



diplomats

**Player & Parent
Handbook**

Welcome! Thank you for your interest in the Diplomats youth basketball club team!

Definition

Diplomat [**dip-luh**-mat]

1. A person who is tactful and skillful when dealing with others.
2. One who has been appointed to represent a group or team and promote friendly relationships.

Coaches

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Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize both the players and the parents with the Diplomats basketball team, and to provide a better understanding of Club Basketball. We hope this handbook will answer many of your questions. We are glad that your player(s) has been selected to be a part of our team and look forward to a great season!

Our program has two main components:

1. To provide quality training in all aspects of the game. One of the Diplomat's main goals is to develop self-discipline, dedication, and confidence in each athlete. All of these qualities will assist each player as they progress through life.
2. To aggressively pursue tournaments and leagues that will enhance the competitive athletic experience; both local and regional. These experiences will enhance social development, contribute to mental and physical health, and teach the values of teamwork and responsibility.

We are proud of the opportunity we offer and feel the players involved will receive a positive experience.

Commitment

For this program to be successful, the rules of the handbook must be followed and will be enforced. The Diplomats expect our athletes and their parents to present themselves in a courteous and polite manner to everyone they encounter. We represent the finest that Arizona Youth Basketball has to offer and we must promote the highest level of sportsman-like conduct.

Our program is dedicated to treating all athletes fairly and giving each individual the opportunity to improve the many skills associated with the game of Basketball. Playing basketball with the Diplomats requires a strong commitment to the game, the club, and their teammates. It is important that everyone involved understands and that each player/parent is willing to make this commitment in order for the athlete to become the best basketball player they can be.

Participation in the Diplomats program requires time, effort, and financial resources. We feel that this program is well worth the investment. The training that your player(s) will receive from the coaches and volunteers will be very beneficial.

Selection Process

Each session players will be evaluated. Some players will have extensive playing backgrounds, while others will not. Players are evaluated on skill execution such as; ball handling, shooting, etc. We base our selections on what the athletes do during the tryout period and also what we perceive their potential to be. We select athletes based on the following criteria:

- Athletic & Skill Ability
- Work Ethic & Drive
- Competitive Attitude
- Willingness to Learn & Improve
- Potential

It is important to note that every player is evaluated each session and it is each player's responsibility to come into the tryout ready to make a team in our program. Players should never assume they will automatically be placed into our program or be placed on a specific team because they were part of that team during a previous session. Players are placed on teams because of the ability they have shown at tryouts. **After the teams have been selected, the Diplomats may make roster changes at any time during the season. This means that a player may be asked to move to another team during the season to maximize the level of talent on each team.**

It should be noted that if a player is injured or is sitting out of practices due to injury or illness, they must have a doctor's release before they will be allowed to practice or participate again on a regular basis.

Player/Parent/Coach Relationship

Club basketball can teach many positive traits, such as the spirit of cooperation, self-discipline, and regard for physical fitness.

We ask that parents refrain from criticizing opposing players, other parents, other clubs, teammates, or officials.

In our spectator enthusiasm, we are often prone to issue instructions to the players that are contrary to those of the coach; this only causes confusion for the players. **PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR PLAYER TO FOLLOW HIS/HER COACHES INSTRUCTIONS AND LEAVE THE COACHING TO THE COACH.** Parents need to align themselves with the coach in teaching their player how to cope with the natural frustrations of being a member of a team. Sports provide an excellent opportunity to teach players about the realities of competitive situations. They must be taught how to be a cooperative team member, how to make use of both positive and negative feedback, how to cope with adversity, how to achieve mental toughness, and how to be a gracious winner or loser.

When a player has a problem with the coach, parents have the responsibility of teaching their player the steps necessary to remedy the situation. The following steps should be taken if a player has a grievance with the coach:

- STEP ONE:** The **player** should discuss the problem/concern with the coach and try to arrive at a solution to the problem.
- STEP TWO:** The **parent** should call the coach and schedule an appointment for the player, parent, and coach to meet at an appropriate time.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE is a parent to approach a coach with a complaint or an evaluation of coaching philosophy. The above procedure must be followed in dealing with any situations that may arise. The Diplomats will not tolerate coaches or players to be berated by parents or fellow teammates. If you or your player refuses to follow the guidelines set forth, you will be asked to leave the program.

The parents and families of our Diplomats players should be supportive and encouraging. We welcome parents, families, and guests of the Diplomats players to attend our tournaments and league games. All spectators in attendance are asked to refrain from criticizing players, coaches, and officials during games.

A player or spectator may be asked to leave the premises if they become disrespectful to other players, coaches, or officials. Please be respectful and aware of your actions at all times.

Sportsmanship

The Diplomats are committed to exercising good sportsmanship at all times. Our club philosophy is that our athletes should represent their club in a positive and respectful manner. We also would not want spectators to embarrass our players and the club with inappropriate behavior. The code of conduct expects the following from our families and spectators:

- **Absolutely** no foul language is permitted.
- Parents should cheer for the Diplomats in a **positive manner** – **not against** our opponents in a negative manner.
- Show respect to those around you.
- Support your coaches and volunteers.
- Refrain from harassing referees and/or event staff.

The most discouraging thing we can see in a gym is unsportsman-like behavior from a player, parent, or spectator. Please set a great example for your player by being a good sport in the stands!

Practices

Practices for most teams will be held twice per week. Practices will normally last for two (2) hours. Practices will be held on Wednesday and Saturday. You will receive a monthly practice schedule from your coach. We will make every effort to not change the monthly schedules – however – things do happen! Please be flexible and cooperative.

If a player must miss a practice, the **player** must call their coach as soon as possible. Athletes who miss practice are missing valuable information and training time. Understand that athletes who have consistent absences or tardiness could potentially have their playing time reduced.

To emphasize **player responsibility**, we do not want parents to call on behalf of their player. **It is the player's responsibility!!!**

Players should be prepared and on-time for **ALL** practices:

- No gum!
 - No jewelry!
 - Reversible practice jersey must be worn
 - Have water or sports drink
 - Basketball shoes REQUIRED
 - Bring a basketball
-
- ✓ PLAYING TIME IS BASED ON YOUR PERFORMANCE DURING PRACTICE!

 - ✓ PLAYING TIME IS NOT GUARANTEED!

 - ✓ PARENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO WATCH PRACTICES – HOWEVER – LEAVE THE COACHING TO THE COACH!

Tournaments

First and foremost, it is important to remember that each player and parent is representing the Diplomats when we play in local tournaments and travel to out-of-state events. Traveling with the team is an ***honor*** and needs to be respected.

Important things to remember when we begin traveling:

- The playing schedule is usually tight and there is little time, if any, to see the local sights. We are there to compete, but also to have fun! If possible, the coach will try to schedule some free time, but this will not always happen.
- Each player is required to travel to both local and out-of-state tournaments with the Diplomats uniform and their Diplomats duffle bag. Include extra socks and personal items in the travel bag.
- When attending a tournament that requires travel; should you chose to fly please make sure that your Diplomats duffle bag IS YOUR CARRY-ON BAG. Your duffle bag should have ALL Diplomats uniform pieces (including your court shoes.) Checked bags can get lost or misplaced and not arrive to your destination on time.
- Players are expected to wear appropriate clothing at all times. When the Diplomats team takes the court each player will wear the appropriate uniform, either home or away, tops and bottoms should be on the appropriate color side.
- When attending team or public events players are required to wear their Diplomats t-shirts and black athletic sweatpants.

Uniforms

The Diplomats team uniform consists of:

- Reversible Game Jersey
- Reversible Game Shorts
- Black travel t-shirt
- Black travel duffle bag

Players will be responsible for supplying their own court shoes and black athletic/sweatpants.

At the beginning of each session, uniforms will be ordered for all new players. Returning players will have the opportunity to order replacement pieces as needed. It is the player's responsibility to make sure that ALL uniform pieces are in good condition and proper fit prior to starting the season.

Player's should take pride in themselves and their uniforms! Make sure that your uniforms are clean and free of stains before tournament games.

Parents:

You may also order Diplomats logo shirts! We encourage you to wear your Diplomats merchandise to all our tournaments to show support for our teams.



diplomats

Financial Commitment

Participating with the Diplomats take a commitment from both the parents and the players. We are not-for-profit and our coaches and administrative staff volunteer their time and resources to make the Diplomats a successful club team.

Following are the fee schedules for each team:

DUE DATE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
*11/16/2011	\$100 \$35	Uniform Deposit Gym Dues (November)
12/07/2011	\$100 \$35	Uniform Balance Gym Dues (December)
01/06/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (January)
02/03/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (February)
03/02/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (March)
04/06/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (April)
05/04/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (May)
06/01/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (June)
07/06/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (July)
08/03/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (August)
09/07/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (September)
10/05/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (October)
11/02/2012	\$35	Gym Dues (November)

***All payments are due ON or BEFORE the due date listed above
Acceptable forms of payment; cash, money order, or credit card***

- Initial commitment payment of \$135 is NON-REFUNDABLE
- Fees do not include tournament, travel, or meal costs

Tournament fees will be divided evenly amongst all Diplomats players and will be due **in full** the month prior to the tournament date. All tournament dues are NON-REFUNDABLE. Every effort will be made to provide a 45-60 day advance notice for all tournament schedules and dues.

Community Involvement

It is important for all Diplomats players to understand the meaning and importance of giving back to our community. Therefore, all players are encouraged to volunteer a minimum of 1 hour per month. You are welcome to volunteer at an organization of your choice or select from some of the opportunities below:

Boys & Girls Club of Guadalupe – Thunderbird Branch
Phoenix Childrens Hospital
Ronald McDonald House
Salvation Army
Arizona Humane Society
Local Libraries
Senior Citizen Homes
Your school

The Diplomats will also volunteer as a team at some local events, player attendance is required.

Acknowledgment

I have read and understand the rules, regulations, and required commitment to participate with the Diplomats Youth Basketball Club program. I agree to abide by these rules and regulations at all times. I understand that playing for the Diplomats team means that I will **NOT** participate or play for any other competitive league basketball team during the Diplomats basketball season.

Player Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Media Release

I authorize the use of my player(s) photographs to be used in advertisements, marketing, and social media to promote the Diplomats club basketball team.

Yes, I authorize the use of my player(s) photographs:

Signature

No, I do not authorize the use of my player(s) photographs:

Signature

Credit Card Authorization Form

I authorize my credit card to be charged for re-occurring monthly dues associated with the King and Duck Diplomats Youth Basketball team. Automatic charges will be submitted on the 1st of every month.

Credit Cardholder Information:

_____ Name on Credit Card	_____ CC Type
_____ Credit Card Account Number	_____ Exp. Date
_____ Billing Address	_____ CVV Code
_____ City	_____ State
_____ Zip Code	



I certify that I am the authorized holder and signer of the credit card referenced above. I certify that all information above is complete and accurate.

I hereby authorize collection of payment for all charges as indicated above.

Cardholder Signature



Player Information

Player Name (First/Last): _____

Parent Contact: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Player Birthday: ____/____/____ Age: ____ Height: ____

Positions Played: _____

Preferred Jersey # (Pick 3) Uniform Size _____

Opt #1 _____ Opt #2 _____ Opt #3 _____

Player Agreement/Injury Waiver

I have read and do understand, and hereby will follow, all of the rules and regulations for the Diplomats Youth Basketball Club team. I know that by being considered by the Diplomats organization that I attest that I am physically fit to play competitive basketball and understand that I am playing at my own risk and responsibility. I understand that competitive club basketball is a physically demanding contact sport, which could result in injury, dismemberment, death, or other crippling injuries and disabilities. I understand that I am responsible for my own safety and for obtaining my own insurance coverage. I also understand that if I am harmed or injured in any way at a Diplomats event that I will remove myself from any further participation and bring such to the attention of an official or Diplomats staff member. I do not hold responsible and find each person of the Diplomats organization harmless from any damages, claims, or lawsuits for any accidents that could occur during any practice, game, or transportation to and from a Diplomats event.

Signature of Parent for Minor Child: _____