

Parent & Player Handbook



Neighborhood Kidz

Building Character. Developing Leaders. Strengthening Community.

Parent & Player Handbook, First Edition (July 2026)

2026–2027 Season

Welcome to Neighborhood Kidz

Thank you for choosing to be a part of Neighborhood Kidz.

Neighborhood Kidz exists to **build character, develop leaders, and strengthen our community** through the game of basketball.

Every practice, every game, and every interaction is an opportunity to help young people grow as athletes, teammates, students, and future leaders.

Our mission is to provide a positive, competitive, and development-focused basketball experience where young athletes improve their skills, compete at a high level, and learn valuable life lessons through the game. We believe success is measured by more than wins and losses. Our goal is to help every player grow in confidence, accountability, leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship while competing with integrity.

Every player, parent, and coach plays an important role in creating a positive environment where our athletes can thrive.

This handbook outlines the expectations, policies, and procedures that help our program operate successfully and ensure a positive experience for every family.

Thank you for placing your trust in our coaching staff, we look forward to an exciting season and the opportunity to grow together both on and off the court.

Sincerely,

Jean-Masse Buchanan
Founder & Program Director

Zac Daab
Assistant Coach

About Neighborhood Kidz

Mission

Neighborhood Kidz Basketball Club brings together athletes from across Northeast Seattle and the surrounding communities to develop as basketball players, teammates, and leaders through a season-long commitment to growth, competition, and character.

Vision

To build a community-based basketball program where young athletes develop the character, leadership, skills, and confidence to succeed in basketball and in life. Neighborhood Kidz strives to create a culture where players commit to one another, compete with integrity, and represent their families and community with pride.

Core Values

Every decision made within Neighborhood Kidz is guided by these principles:

Respect – Treat teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and families with respect.

Accountability – Take responsibility for your actions, your attitude, and your effort.

Commitment – Honor your commitment to your teammates by being dependable and prepared.

Growth – Focus on continual improvement both as a player and as a person.

Community – Represent Neighborhood Kidz with integrity on and off the court.

Program Philosophy

Neighborhood Kidz believes that players develop best when they stay together, practice together, and compete together over the course of a season.

Our program emphasizes long-term player development, accountability, teamwork, and character while preparing athletes for success at the next level.

While we compete to win every game, our primary objective is preparing athletes to become skilled basketball players, dependable teammates, and respectful young adults.

We value effort, coachability, teamwork, and character just as highly as talent.

Winning is the result of our preparation through discipline, and playing together.

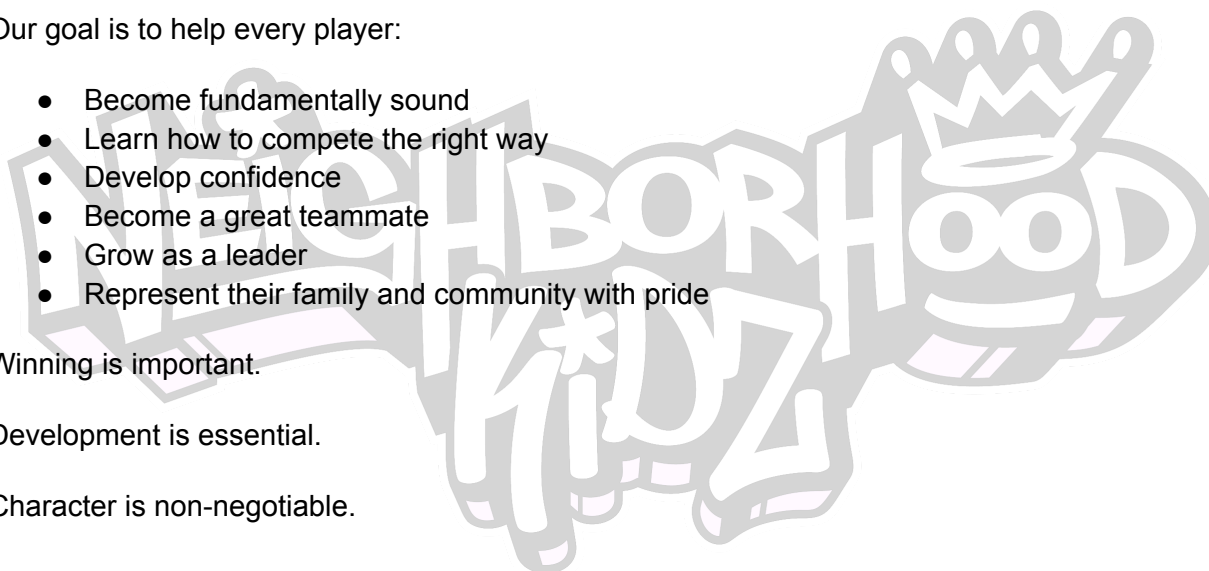
Our goal is to help every player:

- Become fundamentally sound
- Learn how to compete the right way
- Develop confidence
- Become a great teammate
- Grow as a leader
- Represent their family and community with pride

Winning is important.

Development is essential.

Character is non-negotiable.



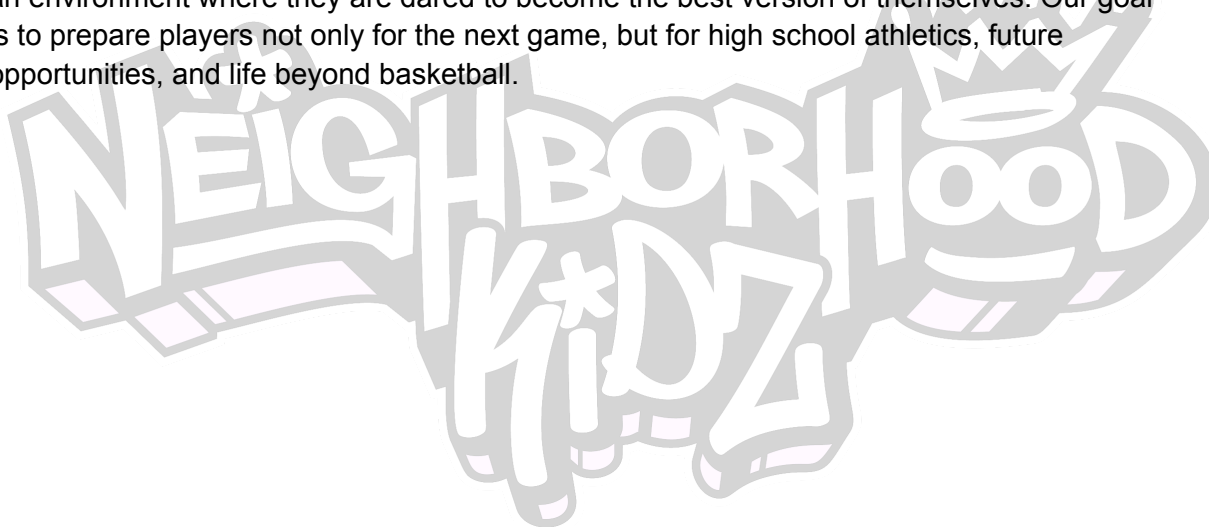
Coaching Philosophy

Basketball provides an opportunity to teach lessons that extend far beyond the game.

Our responsibility as coaches is not only to develop skilled basketball players, but to help young people become confident leaders, dependable teammates, and responsible members of their communities.

We believe in teaching the game with enthusiasm, attention to detail, and high expectations. Players are encouraged to compete, communicate, think critically, and embrace challenges. Mistakes are viewed as opportunities to learn, while effort, preparation, and unselfish play are consistently valued.

Every player will be challenged to improve, support their teammates, and contribute to the success of the group. Each player deserves honest coaching, constructive feedback, and an environment where they are dared to become the best version of themselves. Our goal is to prepare players not only for the next game, but for high school athletics, future opportunities, and life beyond basketball.



Season Structure

Fall+Winter - Chase for the 'ships

August – March

During this period players are expected to prioritize Neighborhood Kidz as their primary select/travel basketball commitment whenever possible.

Activities include:

- Team practices
- League play
- Local tournaments
- Regional tournaments
- Skill development sessions

Spring+Summer

April – July

Neighborhood Kidz recognizes that many athletes also participate in baseball, track, soccer and spring AAU opportunities.

Our spring schedule is intentionally lighter and includes:

- Monthly tournaments
- League play
- International competition
- Optional development opportunities

This structure allows athletes to remain connected while supporting participation in multiple sports.

There may be an opportunity to extend the season later into the summer.

Season Structure

Practice

Practice locations vary throughout the year based on gym availability. Neighborhood Kidz utilizes Seattle Public Schools facilities, community centers, colleges, and outdoor spaces throughout Seattle. Past locations have included Kimball Elementary, Magnolia Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center, North Seattle College, and Salmon Bay School.

Because gym availability changes each season, families should expect practice locations to vary.

Every effort is made to balance accessibility with available facilities while recognizing the coaching staff's work and family commitments.

During the summer months, practices often take place outdoors and may include basketball skill development, conditioning, agility training, track workouts, and team-building activities.



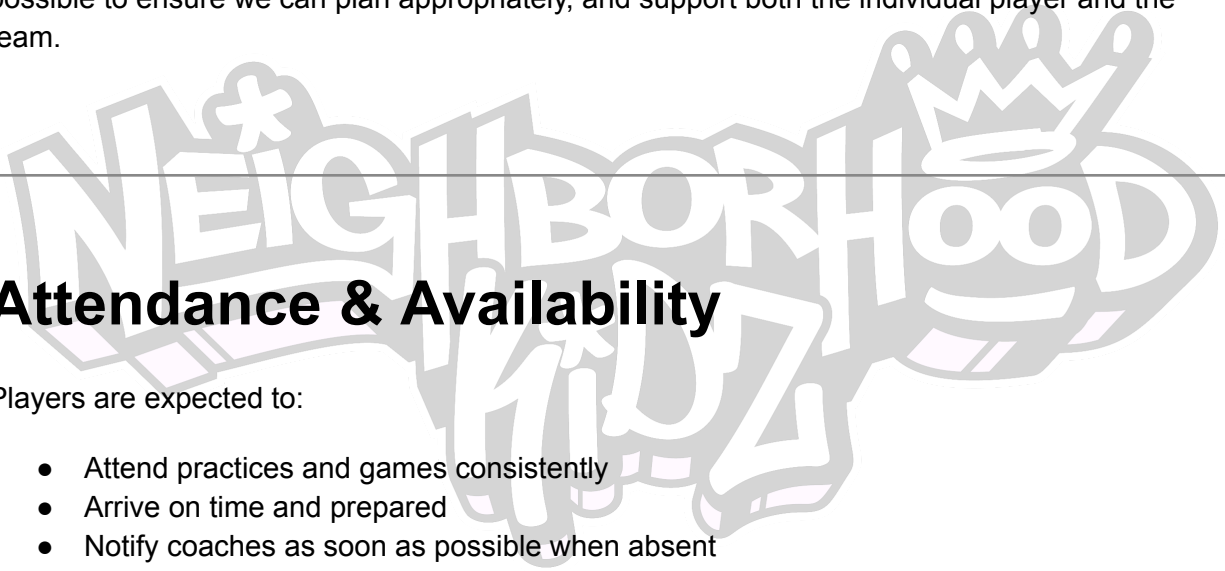
Team Commitment

Neighborhood Kidz was founded on the belief that players develop best when they stay together, practice together, and compete together over the course of a season.

For that reason, Neighborhood Kidz is designed to be each player's primary basketball club from late summer through March. Consistent participation allows players to build trust, develop team chemistry, and maximize their individual and collective growth. We understand that many athletes participate in multiple sports, and we encourage well-rounded athletic development.

To support those opportunities, our spring schedule is intentionally reduced beginning in April, allowing players to participate in other sports while remaining connected to the team.

Families are expected to communicate scheduling conflicts with the coaching staff as early as possible to ensure we can plan appropriately, and support both the individual player and the team.



Attendance & Availability

Players are expected to:

- Attend practices and games consistently
- Arrive on time and prepared
- Notify coaches as soon as possible when absent
- Give maximum effort during every practice and game

Attendance is one factor considered when determining tournament participation and playing time.

Communication

Neighborhood Kidz believes clear and respectful communication is essential to a successful season.

We strive to keep families informed while encouraging open dialogue between coaches, players, and parents.

Primary Communication

GameChanger serves as the program's primary communication platform.

Families should use GameChanger for:

- Practice schedules
- Game schedules
- Tournament information
- Team announcements
- Availability updates
- Team messaging

Parents are responsible for ensuring their contact information remains current and for regularly reviewing updates posted through GameChanger.

We encourage the use of GameChanger's chat function to **build community** through communication regarding ride sharing, equipment recommendations, and post-event gatherings.

Direct Communication

Parents may contact the Program Director by phone, text message, or email when appropriate.

Players may also communicate directly with the Program Director regarding basketball-related matters, provided communication remains respectful and appropriate.

Former players are always welcome to stay connected and reach out regarding basketball, academics, or other opportunities.

Current and former players are encouraged to include a parent or guardian in communications.

Communication

Parent Questions & Concerns

Neighborhood Kidz encourages respectful communication between families and coaches.

Questions regarding scheduling, player availability, or program operations are welcome.

Concerns regarding playing time or coaching decisions should not be discussed immediately following practices or games.

Families are encouraged to allow an appropriate cooling-off period (at least 24 hours) before requesting a conversation.

Response Time

Coaches will make every effort to respond to messages within **24–48 hours**, recognizing that coaches also have work, family, and personal commitments.

Respectful Communication

All communication should reflect the values of Neighborhood Kidz.

Abusive language, personal attacks, or disrespectful conduct toward coaches, officials, volunteers, players, or other families will not be tolerated.

Conflict Resolution

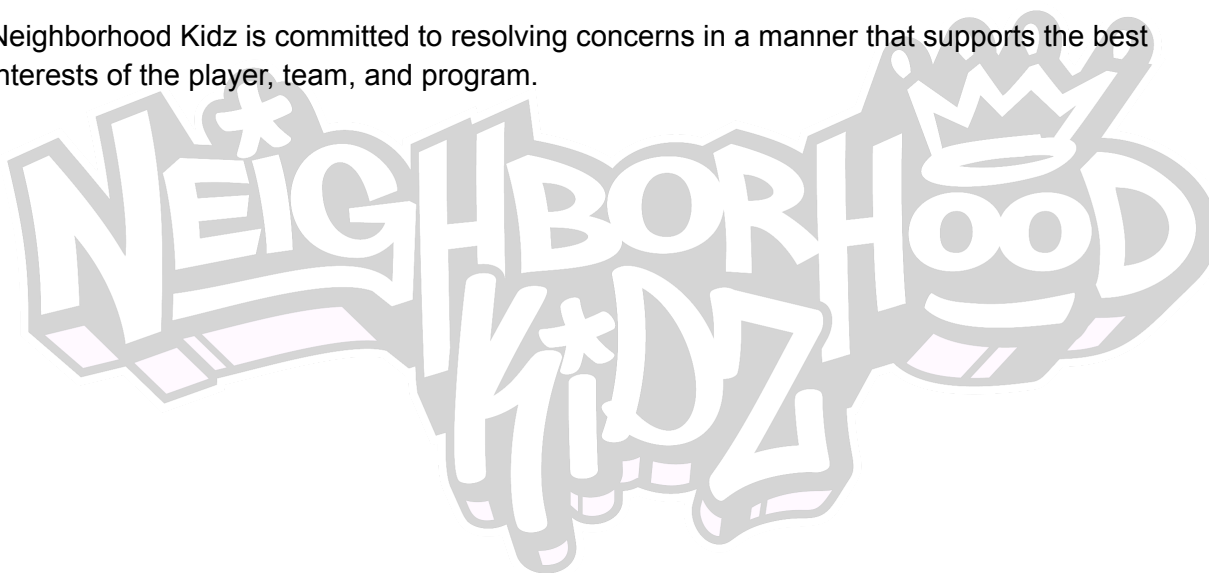
Neighborhood Kidz is committed to maintaining a positive, respectful, and solutions-oriented environment for our players and families.

Parents are encouraged to first discuss concerns directly with the appropriate coach after allowing an appropriate cooling-off period following games or practices. If the concern remains unresolved, families may request a meeting with the Program Director. Concerns should be addressed privately and respectfully rather than through players, social media, or other families.

Open communication helps strengthen our program, and concerns presented respectfully will be given thoughtful consideration.

Constructive feedback is always welcome.

Neighborhood Kidz is committed to resolving concerns in a manner that supports the best interests of the player, team, and program.



Code of Conduct

Neighborhood Kidz is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all participants.

Bullying, fighting, disrespectful language, and behavior is detrimental to the team culture.

Players, parents, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all Neighborhood Kidz activities.

Neighborhood Kidz reserves the right to suspend or remove any participant or spectator whose conduct is disruptive, abusive, threatening, or otherwise inconsistent with the values of the program.



Code of Conduct

Parent Expectations

We ask every family to:

- Support all players
- Encourage good sportsmanship
- Respect coaches, officials, opponents, and spectators Refrain from coaching players during games
- Address concerns respectfully and privately in accordance with the Neighborhood Kidz Conflict Resolution Policy
- Support the team environment

Player Expectations

Every Neighborhood Kidz player agrees to:

- Respect teammates
- Respect coaches
- Respect officials
- Compete with maximum effort
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship
- Encourage teammates
- Be coachable
- Represent Neighborhood Kidz positively both on and off the court

Bullying, fighting, disrespectful language, or behavior detrimental to the team culture may result in disciplinary action including suspension or dismissal from the program.

Coaches Expectations

Neighborhood Kidz coaches are committed to:

- Treating every player with dignity and respect
- Providing a safe, positive, and inclusive environment
- Teaching the game with enthusiasm and professionalism
- Communicating honestly with players and families
- Modeling sportsmanship and integrity
- Placing player development ahead of winning whenever possible
- Making team decisions in the best interest of the program

Player Suspension & Removal

Neighborhood Kidz is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all players, families, coaches, officials, and spectators.

The Program Director reserves the right to suspend or remove any player whose conduct, or whose parent/guardian's conduct, significantly disrupts the program or violates the expectations outlined in this Handbook.

Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Repeated violations of team rules or expectations
- Unsafe or abusive behavior
- Bullying, harassment, or discrimination
- Repeated disrespect toward coaches, teammates, officials, or families
- Conduct by a parent or guardian that substantially interferes with the operation of the program

Whenever practical, Neighborhood Kidz will communicate concerns with the family and provide an opportunity to correct the behavior before suspension or removal.

However, serious misconduct may result in immediate suspension or removal at the discretion of the Program Director.

If a player is removed from the program for disciplinary reasons, any refund of tuition or fees shall be determined solely by Neighborhood Kidz after considering the financial obligations already incurred on behalf of the player.

The Program Director's decisions regarding player discipline and program participation are intended to protect the overall well-being of the team and maintain the standards of Neighborhood Kidz.

Roster Acceptance & Confirmation

Neighborhood Kidz respects that every family must make the decision that is best for their child.

We recognize that families may consider other basketball opportunities, and we support each family's right to choose the program that best meets their needs.

Likewise, Neighborhood Kidz has a responsibility to make decisions that are in the best interest of the program, the team, and the families who have committed to our season.

Roster positions are limited. Families who accept a roster position are expected to honor their commitment throughout the season. If a family declines a roster invitation, withdraws, or chooses to participate with another basketball program, future roster opportunities will be considered based on team needs, available space, and the best interests of Neighborhood Kidz.

Previous participation does not guarantee a future roster position.

Roster Invitations

Returning players are invited first.

Additional players may be invited through recommendations, evaluations, or tryouts.

Registration

Roster invitations are contingent upon completion of registration.

Initial Season Commitment Deposit

Deposit Required.

Confirmation

A roster spot becomes official when:

- Paperwork is complete
- Initial Season Commitment Deposit is received
- Registration is confirmed by Neighborhood Kidz

Waitlist

If the roster is full, additional players may be placed on a waitlist.

Playing Time Philosophy

Neighborhood Kidz is a competitive basketball program.

Playing time is determined by factors including:

- Attendance
- Effort
- Attitude
- Coachability
- Preparation
- Team needs
- Game situations

Every player is valued.

Playing time is not guaranteed equally during competitive events.

Transportation

Parents and guardians are responsible for arranging transportation to and from all Neighborhood Kidz activities unless otherwise communicated.

Players should be picked up promptly following practices, games, and team activities.

Families are expected to communicate in advance if delays are unavoidable.

Neighborhood Kidz assumes no responsibility for transportation provided by another parent or volunteer.

Medical Information

Parents are responsible for informing the coaching staff of any medical conditions, allergies, injuries, medications, or other health concerns that may affect participation. Players who become injured during the season should notify a coach immediately. Emergency medical authorization is completed separately as part of the registration process.

Financial Policies

Participation fees help cover the cost of operating Neighborhood Kidz, including but not limited to:

- Gym rentals
- League fees
- Tournament registration
- Insurance
- Equipment
- Officials
- Administrative expenses

Initial Season Commitment Deposit

The Initial Season Commitment Deposit is the first payment required to secure a player's roster position.

This payment is applied toward the family's total seasonal tuition and is non-refundable except as otherwise determined by Neighborhood Kidz.

Payment plans must remain current throughout the season.

Payment Options

Option 1

- Pay in Full - \$1800 (Fall+Winter)

Option 2

- 50% Initial Season Commitment Deposit + Payment Plan

Financial Policies

Outstanding Balances

Families with an outstanding balance from a previous season must either:

- Pay the balance in full

or

- Enter into an approved payment arrangement

before participating in Neighborhood Kidz activities.

Refund & Withdrawal Policy

The Initial Season Commitment Deposit is non-refundable and reserves a player's roster position for the upcoming season.

Families who voluntarily withdraw after accepting a roster position remain responsible for any non-refundable expenses already incurred on behalf of their player, including league fees, tournament registrations, uniforms, gym rental allocations, and other committed program expenses.

Neighborhood Kidz may, at its sole discretion, consider exceptions due to extraordinary circumstances.

Volunteer Opportunities

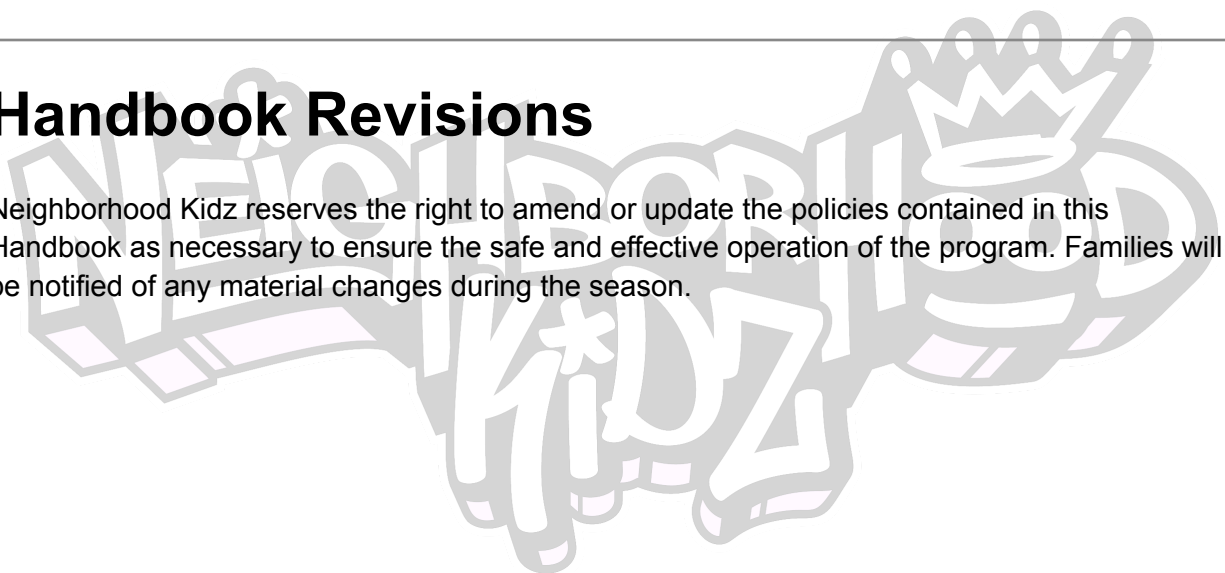
Neighborhood Kidz depends upon family involvement.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Team Parent
- Scorekeeping
- Transportation coordination
- Fundraising
- Photography & Video
- Team snacks
- Event support

Handbook Revisions

Neighborhood Kidz reserves the right to amend or update the policies contained in this Handbook as necessary to ensure the safe and effective operation of the program. Families will be notified of any material changes during the season.



Contact Information

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