TEAM ESFACE BASKETBALL

WHAT IS THE PLAYING TIME PHILOSOPHY FOR REGULAR SEASON VS NATIONAL TOURNEY TRAVEL PLAY?

Team Esface believes in taking a long term perspective with regards to the development of our athletes. We do NOT subscribe to the common “win at all costs” philosophy. Playing time should reflect this. It is very easy to give in to the temptation of playing only your “best players” but because we know kids are in a crucial developmental stage, playing all your players gives them all a chance to build their confidence and translate all of their training to live play.

During the season (non-National tourney & championship game):

- All players should get playing time in all games. Though it’s impossible to play everyone equally, we believe all kids deserve to get in-game reps to build their confidence and develop the necessary experience required for growth.
- Depending on your specific coaches policies, some players may be benched for certain durations based on missing practices, academics, etc. This should be communicated early in the season and consistent with all players.

Tournament Championship Games & Travel Tournaments (National Competition):

- While throughout most of the season, we adhere to the playing time philosophy above, during championship games and National Tournaments, the playing time philosophy will be different.
- Why? These games are much more high-stakes thus we will adopt an approach where we are playing to put the team in position to win.
- All players should see the floor in the first half. We believe every player should play during the first half in order to contribute what they can, regardless of how long. This allows for coaches to assess different advantages that every player/unit may present during a given game. It’s like the early rounds of a boxing match where you size up the opponent and assess strengths and weaknesses.
- During the majority of the season, every player has their chance to prove themselves and build trust with their respective coach based on impact on offense AND defense. This trust, combined with a few other factors, will lead most coaches to play a “shorter bench” usually during the second half, especially when the game is close. Other factors that lead to fewer players playing in the second half are:
    - **Match Ups:** some teams present challenges, based on personnel, that require certain players strengths to be leaned on more. For instance, if you’re playing a very quick, athletic team with no “big men”, a player with

less speed will likely get less playing in championship or travel tournament games.

- **Who's Hot:** We know that any player has the capacity to "Bring it" on any given night so giving them a chance to "hit the switch" or "turn on" is something we always want to allow for. This means that any player on any given day could end up being a high impact player for that game.
- **Game Plan:** Special circumstances that or strategies that may involve specific players strengths in one game vs the next.

IMPACT PLAYER:

- While we are discussing playing time, it is also important to know that every player, whether on the floor or not, is a CRUCIAL part of the team's success. All of the blood sweat and tears that have been sacrificed during practices week in week out, contributed to the entire team's growth. The positive energy on the bench and encouraging your teammates is a HUGE intangible that creates a CULTURE of success.

