

# WELLSPRING GUARDIANS

## PLAYER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

- Wellspring Guardians is a 'Pay to Participate' organization. This is different from a 'Pay to Play' organization. As such, the Wellspring Guardians payment assures you that your child, with dedicated effort and attendance, regardless of skill level, will receive attention and training in practice and other dedicated activities. Payment does not assure you anything with respect to playing time in officiated games.
- Wellspring Guardians is designed to closely mimic the skill building and competitiveness found among various successful middle and high school athletic programs, whether public, private or homeschool type. For this reason, Wellspring Guardians expects to skill-build and compete at a level very much above such successful programs as 'recreational leagues', Upward, and 'intramural sports'. A certain high degree of focused effort, practice attendance, and skill refinement is expected. Furthermore, while Wellspring Guardians is certainly not a 'select', 'traveling', or even 'elite' organization, there could be the future necessity to introduce tryouts, should the program grow to such a level.
- Often seen as "athletes in development", Wellspring Guardians views U12 players differently than Varsity and JV players. U12 players are the future of the Wellspring Guardians program, and because of this are likely to experience playing time and practice decisions with a stronger focus on early age player development.
- Wellspring Guardians players are to demonstrate the utmost respect for opponents, teammates, coaches and officials. Players are not to have negative interaction with game officials. While on the field of play, players also should focus on teammates and coaches involved directly in the game, and not look to others for specific coaching instruction.
- During an officiated game, the coach may elect to play or not play certain players based on many factors. These include, but are not limited to, such things as the opponent, the game situation, combination of skills needed, attitude and emotional/physical state of players, and practice attendance. No player is guaranteed any playing time, and occurrences may even arise where individual players do not enter the game at all.
- Playing time in officiated games is completely the coach's decision. Wellspring Guardians works under the guideline that "a player may ask to come out of the game, but never to go into the game." A request to enter the game necessarily is a request that a teammate be taken out, which of course is always a decision only to be determined by the coach. Concerns around playing time are very similar to these statements. Under no circumstances should playing time be questioned or discussed independently with the coach.
- If a concern does arise around playing time, the first step a parent or player associated with Wellspring Guardians should take is to 'wait 24 hours'. If, after waiting, the concern around

playing time still exists, this must be brought directly to the AD and not to the coach. The concern will be listened to, yet seldom will a playing time concern ever be met with direct action.

- Many organizations have successfully implemented a '24 hour rule' for communication of various concerns, of which playing time is one example. This is not intended to be exactly 24 hours, yet the spirit is to wait until sometime the next day for discussion. This ensures the concern is real and not necessarily just emotional. After '24 hours', players and parents should always feel comfortable bringing non playing time related concerns to the AD, the coach, or both together. Playing time concerns must be brought directly to the AD and not the coach.
- While Wellspring Guardians is not for everyone, it is most definitely for the athlete that demonstrates a commitment to the Wellspring Guardians Mission Statement. Our organization is committed to working diligently, privately and creatively to assist athletes who passionately desire to participate in our program. Should such an athlete require financial assistance, the AD may be contacted prior to registration for information around payment options and other financial aids.
- I understand and agree that the use of FUMC facilities and equipment, as well as continued participation on Guardians basketball teams, is voluntary and dependent upon a mutual relationship. My relationship with Wellspring and the Guardians, in general, may be terminated at any time by my choice or by removal through a Wellspring leadership decision.

## **Agreement**

As the parent or legal guardian of the player named above, I hereby give my full consent and approval for my child to participate in Wellspring Guardians activities. I hereby agree to abide by all of the terms found in this Participation Agreement. As the Player, I agree to abide by all of the terms found in this Participation Agreement.

**By checking the online box and submitting my registration, both parent and athlete have agreed to the statements made in this document.**