practice is mandatory. Players will be expected to practice on Saturdays and during Thanksgiving and winter breaks. Practices may conflict with a multitude of outside functions for both players and coaches. Being part of a successful team requires commitment and sacrifices. When a player is selected to a team they are making a commitment to put team needs over individual desires.
- **Game strategy and decision-making:** This is the sole discretion of the coaches. It is based on their knowledge of the game of basketball and their evaluation of players' strengths and weakness demonstrated in practice. You may not always agree with a coach's strategy or substitution pattern. However, being negative in the stands or at home will cause damage to team morale and never helps.
- **Tryouts and player cuts:** In November all players are expected to tryout for their respective teams. Some players will not make a team. Making cuts is the hardest part of being involved in athletics. We need to choose a manageable number of players that maximizes our limited gym space and allows for the individual attention players need to develop as a basketball team. Players are evaluated on skill level, team play, knowledge of the system, work ethic, and attitude. A player's class level (Fr., So., Jr., Sr.) also is a factor when making final decisions about team personnel. The most talented players are not always selected. Our goal is to develop a program that achieves consistent success from year to year. The number one criterion for making the team is the player's ability to help his team by being a good teammate and accept his role.

Any player who does anything that could be detrimental to the basketball program and/or their team – on or off the court – will be subject to disciplinary action deemed appropriate by Coach Campbell and his staff.

Return to a member of the Spartan Basketball Coaching Staff prior to Monday, November 17.

I have read, understand, and agree to uphold ALL of the guidelines and expectations outlined in this document (Lincoln East Boys' Basketball Expectations 2015-2016).

Player's Name (Print): _____

Player's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

