

ABILENE HAWKS, INC.
Boys and Girls Basketball
2024-2025 Handbook

PURPOSE

To provide competitive, amateur sports programs for home educated students living in Abilene and surrounding communities.

BASKETBALL MISSION STATEMENT

To be ambassadors for Christ, through our attitude on and off the court and to grow in Godly character from team play, sportsmanship and hard work.

The Abilene Hawks are a Christian basketball organization dedicated to the precepts of Christ as laid in His Holy scriptures. We believe the Bible is the inerrant, inspired word of God and we strive to proclaim the gospel through basketball!

THIS IS A COMPETITIVE ORGANIZATION. Player game-time is **not guaranteed** and will be determined by the coach. Play time will be based on **attitude, effort, practice time/attendance, sportsmanship, and skill.**

Goals:

- ✓ To model Christ-like sportsmanship in **EVERY** aspect of this program. Coach, parent/spectator, and athlete behavior is the priority. We will be a model of how to handle the competitive nature, referees' calls, opponents' athletes, and teammates as well as other coaches and spectators in the stands in a way that honors our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✓ To develop opportunities for Christian witness in practice and competition.
- ✓ To strive for team excellence that results in winning games and most importantly playing games well.

GENERAL INFORMATION: While highest attention will be given to Christ-like sportsmanship, fundamental personal skills and teamwork, it should also be understood that this is a competitive league where the boys/girls who work hard and are mastering skills and team-play will likely see more playing time than others. The coaches will announce practices. Players will be expected to share expenses for play such as tournament costs, gym rentals, referees, etc. Attendance, attitude, effort, sportsmanship, and skill will be a factor in playing time. Pictures and video of Abilene Hawks activities could be posted publicly. Our web-site is www.abilenehawks.com.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY: The teams are open to students who are home educated. Students are eligible even if their home education is supplemented with classes from private or public schools. All players are required to meet the following requirements to be considered eligible to play:

- ✓ Children between the ages of 12 and 18, as of Sept. 1, that have not graduated from high school
- ✓ Students must be at least 51% homeschooled.
- ✓ By signing this document at the beginning of the season, you affirm that your child meets these eligibility requirements. (Signature required on last page)

MEDICALRELEASES/BIRTH CERTIFICATES/LIABILITY INSURANCE:

Each player is required to submit a copy of a medical treatment/release form, a copy of their birth certificate and any liability waivers for facilities furnished by ACU or other various institutions. Liability insurance is provided by Abilene Hawks, Inc. All forms **MUST** be turned into your head coach by your first practice date. You will not be able to participate until these forms are turned in. Any player who fails to provide these documents can be temporarily suspended from practicing and playing.

PLAYERFEES: Money is needed for numerous instances, but primarily to pay for equipment, officials, gym rental for home games and practices, tournament fees, end of year banquet and insurance. At some point, additional money may be needed for practice gym rentals, web sites, handouts, additional tournament fees, etc. Delinquent accounts will cause players to be ineligible to participate in practices, games and tournaments. Player fees do **not** include the cost of uniforms. Fees can be directly mailed to Kary Klafter, 6349 Private Road 704, Hawley, TX 79525. A \$25 discount per player will be applied when fees are paid in full at the Annual Parent Meeting/first practice.

CHRIST-LIKESPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Expectation for Athletes:

1. All players will accept and realize the opportunity to represent Jesus Christ and the Home School community.
2. Attitude will be a factor in playing time.
3. Effort is essential and shows commitment to the team.
4. Show enthusiasm in practice and in games. Stay positive – “can do” spirit is infectious.
5. If a player shows disrespect or unsportsmanlike conduct, the player will be suspended from play.
6. Players will learn the rules thoroughly and promote appreciation for the game.
7. Respect the officials’ judgment and interpretation of the rules. Do not argue or make non-verbal gestures that indicate disrespect. Remember that your reaction is a catalyst and will possibly determine your teammates’ and/or spectators’ behavior.
8. Demonstrate self-control. Emotional reactions must be controlled.
9. Treat the opponents with respect.
10. Try your utmost to win under the rules, and if you are not winning, provide the best possible challenge to your opponent.
11. There is no “I” in team.
12. The coach is the only one that is to “coach” the team. Players are to **only** encourage teammates preventing confusion and disunity.
13. Remember that all the coaches for your team are volunteers and take personal time to provide a service that would not be available otherwise. Respect all coaches in their decisions and judgments.

Athletes’ suggestions for gestures that demonstrate Christ-like sportsmanship:

1. **ALWAYS** encourage teammates regardless of skill at all times.
2. **GIVE** it your best at all times.
3. Speak **positively** during practice and outside of practice about your team and coach.
4. Show **concern** for injured opponents and teammates.
5. **Thank** officials for calling your game.
6. Shake hands with opposing team after game to show **good sportsmanship**.
7. Athletes should **sit together & encourage Hawks teams** while waiting for their turn to play.

Expectations for Coaches:

1. Respect the integrity and judgment of the referees. Discussion with officials should be respectful and never be taunting in nature.
2. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
3. Be responsible for your players' conduct on the floor and on the bench.
4. Model respect for your opponents.
5. Know and teach the rules and regulations of the game.
6. Exemplify Christ in every aspect of coaching.

Expectations for Spectators/Parents:

1. Maintain self-control. Your actions may calm or incite the crowd. Be a positive influence.
2. Applaud the good performance of all athletes, regardless of the team.
3. Do not distract players of either team during play.
4. Refrain from coaching from the sideline.
5. Do not verbally assault the coaches, athletes or officials.
6. If a spectator is called down two times on behavior, he/she will be asked to leave the premises.
7. If a spectator is thrown out during two different games, he or she will be out for the season.
8. No taunting of opponents' team members, coaches, spectators or the referees will be allowed.
9. Remember that all the coaches for your team are volunteers and take personal time to provide a service that would not be available otherwise. Respect all coaches in their decisions and judgments.

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By signing below, you and your family agree to abide with Abilene Hawks Mission Statement and agree to comply with the rules and policies stated in this 2024-2025 Handbook.

Signed and dated this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Printed Name of Player

Signature of Player