



Illumination S.A.I.N.T.S. 2011 PARENT INFORMATION

IYEC Athletics Philosophy:

It is important for youth to be well-rounded and sports/athletics are a great way to teach sportsmanship, team work, hard work, dedication, and other Godly principles.

Coaches have a tremendous influence on the lives of their players. Athletes will often listen to their coaches more than parents and/or teachers.

We value our opportunity to teach, love and minister to your children!

S.A.I.N.T.S.

Strong, Athletic, Intelligent, Nation of, Teachable, Servants

The mission of the **Illumination Saints** is to provide an opportunity for players of all different abilities to develop their overall game and increase their self-confidence by creating an environment where they can learn, grow, improve individual skills, develop character and compete against the best athletes in the region and nation, while balancing the needs and responsibilities of family, school and community.

Our goal is to provide a quality, well organized, basketball program for boys and girls, ages 8 to 18, that offers advanced instruction in basketball fundamentals and team play concepts. This instruction, along with participation and exposure in competitive tournaments and off-season basketball camps and training sessions, will help prepare our players for the next level of their careers.

The Club operates under the management and supervision of the **Illumination Youth Empowerment Corporation, Inc.** - a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

WHAT ARE THE “Illumination Saints”?

The “S.A.I.N.T.S.” is a basketball club run by the Illumination Youth Empowerment Corp, Inc., a NC, tax-exempt, non-profit corporation. The Board of Directors for IYEC appoint officers to run the day to day operation of the Club. Will Greene oversees the basketball program, along with the Illumination Executive Board of Directors.

HOW OLD IS THE CLUB?

IYEC was founded in 2006. Our first season of basketball competition will be 2011.

HOW MANY TEAMS MAKE UP THE “S.A.I.N.T.S.”?

We expect to have somewhere between 1-10 teams this year, comprised of Boys teams and Girls teams.

GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS

HOW MANY GAMES MAKE UP THE SEASON?

Anywhere from 18-30 or more, depending on which tournament a team plays in, how many tournaments the team plays in and how far they go in the tournament. A team has to enter a tournament to play games. We guarantee participation in at least 6 tournaments as part of the fee.

HOW LONG DOES THE SEASON LAST?

Tournaments start in January for teams in the 8-12 age group, with the 13-17 year old teams starting play in late February and early March. Girls teams can also continue play in the Fall. Tournaments are held every weekend and end in July with the National Championships.

WHO RUNS THE TOURNAMENTS?

There are many associations that sponsor and sanction tournaments, but we generally participate in only three (3). The Club has memberships with AAU (Amateur Athletic Union), YBOA (Youth Basketball of America) and USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association).

AAU is the most well know and is comprised of basically elite, all-star type teams, with some that travel all over the country to play in AAU sanctioned tournaments. YBOA and



USSSA are mostly comprised of competitive teams that would not be considered “elite” and usually are not travel teams. IYEC does not sanction or run any tournament, but we may serve as a “host” for an AAU, YBOA or USSSA sanctioned tournament, which means we secure a gym and supply people to run the scoreboard, concession stand and act as on-site facility and tournament directors. The times, dates and locations are scheduled and controlled by the respective associations, not the Club.

HOW DO THE TOURNAMENTS WORK?

Each group (AAU, YBOA, USSSA) posts their sanctioned or approved tournaments on their respective websites. Each tournament has a stated entry fee, ranging from \$185-\$300 each, with a stated number of guaranteed games to be played. The higher the “game guarantee” or status of the tournament, the larger the entry fee. Most tournaments guarantee at least 3 games during the weekend, but up to 5 or 6 games could be played during the tournament if a team makes it to the championship round. Tournaments can be “invitationals” (open to any Club), “regional qualifiers”, “super-regional qualifiers”, “state or district championships” and “national championships”. State, District and National tournaments normally require qualifying in a “regional” or “super-regional” event in order to participate.

HOW ARE THE TOURNAMENTS PICKED?

Each Head Coach, in consultation with the player’s parents, decides which tournaments to attend over the course of the season (All tournaments must be approved by IYEC President). Each Saints team will play in at least 6 tournaments or a minimum of 18 games.

WHERE ARE THE TOURNAMENTS PLAYED?

Literally everywhere. The team could attend a tournament in another city or state. Some are small, local tournaments, some are regional or state-wide or national invitationals. For example, Disney’s Wide World of Sports Complex holds a national invitational each year in the Spring, open to any team. Most of our Club teams will play in tournaments within 1-2 hours of the Charlotte area. The majority of the tournaments are NOT in Charlotte, so travel is required to such areas as Highpoint, Greensboro, Statesville, Columbia, Hickory, Winston-Salem, and Gastonia. These are mostly day trips on Saturday and Sunday, with some tournaments beginning on a Friday evening.

HOW DOES A TEAM MAKE IT TO NATIONALS?

A National Championship tournament is held by each group we are associated with. Invitations however must be earned by qualifying in a national invitational or state championship. Normally the top 4-8 teams per age group receive a bid to play in the National Championship tournament at the end of the season.

WHEN ARE “NATIONALS”?

Nationals are held in July at different locations in the U.S. YBOA holds their tournament in Florida near the Orlando area. USSSA holds their tournament in Indiana. AAU is held



at various cities depending on the age group and changes yearly. The tournaments can last from 3-4 days to an entire week.

PLAYING TIME AND TEAM COMPOSITION

WHEN ARE THE TEAMS FORMED?

Open Gyms will be held in the Fall of each year to determine interest level for a particular age or grade team. Tryouts and final team roster spots are determined during Jan - March unless a spot is offered by the coach earlier. **No spot is guaranteed until all fees have been paid.** It is up to each Head Coach to pick the team.

HOW ARE THE PLAYERS DETERMINED?

It is the Coach's discretion on what type of team and what players best fit his or her style or system of play. For example, an extremely good point guard may be passed over for a bigger kid due to the need for size or because there are too many guards already on the team.

WHAT POSITION WILL MY CHILD PLAY?

Success at the Recreation, Church or YMCA level does not guarantee success at the competitive level. All the players are good, some are great and you may have to pay to see them play someday! Just because a player averaged 20 points per game in Rec league and played Point Guard does not guarantee they can get across half court at the competitive level. The coach must decide the best use of skills, which may not be what a player is normally used to. Parents and Players must be flexible in their expectations and desires and realistic in the ability of the player.

HOW MANY PLAYERS ARE ON A TEAM?

Rules allow us up to 15, but we try to hold the team at 10, 11 or 12 so everyone has a good opportunity to play.

IS PLAYING TIME EQUAL?

No. Unlike Rec, Church or YMCA ball, playing time is at the discretion of the coach and must be earned. Court time can change from game to game or tournament to tournament, depending on how the head coach needs to handle time, strategy or match-ups. Not attending practice, attitude problems or past on-court performance are all factors.

HOW LONG AND OFTEN ARE PRACTICES?

We try to practice about 2 days per week, which could be a weeknight or weekend when not attending a tournament. Practices normally last approximately 90 minutes.

WHY ARE THE TEAMS CALLED "GOLD", "BLACK" or "WHITE"?



Basically to differentiate between multiple teams within a single age group, i.e. 10u “Gold” and 10u “Black”. They are based on our team colors, which are “Vegas Gold”, “Black” and “White”.

IS THE “GOLD” TEAM THE BEST TEAM?

Not necessarily. The “gold” team was the first team formed for the respective age group during our inaugural season, and consequently will be seeded with the best players at that time. Once we are past the initial season, all teams in an age group could be equally strong or the “black” or “purple” teams could be better, depending on the coach, style of play, parent support, level of competition (AAU vs. USSSA or YBOA) and team chemistry.



FEES AND OTHER COSTS

HOW IS THE PLAYER PARTICIPATION FEE DETERMINED?

We add up all the expected costs for one team to operate for the season and divide that total by the number of players on the roster. Estimated “**per team**” costs are outlined below:

- \$385 – AAU/YBOA/USSSA membership fees
 - \$1410 – Tournament Entry Fees (6 @ \$235)
 - \$900 – Player Bags & Shooting Shirts
 - \$500 – Uniform Rental/Replacement Fee
 - \$200 – Basketballs, Scorebooks, First Aid Kit, Equipment
 - \$1000 – Gym Rental Fees, Reimbursed Travel and Administrative Support
- \$4395 – Total Estimated Team Cost (\$435 per player based on 10 player roster)**

ARE THERE ANY OTHER COSTS INVOLVED?

There may be other team expenditures that you will be responsible for such as a uniform team shoe, t-shirts, etc.

Otherwise, only if the team, coach and parents decide to travel more or attend more than the 6 guaranteed tournaments, then costs will have to be paid for by the parents by fundraising or direct contributions. For example, out of town trips that require an overnight stay would involve gas, food and hotel expenses for the weekend. These are additional costs that are not pre-collected.

National tournaments are also not pre-collected, since we do not know if any team will qualify for the national championship tournament. These costs will have to be determined by the parents and monies would have to be raised for the team to attend.

CAN I GET MY MONEY BACK IF I DON'T LIKE IT?

No, with a few exceptions as listed in the registration packet. Fees collected are used to buy uniforms, travel bags, shooting shirts; rent gym space for practice, purchase league memberships and equipment; cover operational fees and pay tournament entry fees. The money is invested in the team and is not available once the season starts.

WILL THERE BE ANY FUNDRAISERS TO HELP WITH THE FEES?

Each team will be responsible for their own fundraisers, if the parents decide to do one. The organization will not ask any parent or kid to take on the responsibility of soliciting funds for participation. Tournaments, Camps and Clinics may be held from time to time to cover certain expenses, but each player is responsible for his or her own fees, as set by



the board from year to year. If the parents for a respective team desire to participate in a fundraiser, they should work with the team coach and decide how any money raised will be shared. Fundraising ideas may be forwarded to the coaching staff from time to time, but involvement or participation in any fundraising event is not required or endorsed by the Board of Directors.