

## Winston-Salem Stealers 2020 Travel Team Parent Meeting

Bishop McGuinness - January 18, 2020

10:00 for 7th-11th Grades

- Introductions
  - Contacting coaches / me
    - Email is always the best to contact me (Brian Robinson) at [stlrzcoach1@aol.com](mailto:stlrzcoach1@aol.com). I can usually get back to you within a couple of hours or so if not sooner.
    - Emailing the coaches is the best way to contact for general questions. If a player is going to be late to or miss a practice / game, texting is the best option. (see below under Program Rules & Policies for additional information on contacting coaches.)
      - Understand that all of our coaches are volunteers and have a personal life. Please do not call our coaches as a “minute to talk” request typically turns into a 20-30 minute conversation.
  - Website / Information
    - Most season information can be found on the front page of [www.thewinstonsalemstealers.com](http://www.thewinstonsalemstealers.com) or under “WS Stealers Girls Programs” on the left hand menu.
    - Skills, camps, etc... can be found under “Teach The Game’ on the website.
    - I send out a program update each week which your team parent should send out to you. The program update will keep you updated on any happenings of note taking place in our organization.
- Difference Between the 292 Program and the Travel Team Program?
  - 292 is a consulting service offered from Coach Robinson that allows for feedback from college coaches and recruiting advice for parents. The Travel Team is part of the 292 program, but not everyone on a Travel Team is in or required to be in 292.
  - What is the Teach The Game Program?
    - The Teach The Game Program is based off of our App (Teach The Game) which can be downloaded for free.
    - TTG is a program that also offers nutritional, training, and mental / physical advice, as well as year-round individual and group skills.
    - We offer “Plays of the Week” and “Drills of the Week” for coaches and players.
    - The TTG Teams are coached by Coach R and are separate from the Winston-Salem Stealers / Travel Team programs.
    - More information is on the website.

- Program Rules & Policies
  - Leaving the program / playing - practicing with another club / AAU team
    - Means that your daughter cannot return to play with the Stealers. At least once a year someone will do this and then claim that they did not know about our program rule. If you are unclear or think that something may jeopardize your daughter's eligibility in our program, ask me first before participating.
      - This usually happens when school teams get together in the fall season stating that they are preparing for the school season. School ball doesn't start until late October / early November.
  - Playing another sport, school activities, etc...
    - Playing another sport, especially a school sport, is encouraged by our program as long as players and parents understand that it is the responsibility of the player to keep up to what their Stealers' team is working on each day.
      - If a player misses a practice, she has to understand that most of our coaches are adding new plays, new defenses, etc ... at each practice and a coach cannot put the team in a tough spot if he/she plays a player, especially in a tight game, and they don't know where to be on the court.
        - That's not fair to the team.
        - Our teams don't have "starters" - they have "players". Parents sometime question why a player loses her starting spot for missing practice. Starting is not as important as finishing going by our program's long-standing philosophy. Starting does not equal the best players. It's typically the five players that work the best together who begin the game to get the team off a good start.
        - Sometimes parents will say "She received the plays she missed from her teammate through a phone call or text". That's fine, but she has to figure out a way to make sure her coach can trust that she can perform them in a game.
  - Handling issues
    - We do not handle any playing time, coaching decisions, etc... by text or phone call unless initiated by the coach, which are coaches shouldn't be doing.
      - These concerns need to be handled face-to-face on a practice day working around the coach's schedule.
      - Send the coach a 1-2 sentence email requesting a meeting.
      - Please do not send a request to meet after every tournament.
        - Sending a request after the first tournament is not a good idea as we only allow parents to meet with the coach concerning playing time once during the year.

- Refund policy
  - Once the season starts, understand that we have to pay well in advance for college exposure events and most other tournaments so we can reserve a spot. If your daughter quits, understand that her fee has already been used to pay for these events and no refund can be returned.
- Team meeting
  - Each team will have a parent meeting with their coach before or after a scheduled practice night just to cover the season.
  - Team parents, if not already chosen, will be determined then.
  - Typically the ones that miss the meeting have the most questions or issues later on during the season.
- Bench Personnel
  - All bench personnel, up to three / team, has to hold a USA Basketball Gold License. [www.usabasketball.com](http://www.usabasketball.com) or email Coach R for more information.
    - Bench personnel has to be approved by Coach R and the team coach.
    - USA Basketball Gold License fees will be reimbursed by Coach R if the holder has been approved ahead of time (by coach / director).
- Tryout days / dates
  - Do I have to attend each day?
    - It's best to do so to give your daughter the best opportunity.
  - Team selection process - How to handle questions.
    - Early team requests
      - Are just that... requests.
        - Nothing is set but it just gives us an idea of where we should place coaches as far as grades / age level goes.
    - Email me any questions about team placement.
      - Coaches do not pick their teams.
        - That responsibility goes to Coach R.
        - The way team selection works is as follows:
          - Coach R slots the first 7-9 players per team then asks each coach (during tryouts) who they think will fit their team for the final 2-5 spots (11 players total).
    - Goal is to balance out teams as best as possible by positions.
  - During tryouts:
    - Make sure your daughter arrives at least fifteen minutes before the start time. If she has a school activity, just email ahead of time to inform us.
    - Players are encouraged to jog from drill-to-drill (walking around is not a good look during tryouts, nor for practice or games for that matter).

- Players are not to go sit in the stands with their parents during tryouts when there are breaks (in-between drills or during scrimmage time).

#### Tryout Dates and Times

March 10 is TBA at Bishop McGuinness

March 12 is 5:30-7:00 for 7th & 8th Grades and 7:00-8:30 for 9th, 10th & 11th Grades.

If there is inclement weather and we need to postpone tryouts, please visit our website for info.

- Understand that team assignments, at least for the first couple of months, won't change. If we move one, we have to move all that request, thus changing the balance / makeup of each team.
  - This causes issues on the NCAA website.
  - Leads to internal issues (program drama).
  - We do have a "Request to Transfer" form that, if approved, allows a player to move from one team in our program to another.
    - The form is only good one time.
    - You cannot use the form multiple times during her career with our program.
      - This keeps confusion and drama to a minimum.
    - The request to move to another team can only happen if the team a player is transferring to has ten or less players.
  - The best thing to do is give each team a chance before assuming your daughter is on the wrong team.
    - Typically 3-5 emails come in on the day teams are posted starting that their daughter is on the wrong level or needs to play with better players, etc... and the team hasn't practiced / played yet.
  - The other thing is don't compare other player's team assignments to your daughter. This is always an issue. Have your daughter grow and be her best where she is placed and not worry about where her past teammates or friends are. We are not a "play with your friends" program.
    - Worrying about where a past teammate is slotted this season takes away from making sure your daughter is ready to compete for playing time on her current team.
    - Team selection is about "fit" and giving each player the best opportunity to improve and compete for playing time.
- High school team / performance vs. Travel Team
  - Don't send any information on how your daughter did in school ball. School ball is not club ball and vice-versa. She may have been a top player, starter, All-Conference, or MVP on her school team that was very successful, but now you're in a position where she's up against players who were also top players or starters on their school teams as well.

- As you know, not all school situations are the same so we do our best not to include school ball performance as part of our team assignment process.
    - We try not use our teams as a way to place all of your school team members together.
      - We do want your daughter to improve and be the best she can be for her school team when school season start.
- Coaches and Practice Schedules - Note: Understand that the level of each coach may change when tryouts start due to trying to balance out skill levels and positions played for each team.
  - Level each coach will be on (using spring 2020 grades)
    - Merritt Rizoti: U17; Tues & Thur ; National ; Bishop 5:00-6:15
    - Barbara Robinson: U16; Tues & Thur; National ; FCD 7:00-8:30
    - T.J. Eggers: U15; Tues & Thur ; National; FCD 6:30-7:45
    - Trish Grant: U15; Tues & Thur ; National; FCD 6:30-7:45
    - Emily Rhew-Thomas: 7th/8th Grade ; Tues & Thur ; Local; FCD 6:30-7:45
    - Rebecca Role: U16; Tues & Thur; National; Bishop 5:45 (T), 6:15 (TH)
    - Any additional coaches will have their practice schedule posted online.
  - Note: Each team has the potential to have a couple of older and a couple of younger players on each team. The grade listed will be the majority of the team.
    - Please see the “Don’t Forget” form attached, sign and return at tryouts for current and future team assignments.
  - Group, individual skills vs. team practices
    - Group and individual skills are posted under “Teach The Game” on our website.
    - Team practices are used for team concepts (offenses / defenses / press breaks / out of bounds plays etc...) with some individual skills time mixed in.
- Don’t Forget Form
  - See attached.
  - Succession Plan
    - Part of our hidden success is having younger players learn how things work from older players.
    - Our program culture is very important to our stability and the best way to remain consistent is having players understand and teach / lead by example.
    - Playing “up” is allowed.
      - We don’t want to push a player too fast too early, but at the same time if she can handle it mentally and physically, we will allow it.
- Uniforms
  - Make sure to wash uniforms in cold water. Do not iron or machine dry.

- You will receive a uniform contract (in addition to a medical release form) at or before your team parent meeting.
- Merchandise: Contact Bobby Grant at [bgrant1@triad.rr.com](mailto:bgrant1@triad.rr.com) for more information.
- Social Media: Follow us on Twitter @wsstealers or @Teach\_The\_Game or @CRCWSNC or follow Teach The Game on Facebook or Instagram
  - Our social media accounts are used to highlight program accomplishments, alums, team success and individual / group skills. We try to stay away from high or middle school accomplishments or the posting of personal (non-bball) items.

***“DON’T FORGET”***

Playing Up Works Both Ways...

One of the great aspects of our program is that we allow younger kids, if we feel they are mentally, physically and emotionally ready, to play up on our older teams. It’s something that has allowed for a succession plan. When the older ones graduate, the player(s) who played up now has/have the opportunity to do the same thing for the ones who are coming behind them.

One of the great disappointments is when a player (who has been allowed to play up), or that player’s parent, comes back and says “My daughter is not going to play with younger kids”, forgetting that when the player (their daughter) was young, she had older players and parents who trusted the program as to why she was on the team with their daughter.

This form needs to be signed and returned if you are OK with your daughter playing up at any point of her career with our program, and also understand that when it comes time for her to be the leader, she will be willing to play with younger players. If you do not turn the form back in, then she will play on a team with just players her own age / grade.

In 2002, Chante’ Black was a top twenty player in the nation. She was 6’5” and being recruited by UCONN, Tennessee, Texas, LSU and every ACC school. Most of her team in 2001 graduated so she and her mom had a choice: stay with the program and play with younger players or leave for another team / program. She decided to stay and she played on a team, in big college exposure events that included three seventh graders.

Those three seventh graders included Katheryn Lyons who went onto to play at Maryland and Marsit, LaShaunda Pratt who played at Boston College and UAB and Brittany Strachan who played at North Carolina State. When those three were juniors, we had some seventh graders who needed to play up. We moved the seventh graders up and the juniors understood because of how well Chante’ treated them. Those seventh graders were Megan Buckland and Millesa Calicott.

Megan went onto play at UNC and Millesa went onto play at Wake Forest. Those players appreciated their opportunity and were more than willing to give back when it came time for their junior year. One of the 8th grade players I moved up to play with them was Bailey Kargo. Bailey went onto play (and currently plays) at the University of Delaware. Elle Sutphin now a freshman at NC State did the same thing last season.

There are numerous other stories of kids playing up and returning the favor that are not chronicled here. I know that most of you know these players so I wanted you to see that if it was good enough for some of our players who played at the highest of levels, it hopefully should be good enough for your daughter.

I / we do understand that is not always the case so again, if you don’t want to sign the form, your daughter doesn’t have to play with younger kids, but in the same turn, she won’t be allowed to play up.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

