



Hawk Sportsmanship Policy

Please express encouragement to the players in a way that is supportive.

We appreciate the outstanding parental support you show for our young athletes. We are grateful that you shift your schedules to be with us for home games as well as away games. In encouraging your child and his/her teammates, please continue to do it in a way that is positive and allows children to make mistakes and take risks. They put in an inordinate amount of practice hours, and games should be a joyful part of their overall experience. Thank you for applauding outstanding plays and effort by our opponents as well. They are kids.

Please let the coaches coach.

We are fortunate to have Coach Parker and Coach Smiley as our head coaches of seventh and eighth grade basketball teams. They have been coaches at St. Hilda's for nineteen and fifteen years respectively. They model grace and sportsmanship in daily practice as well as every competition. Both coaches enjoy outstanding reputations in the NYCAL league. They work tirelessly with your children in practices, and should be in a position to coach in a game. It is very discerning for a young athlete to take direction from varying sources. We ask you to let the coaches guide, encourage, calm, but most of all teach your children. Every game is a learning experience.

Please understand that officials (referees) are human and can make mistakes.

Middle school officials are honestly trying to do their best. While we may not agree with calls, we need to respect the integrity and judgment of the officials. In a situation when there is a questionable call, we ask that the coaches be allowed to handle it. We have taught the kids that the coaches' have vast knowledge of the game, and their approach with referees is the best way we will resolve issues. Having been a basketball official personally for over 25 years, I can assure you that a call will not be reversed after a parent protest. We also have a close relationship with the basketball assignors who send us the referees, and I regularly follow up with them (like I did this week) about their handling of the games.

Please join us in modeling sportsmanship for your children.

We are grateful that you entrust us with your children. We have taught many of them since early childhood. There is nothing more that we would rather do than coach and teach, on the court and off. We happily take on our role in the School's mission of nurturing the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. There are plenty of basketball games to go, and we are committed to providing our teams with the best program we can. These games mean the world to these kids, and they will remember them always. Thank you for keeping them fun!