

# GILMER COUNTY SCHOOLS POLICY #6180 ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL AND CHEERLEADING PROGRAM

WVSSAC Rules for middle school basketball will govern the program with the following exceptions:

- Boys' and Girls' practices will begin the first weekday in November.

**Purpose:** To provide the opportunity for fifth and sixth grade students to learn the fundamentals of basketball and cheerleading and to exhibit those skills in competitive situations.

**Eligibility:** Players must be a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade student and have earned a "C" average during the first nine weeks of the school year. Provided, however, should any team have fewer than seven players, the school may use 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to field a team. The student must not exceed 13 years of age as of August 1 of the current school year. Students must have a physical exam, after July 1 of the current school year before s/he is eligible to participate in any practice or game. Students suspended from school for disciplinary or other reasons may not participate in any practice or game held during the term of the suspension. Each student must complete at least 14 practices, maximum of 1 practice per day, before playing in a game. Two unexcused practices and/or games will result in non-participation in the next game. Unexcused practices will be determined by the principal. Any player deemed ineligible due to unexcused absences will be required to sit with the team, but not in uniform.

**Coaches:** Principals will recommend employment of coaches to the Superintendent. A salary of \$600.00 will be paid to coaches of each team. Teachers will be given first priority to serve as coaches for the schools in which they work. All coaches employed outside the school system who are not certified as a teacher must complete coaching requirements established by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Principals will evaluate coaches.

**Scheduling:** Games will be scheduled not to exceed three nights weekly. A maximum of one boy's and one girl's game will be held nightly. In order to determine scholastic eligibility, practice may not begin until grades have been given for the first nine weeks of the school year, with competitions to be held in December and January. A county tournament will be held. Practices shall be open or closed to the public at the discretion of the coach. There will be no scrimmages scheduled or played. If school is cancelled for any reason, all practices will be cancelled also.

**Teams:** It is recommended that basketball and cheerleading teams be limited to 15 participants. If more than one team is required to allow maximum participation, the schools will make necessary provisions by hiring an additional coach or coaches for each team and the teams will compete against each other during regular season. Should the total number of students on the two teams drop to 15 or less, the two teams and coaching staff will be merged.

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Team sign-ups must be made by October 15. Should two or more teams be needed, the Principal will hold a drawing for each team at a designated place and time specified by the Superintendent.

**Officials:** Elementary Principals will be responsible for securing registered officials and fees which will be paid from excess levy funds designated for this activity.

**Rules:** Rules and regulations established by the WVSSAC will govern this program unless otherwise specified in this policy. Disputes to be settled by the school Principals meeting as a team if necessary. Good sportsmanship is expected by all participants and spectators and the principal/designees will be responsible for crowd control. Unruly behavior will not be tolerated and consequences will include ejection with possible denial of future access to games/tournaments or related activities. The home school principal will be responsible for crowd control.

**Insurance:** Students must provide proof of insurance coverage prior to participating in any practice or game.

**Transportation:** Transportation for all participants will be provided to the away games during the December/January competitions. Parents/guardians may sign out students after the game. Parents/guardians will be responsible for providing transportation to any county tournament held after regular season.

**Tournaments:** Admission will be charged at tournaments to pay for tournament officials and operating cost. The clean up of facilities will be paid from the concession stand profits.

**Playing Time:** Each eligible participant will play a minimum of six consecutive minutes, within one quarter per game. Quarters will be six minutes in length with halftime lasting a maximum of ten minutes.

**Board of Directors:** Elementary Principals will comprise the Board of Directors, and shall be responsible for all aspects of the program.

Placed on Review: 3/9/10

Board Approved: 4/26/10