

COACHES LETTER:

Minor Basketball Coaches,

Through an agreement with the League Directors of the PGMBA I have been brought on as a lead instructor and coaching consultant for the boys grade 5/6 division as well as the boys and girls grade 7/8 divisions. Although I will not be directly involved with the other divisions, I will be available as a resource and coaching mentor to all coaches in the minor basketball system.

It is my long term goal to create an environment in Prince George that will produce a regular stream of local athletes who are capable of playing with our program at the CIS level directly out of high school. At this point a majority of our UNBC men's basketball players come from other areas due to a lack of home grown talent that is able to play at the CIS level. The first step in creating this environment is to engage our youth and more importantly engage our grass roots coaches. As minor basketball coaches your job is so important in developing an early passion for the sport in our youth as well as teaching the fundamental skills that form such an important base for these athletes as they move forward in their basketball careers. I have a huge amount of respect for you and hope you understand how valuable your time as a volunteer coach is to the local basketball scene.

I will be working with each division on the following dates:

-Grade 5/6 Boys: Nov. 10, 24, Dec. 8, 15, Jan. 12, 26, Feb. 9

-Grade 7/8 Boys and Girls: Nov. 10, 17, 24, Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 9

During the select days on which I will be acting as lead instructor for these three divisions the program will take a much different look than it has in previous years. I will come to each session organized with a practice plan that will engage the entire group in the gym. All coaches in the division will receive a copy of this plan along with their roles and responsibilities during each phase of the practice. Teaching and learning activities will take place using a number of formats. At times we will do mass instruction with myself teaching skills to all the athletes in the gym at one time. Other times it will take the form of myself demonstrating drills at a hoop and then sending athletes back to their teams to execute the drills with their team coaches. At other times we will do station work in which each coach will have a number of athletes and teach an individual skill for a short period of time and we will rotate all the athletes in gym from station to station. We will still continue to play the one hour games during the second hour as we always have in the past.

I have two primary objectives in mind with running practices using the format mentioned above. The first objective is to maximize the engagement level of our athletes in an environment that has some limitations (i.e. only one rim per team). The second objective is to arm our coaches with a number of drills and teaching progressions for different skills as well as share my thoughts and overall coaching philosophies. It is my hope that each session will act as a mini coaching clinic for our coaches and help to expand the knowledge base and confidence level for each coach so that we all become more efficient teachers of the game. Often our grass

roots coaches are simply handed a coaches manual and then set off on their own. I am confident that this will be a much more interactive way of engaging everyone and improving the overall service we are providing to our PG MBA athletes. We have many different coaches that come into minor basketball with different backgrounds in the sport. It is my hope that my involvement with you will help the novice coach to gain confidence in teaching the fundamentals of the game and give the more experienced coaches new ideas to work with. I really want this to be a cooperative process that benefits everyone involved in the PG MBA from the top down. It is also my hope that my involvement may spark some of you to take on other coaching roles at the elementary and high school levels armed with an increased confidence and knowledge base.

I am asking each coach to bring a duotang or binder to each session to keep copies of our practice plans. I will also provide each of you with short articles and/or coaching resource materials that are meant to generate discussion between the coaches and hopefully act as an active and continually expanding coaching manual that may come of practical use to you in the future. I have already spoken with the gr. 7/8 coaches about meeting for 15 minutes at the end of each session to engage in general discussion about coaching practices and I am hoping the coaches at the gr. 5/6 division will be willing to meet at 8:45 am to have similar discussions before we begin on Sunday mornings. Tanis and Wade will also be providing me with everyone's email address and I may from time to time send out information electronically in the form of a mailing list. If there are any issues or concerns with being included on this mailing list please contact Tanis Hampe at pgminorbasketball@gmail.com.

For coaches who are not coaching in the divisions I will be directly involved with I would really like to encourage you to reach out to me via email and/or phone if you have any basic questions about coaching practices you would like to ask. I also encourage you to come out and observe my instruction with the other divisions and engage in our coaching discussions. My practices with our Junior Timberwolves program and with my UNBC Men's Team will also be open to interested coaches who would like to learn. If you are interested in observing my instruction with any of these groups please let me know and I would be happy to arrange something.

Thank you again for being a part of growing the sport of basketball in our community and please use me as a resource as much as possible. Please feel free to contact me by phone ([250-612-7687](tel:250-612-7687)) or email (todd.jordan@unbc.ca) if you have any questions or would like to talk coaching.

Sincerely,

Todd Jordan
Head Coach
UNBC Men's Basketball