



St. Paul United Methodist Church
501 Grant Street, SE
Atlanta, GA 30312
404-688-7501
www.stpaulgrantpark.org

Dear Parents and Coaches of St. Paul Basketball,

Welcome to St Paul Basketball Basketball Ministry 2009-2010! St. Paul has been a good neighbor in the Grant Park community for more than 100 years, and we continue to find new ways to serve our neighborhood. We are committed to the families of Grant Park and to the opportunity for our children to have a safe place to play, grow, and learn good skills. This new ministry is just one of the many ways St. Paul reaches out to the families of our neighborhood.

The goals of St. Paul Basketball are the following:

- to provide a safe and fun environment for children and youth.
- to provide the opportunity for physical exercise and good health.
- to provide the opportunity for team sports and learning the game of basketball.
- to provide the opportunity for girls and boys to win and lose with a respectful attitude.

Our league is open to boys and girls ages 3-11. All teams are co-ed. The 3-year-old age group will not have a weekly practice. They will meet at 9am on Saturdays for a 20 minute structured skills clinic and then a 25 minute Fun Game. These introduction clinics will focus on social skills, sportsmanship, dribbling, passing, shooting, and defensive basketball skills.

Our games will be scheduled from January 9-February 27. Players will have one game and a one-hour practice each week. All games will be played on Saturdays. Practices will begin the week of January 4, 2010. Once the teams are firmly established, you will be contacted by the coach of your team for practice times and game schedules.

Volunteers

We rely on volunteers to coach the teams, and we are grateful to those who willingly give of their time and energy to St. Paul Basketball. All coaches must submit to a criminal background check and attend a mandatory Coach's Safety Training Session before the first team practice. In the coach's safety training session we will cover the rules and policies of the league; acceptable behavior of parents and coaches; and snack recommendations for the teams.

Child Safety Policies

We are committed to our policies of Child Safety, and policies are not guidelines but are rules we follow in order to create a safe environment for the players and to protect the church from liability. Therefore, only practices and games scheduled by the Program Director are permitted. All extra practices or "friendly gatherings", or open gym, no matter how well intended, are not covered by our insurance or by our safety policies. When an individual contacts a team and invites the players to do something beyond our schedule, beyond our prescribed locations, and without the approval of our Program Director, the activity cannot be considered as part of our program and is going beyond the realm of the safety standards of the St. Paul Basketball program.

Church League

St. Paul Basketball is a key part of our outreach to the community and as a church league we will have a short prayer before each game to acknowledge and give thanks to God and to ask for safety, for a spirit of cooperation, and for a fun time while we play.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, we will follow the Atlanta Public Schools closing Schedule posted on WSB-TV Channel 2. Neither canceled practices nor games will be made up due to facility constraints.

Swine Flu and Other Illness

If you or your child has flu-like symptoms, the CDC recommends that you stay home from work / school and stay away from other people. See your medical provider for diagnosis and treatment. This same request applies to other contagious illnesses. Please be considerate of others by not sending a sick child to basketball games or practice. Please contact your coach and let him or her know if your child is unable to attend a practice or game.

Registration

Registration is from November 16th – December 4th, 2009. The cost of registration is \$80.00 per child and space is limited. In an attempt to accommodate participants in all age divisions, there may be a waiting list. To register, please complete and sign the registration form with a check made payable to St. Paul UMC. The mailing address is the following:

St. Paul Basketball
501 Grant St., S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30312

If you have concerns or questions, please direct them to Sherri Scott, Program Director at St. Paul United Methodist church at 678-642-7762 or email Basketball@StPaulGrantPark.org, or visit our website: www.stpaulgrantpark.org. The Church Office may be contacted by calling 404-688-7501. The deadline for registration is December 4, 2009. Once the teams have been formed and communications have been made, all accepted registration payments are non-refundable unless there are extenuating circumstances. These situations will be handled on an individual basis.

Thank you for your interest in St. Paul Basketball. In order to help make our new ministry a success, we ask you to respect our St. Paul property, policies, and decisions, and to help us to set a positive tone for our basketball program. We want St. Paul Basketball to be a pleasant and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Your encouragement and positive attitude will go a long way in making this first season a great success.

See you this winter!

Peace,

Susan Allen Grady
Pastor
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