

The Great 8 in Travel Basketball

1. Submit your roster ahead of time

The purpose of exposure tournaments/events is to get your player's names recognized by coaches and evaluators. Without a complete roster – exposure becomes impossible.

2. Make sure your roster is accurate

Obviously there are circumstances where players have left a jersey at the hotel room, etc., however playing a tournament where information is wrong makes it very hard to identify the correct players.

3. Show up early to games

Getting your team organized and sitting in one area before a game allows players to gain focus and also relax. It also teaches your kids a good life lesson for how to be prepared in life. If your team is not going to be able to play in a tournament game, be sure to communicate with the tournament director ahead of time so he/she can make preparations. No-showing for a game reflects poorly upon your organization and ultimately upon your players.

4. Encourage team unity

A big part of drawing positive attention towards your team is to get your team to act like a team before, during and after games. Warm-up routines, attire that matches and vocal leadership by players all allow the players to feel a part of something bigger.

5. Be positive

It is easy to let fatigue and shortcomings get the best of you as a coach. Negative energy can creep in and suck the life out of a team. It is often the determination through adversity that prove the character of a player. As a coach, encourage those moments as much as possible.

6. Hold players accountable

*Kids often want to hear what they have done wrong or what they need to improve. The fine line that a coach has to walk is when to encourage and when to correct. A coach has to learn when the **"Teachable Moment"** is there and when it is not.*

7. Let the games be about the players

Drawing attention to yourself whether by berating officials or calling demonstrative timeouts are usually counter-productive. The best coaches are the ones that allow their players to be the subject of conversation after the game is over.

8. Have structure and have a plan

You do not have to be the Tara Vanderveer or the Brad Stevens of summer basketball to be an effective coach. However, it is good to have plays and calls for particular situations. There is a time to let the players play, but a good coach knows how to change the flow of a game in their favor.

