



**CLAY COUNTY
LIONS
BASKETBALL
ORANGE PARK FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

2010 PLAYER HANDBOOK

ORANGE PARK FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1140 KINGSLEY AVENUE
ORANGE PARK, FL 32073
904-264-2351
WWW.OPFIRST.ORG

Dear Parents, Guardians and Players,

Welcome to the Clay County Lions and Lady Lions. We are excited having you on our team. This is our inaugural year and we anticipate a great season. Our desire is to offer a competitive basketball team within an environment that supports Christian principles and seeks to honor God.

We are honored to have coaches that understand the purpose and also have the ability to teach and coach life principles as well as basketball skills.

My hope is that your experience with the Clay County Lions will be positive. Our organization is not just about basketball. Having fun, making new friends, and learning to be a good sport are all key elements of our organization. We also encourage team members to excel in the classroom as well as on the court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Tarkington", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Tarkington
Pastor
Orange Park First Baptist Church

Mission

The Clay County Lions is focused on Christian principles and values. We desire to offer sports ministry that will benefit young people in our community by instructing them in sports, sportsmanship, self-esteem and teamwork while honoring Jesus Christ. Our goal is to provide basketball programming throughout the year for teenagers that offer advanced instruction in basketball fundamentals and team play concepts.

Expectations of a Clay County Lion

The Lions believe that discipline, mental toughness, respect for coaches and teammates, and the development of a "team" attitude are as important as shooting form, ball handling skills and rebounding ability. Becoming a great basketball player requires dedication and sacrifice, therefore Lions & Lady Lions team members are expected to:

- Attend and be on time for all games and practices.
- Notify the coach, prior to a game or practice, if unable to attend. Coaches will determine when repeated lack of attendance will result in suspension or dismissal from the team. Coaches are not responsible for picking up players for practice.
- Stretch and warm up prior to all practices and games.
- Respect and cooperate with coaches and other teammates at all times.
- Respect coach's decision on playing time.
- Display good sportsmanship. Profanity and inappropriate behavior (as determined by the coach) is unacceptable.
- Exhibit unselfishness by being a team player.
- Make good decisions off the court. Use of tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from the team.
- Participate in all team fundraisers.
- Strive for academic excellence. A grade average of less than a "C" (2.0 GPA) is not acceptable. Coaches or board members may request transcripts at any time to verify acceptable progress.

Expectations of Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians are key ingredients to the success of the Lions. Parents can demonstrate the importance of discipline and dedication by meeting the following expectations:

- Ensure players arrive at games and practices on time and are picked up on time.
- Set a good example at games and practices by having respect for coaches, referees, other parents, and members of other teams.

- Be encouraging of all players, not critical, during and after games.
- Leave the coaching to the coaches. Do not provide instructions to the players from the stands.
- Do not use profanity.
- Respect the coach's decisions on playing time.
- Assist with tournaments sponsored by the Lions. Parents are required to help with concession stand sales, ticket sales, and/or setup/clean-up of the tournament facilities. (We will be hosting no tournaments this year, but possibly in the coming years.)
- Help organize and participate in team fundraisers.
- Attend parent meetings scheduled by the coach or teams leaders.

Expectations of Coaches

The Lions are committed to having an excellent coaching staff. To meet this commitment, coaches are expected to:

- Treat all players with respect.
- Provide instruction for individual development as well as team development.
- Begin and end practice on time.
- Attend coaching clinics.
- Be knowledgeable of the rules of the game.
- Publish practice and tournament schedules as soon as they are available.
- Conform to Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) dress code requirements by having all bench personnel wear a shirt with a collar, long pants or dress shorts/skirts and closed-toe shoes.
- Set a good example during games. Confrontations with referees that lead to ejection should be avoided.
- Allow time during the year for parent-initiated conferences regarding the performance and participation of their child. Discussion time to be set by the coach upon request by the parent. However, the club **STRONGLY** recommends that discussion about particular games be held at least 24 hours **AFTER** the game has been played.
- Discussion of playing time is totally up to the discretion of each coach. The club will back each and every coach that chooses **NOT** to discuss a child's playing time, unless it pertains to the health of the child.

Coaching Philosophy and Strategy

A recent survey indicates:

TEN REASONS I PLAY MY BEST

1. To have fun
2. To improve my skills
3. To stay in shape
4. To do something I'm good at
5. For the excitement of competition
6. To get exercise
7. To play as a team
8. For the challenge of competition
9. To learn new skills
10. To win

WHY I STOPPED PLAYING A SPORT

1. I lost interest
2. I was not having fun
3. It took too much time
4. Coach was a poor teacher
5. Too much pressure (worry)
6. Wanted a non-sport activity
7. I was tired of it
8. Need more study time
9. Coach played favorites
10. Sport became boring
11. Overemphasis on winning

Although we all like winning, **WINNING WILL NOT BE THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS**. Rather, our emphasis will be directed at developing the team member's individual character, physical skills and knowledge of the game.

Our quest is to support development of each individual while blending the members into a smooth functioning team. The results should be a "whole, greater than the sum of its parts."

Discipline is considered an intrinsic component to achieving success. If necessary, penalties will be assessed for improper behavior or violations of expectations.

AGE DIVISIONS

Our inaugural teams will be playing in the following divisions:

Boys – 14 U

Girls – 17 U

To determine if you're eligible to play in one of these divisions, do the following:

1. Go to www.aausports.com
2. Click on either boy's or girl's basketball in the top menu.
3. Click Rules/Info on the menu bar.
4. Type in your birth date and grade.

Fees 2010

CLAY COUNTY LIONS & LADY LIONS 2010 FEES

Player Registration Fee \$75
(fees are for league membership, insurance and equipment)

FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO TRAVELING!!

INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT FEES: Please see tournament schedule for locations and fees.

Description of Costs

Membership Dues

Each player will need to join AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) & USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association) to compete in sanctioned tournaments. Membership is valid for one year.

Tournament Fees

Entry fees for each tournament are approximately \$300 per team. The Projected Costs per Player covers Tournament Fees.

Equipment

During the year, the club may need new or replacement equipment such as basketballs, practice jerseys, game boards, cones, etc.

Coaches Expenses

Coaches provide a valuable service to our players through their time and talents. We believe they should receive some benefits for their efforts.

As indicated above, additional expenses will occur depending upon the number of tournaments each team decides to enter, and whether they may be out of town tournaments requiring traveling expenses. Entire families are under no obligations to attend every tournament.

Fundraisers

Each team will organize fundraisers. Parent/guardian participation is essential. Everyone is required to assist the coaches with organizing and by participating in these events. The funds raised by these events go directly to the team.

Uniforms and Dress Code

Uniforms will be issued at the beginning of each tournament and are to be turned at the end of each tournament. Players are expected to take care of their uniform.

During practices or games, players are not permitted to wear jewelry of any type. This includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets, anklets and rings. Rubber bands for holding back long hair are recommended.

Playing Time

In the Clay County Lions organization, playing time is earned not guaranteed. Unlike community recreation leagues, players may not always play equal time in every game. Coaches determine which team members will play. Playing time is earned by attendance and performance at practice as well as in games. Who to put into the game is often the most difficult decision a coach has to make, but it is the coach's decision.

Coaches will make the decisions they feel are most likely to give the team a chance to win. While you may not always agree with these decisions, please respect the coaches' right to make them. Coaches are available to discuss a player's development, her future prospects with the team, and her playing time. Please choose an appropriate time and place to have these discussions.

Practice and Tournament Facilities

We are fortunate to have gyms available for practice. Parents, players and families are asked to take care of all practice facilities to ensure that the privilege of using them is not lost.

Running and playing in hallways is inappropriate. Restrooms and other areas of the gyms should be kept clean by ensuring trash is placed in receptacles. When attending tournaments, please observe each facility's rules for bringing food and drinks into the gym.

2010 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Subject to Revision

<i>BOYS or GIRLS</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATES</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>COST</i>
BOTH	North Florida Tipoff Classic (AAU)	March 12 – 14	Jacksonville	\$25
BOTH	Jacksonville Magic Invitational (AAU)	March 26-28	Jacksonville	\$25
GIRLS	SPRING FLING 2 (AAU)	May 7-9	Orlando	\$40
BOTH	Orange Park Gator Swamp Classic (USSSA)	May 14-16	Orange Park	\$25
BOYS	SPRING CLASSIC (AAU)	May 21-23	Orlando	\$40

Dates and Tournaments may be added at any time. All 2010 Tournaments have not been posted yet. We would like to participate in at least five tournaments with each team this inaugural season.

Tournaments out of town will require hotel stays. Costs will be made available once known.

**All Fees Include Tournament Fee. Fee with parent only include Tournament Fee.
The will be absolutely NO REFUNDS on Tournament fees!!!
Once fees are turned in, the team can not get refunds back from hotels or Tournament Directors. Also, checks will not be accepted the week of the tournament.**

CLAY COUNTY LIONS
REGISTRATION FORM



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME: _____ HEIGHT: _____

PLAYER'S AGE AS OF **01/01/2010**: _____ DOB: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP CODE _____ COUNTY: _____

HOME TEL.: _____

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____

DAYTIME OR CELL PHONE NUMBER: _____

MOTHER'S NAME: _____

DAYTIME OR CELL PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

CELL NUMBER: _____

PLAYER INFORMATION

* Best Positions _____

* LAST AAU TEAM: _____ * REC/CHURCH TEAM _____

ANY PHYSICAL PROBLEMS WE SHOULD KNOW OF? _____ NO _____ YES (Please explain):

FOR THE PARENTS (Please read carefully)

I, being the parent of the above named girl, hereby give my approval for his/her participation in any and all Clay County Lions Basketball Club activities. I assume all risks and hazards incidental to such participation including transportation to and from the activities, and I do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify and agree to hold harmless the Clay County Lions Basketball Club and First Baptist Church of Orange Park, sponsors, organizers, owners of facilities used, supervisors, participants, and coaches for any and all claims arising out of injury to my child.

I hereby authorize Clay County Lions Basketball Club officials, coaches, assistant coaches, team mothers, or any responsible persons delegated to any of the above to take my child to the nearest hospital or any other accredited medical establishment for emergency treatment in case of injury during practice and/or games if parents are not available. I will assume any and all financial responsibility. I understand I have a duty to return all uniforms at the end of the season.
NO REFUNDS ONCE ACCEPTED.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date signed: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION (Please complete)

Please list any and all OTHER sports in which your child will participate during the current season:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Absolutely No Refunds

Handbook Acknowledgment

I/We acknowledge the receipt of the Clay County Lions Basketball Club Player Handbook.

I/We have read the handbook in its entirety and agree to abide by the expectations and guidelines of the Clay County Lions Basketball Club.

Athlete's Full Name (Please print)

Athlete's Signature

Date

Parent's or Guardian's Signature

Date

Parent's or Guardian's Signature

Date