



HALIFAX HURRICANES MINOR



POLICY

Date: August 14, 2024

To: All Hurricanes Members

From: Halifax Hurricanes Minor Basketball Association

Re: Player Assessment – Information for Players and Parents

The Hurricane Way

Why do you play basketball? If your answer is because you enjoy playing sports, having fun, and being active you are just the person we want to be a Hurricane!

What is the Hurricane Way? The Hurricane Way is the way we organize ourselves and behave so that everyone can get maximum enjoyment playing, having fun, and being active. The Hurricane Way focuses on how you develop yourself and how you treat others. Hurricanes take pride in their individual effort and achievements, but also work hard to make sure everyone around them is respected and is having fun.

The Hurricane Way means that all Hurricanes, including players, coaches, managers, club volunteers, and parents:

- Care about, family, friends, teammates, and community.
- Work hard to represent the Hurricanes in a positive way when interacting with the community, officials, and opponents.
- Want to enjoy the sport of basketball in an organized environment.
- Want to increase their skill level and basketball knowledge.
- Are respectful of teammates, team managers, and coaches and show that respect by actively listening, behaving well, being on time, and working hard at every practice and game.
- Understand and appreciate the effort that families and community volunteers make in order to provide the opportunity to play organized basketball.

Now that we all know about the Hurricanes Way let's talk about player assessment and team placement.

Players

- Be early so that you can check in and get your number bib.
- Be properly dressed: shorts, shirt, shoes appropriate for wear on a gym floor, no jewelry, no hats, no head phones/ear buds.
- Bring a ball:

U10 and U12 boys and girls use size 5 (27.5")

U14, U16, and U18 girls use size 6 (28.5")

U14, U16, and U18 boys use size 7 (29.5")

If you do not have a ball we will have extras.

- In addition to assessing your basketball abilities, the assessors will be looking for focused, well behaved players (remember the Hurricane Way). This starts as soon as you enter the gym. The first impression you make is an important one.
- You will be assessed for skill, basketball IQ, athleticism, and attitude/effort. We describe each of these categories below. Read each one and do your best to show these things at your assessment.
- Remember to have fun and be positive. For years, studies done by professional sports teams have shown us the obvious...worrying and getting down on yourself has a negative effect on performance. If you bring good energy and put in the effort, you will have a great assessment.

Parents/Guardians

- Please see above for what we expect of your player.
- When you arrive at assessment please get your player to the check-in table. Each player needs to check-in to get a number bib. The bib number corresponds with your player's name on the assessment chart that each assessor will have so it is very important to check-in.
- If you have not yet paid this year's fees or have outstanding fees from last year, **your player will not be allowed to assess**. Please bring cash or cheque for any amounts owing. Cheques can be made payable to Halifax Hurricanes Minor Basketball Assoc.
- Assessments are "closed door". Please do not enter the gym or watch through a window.

- Please understand the complexity of assessing and placing 370 kids. Placement can only be done on the criteria in this policy. We cannot accommodate friend requests or scheduling requests.

Assessment Criteria

Skill

Perfection is not expected. All players are at different levels of development. Assessors will look at results (eg. did the player make the shot), but will also pay attention to the player's technique.

Assessors will look for age specific skill expectations including assessment of fundamentals such as:

1. Shooting – balanced feet, eyes to the rim, and proper follow through.
2. Lay-ups – proper foot work and soft touch off the backboard, ability to perform lay-up with both left and right hands.
3. Passing – ability to do proper chest pass, bounce pass, and overhead pass with accuracy and strength.
4. Dribbling – ability to dribble with both hands, control the dribble during various forms of movement, change speed, change direction, and keep eyes looking up while dribbling.

Older or more developed players should be looking to show that they can perform these fundamental skills at a higher speed and with greater power and intensity.

Basketball IQ

The category assesses whether a player has a good sense of how the game is played at these particular ages.

U10 examples – Do players understand the importance of spacing out or do they crowd the ball? Do players move to get open? Do players display the basic defence requirement of being between the player they are guarding and the net they are defending? Do players jump for rebounds?

U12-18 examples – Do players demonstrate good spacing? Do players move the ball to create good shots? Do players move well without the ball (ie. cuts to the net)? Do players understand screens? Can players guard a player, but be aware of the ball and ready to play help defence? Do players box out and crash the boards for rebounds? Can players play tight full court defence?

Athleticism

This category assesses a player's speed, quickness, size, ability to change directions, jumping ability, ability to get low on defence, physical endurance, and general coordination.

Every player will have different attributes. Every attribute has its advantage. Assessors will be looking to see that players are attempting to maximize the athletic advantages they have.

Attitude and Effort

This category assesses players' approach to the game and their team. The club is looking for players who follow the Hurricane Way.

Assessors will be looking for players who work hard and smart. Do they crash the boards for rebounds, get back fast on defence, share the ball, play help defence, encourage teammates, and listen to instruction?

Assessors will note players who are negative towards teammates, fool around, take silly shots, don't try to play defence, don't try to rebound, don't listen to instruction, show boat, celebrate instead of getting back on defence, and trash talk instead of focusing on their jobs.

Assessors will be looking for players who lead by their effort and attitude. This is not limited to only the most vocal players, but the club wants to see people who lead by their actions.

Assessors will be looking for players who are "coachable". Do they listen carefully to feedback and apply that feedback when playing?