

# **TEAM NIKOS BASKETBALL ACADEMY**

**Welcome Packet  
Acceptance of Commitment Contract, Terms and Conditions  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)**

**2016–2017**

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### **COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION BY GOING ONLINE (the link will be sent to you via email):**

- *Player Information and Registration*
- *Uniform & Gear Order*
- *Payments (Club Dues, Uniforms and Gear, Per Diem)*
- *Acceptance of Commitment Contract, Terms and Conditions*

### ***IMPORTANT! Please have the following documentation to attach to your child's online registration:***

- ✓ *Current AAU membership card (see page 5 for information)*
- ✓ *Copy of player's birth certificate*
- ✓ *Copy of player's most recent school report card*

## **Welcome to Team Nikos Basketball Academy**

Thank you for your interest in Team Nikos Basketball Academy. We are proud to be part of the community where our mission is to Foster National amateur basketball competition through directing and controlling interscholastic athletic competitions.

Being part of a travel team is demanding and time consuming for all parties involved. We stress the importance of family, religion, education, and development of our players throughout our club at all levels.

Family is our number one priority and the foundation of our mission. Nothing is more important to us than a strong bond between our players and their family, as well as their new extended Team Nikos family members. It is important to us that everyone is “rowing in the same direction”, and everyone gets along throughout our long season. If you need assistance or help, we are here to lend a hand where we can. That’s what family does for one another; they help out wherever they can.

Our players must understand the importance of schoolwork. Good grades throughout the school year is expected and regularly checked by our coaches. We stress the importance of achieving good marks on report cards because we want our athletes to know what will be expected as they go into Intermediate and High School as well as College. The end goal for most Team Nikos players is to receive athletic scholarships, and without a solid GPA throughout high school, those chances decrease dramatically. Coaches will ask for report cards two to three times per season.

One of our primary goals is to produce highly visible student athletes, who will hopefully receive Athletic Scholarships to play at the college level.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Over the years we have enjoyed many successes with our involvement in youth and adult basketball. We have learned that one key ingredient of success is clear and consistent communication between the club, teams, coaches, players, and parents. This document is one way of explaining in detail the expectations of the Team Nikos Basketball Academy Club, its staff and members. It will help identify some potential problem areas and at the same time answer questions about the club decision making process. As you have committed to become a member of Team Nikos, please take the time to read the following pages carefully.

## **THE CLUB AND THE TEAM**

Members of Team Nikos agree to put the club ahead of the team. When decisions are made regarding conflicts between the club and a particular team, the club will come first. Club decisions will be made by consulting with the Program Directors and a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The decisions of the Board of Directors will be final and without appeal.

## **THE TEAM AND THE INDIVIDUAL**

Members of Team Nikos agree to put their team ahead of the individual player. If conflicts arise between the team and a player and/or their parent, the team coach (under the direction of the Program Director) will be responsible to make decisions for the good of the team. These decisions will be made after gathering all relevant information and consulting with those involved. The decision of the team coach will be objective and based on his/her best evaluation of the facts. Once a decision has been made it is final and without appeal. Players and parents must agree to abide with the final decision.

## AAU CARDS

It is required that ALL players register for AAU membership and provide a copy of their membership card prior to the official start of the season. Team Nikos Basketball Program is officially sanctioned by AAU, which means that every player in our club also needs to become members. Membership fees are \$16 for the whole year (you must register for the *extended* membership for \$16), and provide the following benefits:

- Insurance for players in all events Team Nikos participates in during the season
- Ability to be nationally ranked
- Qualified to play in national tournaments
- Better recruitment opportunities
- Ability to register for higher quality/more organized tournaments

Please go to <http://www.aaboysbasketball.org/Membership/SignUp.aspx> and select “ATHLETES (individual), Register Now.” Once registered, there will be an AAU membership card that you can print and/or save to your computer. All players must purchase a membership and attach it to your online registration. Your Team Manager will be required to show it at all AAU-sanctioned tournaments upon team check-in.

### **2017 ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR AAU BOYS’ BASKETBALL**

*(NOTE: The following information is directly from the AAU Website, and is for the 2017 Season.)* All Non-athletes/coaches are responsible to see that their team meets all eligibility requirements. Competition in boys’ basketball shall be in the following age/grade divisions:

- 8 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 8 on August 31, 2017.
- 9 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 9 on August 31, 2017.
- 10 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 10 on August 31, 2017.
- 11 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 11 on August 31, 2017.
- 12 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 12 on August 31, 2017.
- 13 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 13 on August 31, 2017.
- 14 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 14 on August 31, 2017.

## **PRACTICES, ACADEMIES AND TOURNAMENTS**

The Team Nikos Club Basketball Program will provide each player with:

- One practice per week, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm OR 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday evenings at Rogers Middle School.
- One academy training session per week, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, or 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Monday night at Rogers Middle School. ***\*\*Academy consists of specialized skill training which we consider critical to every player's development\*\****
- Two (2) tournaments per month. Locations will vary, but the majority of them are in the local Orange County area (Garden Grove, Anaheim, Ladera Ranch).
- One (1) travel tournament per year. We will travel out-of-town to Las Vegas, Nevada for our final tournament in July.

All practices and academy training sessions will be held at Newcomb Academy 3351 Val Verde Ave Long Beach, California 90808.

During the course of the season, we reserve the right to have only one (1) or no practices or academies during a particular week due to holidays (e.g., Winter Break, Spring Break, etc.).

## UNIFORMS AND GEAR

All players must have the following official uniform/gear:

- Team Nikos Reversible Game Uniform
- Team Nikos Reversible Practice Jersey
- Team Nikos Shooting Shirt
- Team Nikos Logo Backpack

New players will be required to purchase the uniform/gear package at the time of registration, which includes all of the items listed above.

Returning players may opt to purchase the entire gear package, specific individual items from the gear package, or (if they already have all of the above-listed items) they may choose not to purchase any gear.

**\*\*EXCEPTION** – if Team Nikos is updating uniforms and gear for the new season, then all new AND returning players will be required to purchase the uniform/gear package.

Players may REQUEST up to three (3) jersey numbers, bearing in mind that there is no guarantee that they will get any of the numbers they requested. Returning players have first option to have the same number they had during the immediately preceding season. If a returning player wishes to have a new number, as with new players they may request up to three (3) numbers with no guarantee.

In general, Team Nikos avoids allowing duplicate jersey numbers within the same grade level. This is to reduce situations in which we end up having duplicate jersey numbers on the same roster

**\*\*FOR THE 2016-2017 SEASON** Team Nikos will be updating all uniforms and gear. All new AND returning players will be required to purchase the standard uniform/gear package. The price for the uniform/gear package is \$220.00 and is **not** included in your club fees.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

Included in this packet is the planned tournament schedule for the 2016-2017 season, in which the indicated/assigned teams will play, on average, in two tournaments per month. We make every effort to pre-schedule tournament dates so that families can adequately plan their schedules well in advance. Please understand that changes to the schedule may occur, and that we will make every attempt to provide timely notification of any changes. The cost of team registration for tournaments are completely covered in the club dues; associated costs NOT covered in the club dues include (but are not limited to): travel to and from tournaments, parking and spectator admission, and for out-of-town tournaments, travel expense, hotel accommodations and food/meals.

### **PER DIEM FOR OUT-OF-TOWN TOURNAMENTS**

A per diem fee will be assessed at the beginning of the season in the Payment Schedule to cover the coaches' cost of travel, accommodations and meals for the out-of-town tournament listed on the schedule. Additional per diem fees will also apply to any teams traveling for AAU Nationals, and will be assessed once attendance/registration in the tournament(s) is confirmed. Per diem fees are calculated based on a full team and will not be refunded to players who decide not to travel to these tournaments with the team.

The 2016-2017 season per diem fees are \$100.00, and are **not** included in your club dues.

## PARENTS

Parental support and involvement in the club is essential. If your son or daughter is selected and chooses to commit to the Team Nikos Basketball Academy Club, parental commitment is a necessity. If a player is to make a quality commitment to the club and their team, the parents must see to it that the player attends all possible club and team functions (practices, meetings, games, team bonding events, etc.). We understand that there will be times when a scheduling conflict cannot be avoided and other, more important events must take precedence. The club requires your communication, planning, and understanding so that we can minimize such conflicts. It is the club's responsibility to present a periodic schedule to allow time for you to plan ahead. When a player or his/her parents have an unavoidable scheduling conflict, the club expects timely communication to see if any possible adjustments can be made. The team's Head Coach will consult with the Program Director, who will make final decisions on scheduling and adjustments, after careful consideration of individual member needs and those of the club and/or team.

## SIDELINE COACHING

***There will be NO coaching by parents from the sidelines – this is strictly enforced. No matter how good your intentions are, we insist there be no shouting instructions to your son, daughter and/or other players on the team, or shouting (complaining) to officials during games.*** Your vocal support and positive encouragement are welcome after a good play.

Players should only receive one set of instructions before, during, and after practices or games. For this reason, the club insists that the Team Nikos Coaches be the only voices at all games and practices. No one other than those listed on the official game roster may sit on or near the team bench before and during games (please respect the space and privacy necessary for the coaches and team to carry out their game responsibilities).

Parents must understand this and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a healthy team environment. Remember, playing only to win without taking healthy club, team, and player growth into account will not result in a solid foundation upon which your son or daughter will be prepared for achieving positive results.

Parents are always encouraged, at the appropriate moment and time, to feel free to communicate and/or ask questions about your child (or children) and their basketball growth (see "Team Nikos Open Door Policy" below). Please take the initiative to encourage your youth athlete to speak up and communicate for themselves whenever possible. We will instruct your son or daughter to ignore adverse conditions such as poor officiating, obscenities, rough play, negative behavior by opponents or parents, and general poor sportsmanship directed at them.

## **PARENTS (continued)**

### **POSTING OF PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES AND VIDEO TO SOCIAL MEDIA**

As parents, we understand the desire to take photos and/or video of your child during games. With the increasing number of smartphones on the market and never-ending availability of social media outlets and the internet, the immediacy of being able to share photos and videos is staggering. IF you decide to post any photos and/or video from tournaments in which Team Nikos participates, we ask that you PLEASE consider the following before hitting the “post” button:

- Does the photo/video represent the subject matter (child or children) positively or negatively?
- Does the photo/video indicate anything that could be seen as inappropriate or inciting anger by other people, programs and/or organizations?
- What is the purpose of the posting? Is it to share a moment of good sportsmanship, highlight a great play, or recognize a success? Is it to brag, or could it be seen as bragging? Is it to shame or punish?

In the end, does the post represent our players (and therefore our families and our program) and/or other basketball programs and their players in a positive light? If the answer to this question is “no”, we ask that you please refrain from posting. Also, we ask that parents ALWAYS bear in mind, first and foremost, the safety, security and privacy of our Team Nikos players and families when posting to social media and always refrain from including player names in your posts.

That said, if you have a great photo or video that you want to share and you are uncertain whether or not you should post it yourself, you can send it to our Marketing Director who has the authorization to post acceptable content to our Team Nikos social media accounts.

### **TEAM NIKOS OPEN DOOR POLICY**

Team Nikos coaches all have an open door policy, and encourage parents to contact them with questions, concerns and/or feedback. **However, if you feel that you have a strong concern about your son/daughter or your team during or immediately after a game or tournament, we ask that you please honor a waiting period of 24 hours before initiating a conversation with your child’s coach (i.e., the “24-Hour Rule”).** Coaching any game, particularly one of high intensity, requires a lot of mental focus and concentration on the part of the coach. Our Team Nikos coaches perform their jobs with great passion and enormous energy – they literally put their “all” into every game. Likewise, Team Nikos parents also have a tendency to be emotionally invested in the games. Please consider the need for all parties to have adequate “downtime” after a game and/or tournament before discussing any concerns you may have.

## COACHES

The coaches for Team Nikos Basketball Academy are instructed to conduct themselves first as teachers, and second as basketball coaches. *Nothing positive will come of club efforts if our players grow to become world-class players, but do not know how to conduct themselves as positive successful human beings both on and off the court. In this regard, you should expect Team Nikos coaches to conduct themselves as positive role models and provide examples of appropriate behavior.*

Our coaches recognize they are dealing in an important way with young people and cannot overlook the impact they have on their players' lives. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the team on and off the court when the team is together and part of club events. **We insist our players are polite, well behaved, and respectful. Players and parents should expect honesty, communication consistency, and reliability from the coach.**

While the basketball we play will be taken seriously, the club recognizes there are things more important in life than sports. In terms of priority, family, religion and schoolwork come first. However, if the Head Coach determines a player is not willing to put basketball above other recreational activities during the season, it could affect his/her playing time and/or status with the club. As a member of Team Nikos, we expect you to commit to the sport of basketball and your team as your first recreational activity and priority during the club season, unless otherwise discussed with the Program Director.

**The player and their parents are expected to take constructive criticism along with praise for a job well done, and be able to deal with both.** The Program Director may attend games as schedule permits, but conflicts will occur from time to time. The Head Coach and Assistant Coach will attend practices and coach the team during games. In situations where conflicts do occur (and they will), the Head Coach may designate the Assistant Coach or another member of our club coaching staff to cover a particular practice or game with final approval of the Program Director. There will be times when teams of an appropriate age level may be asked to be in charge of itself so that the team and its players grow in leadership, maturity, and responsibility.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Our attempt with this section is to present in clear detail exactly what will be expected of you and what you can expect of the club, the team, and the club coaching staff. If you are uncertain as to what is expected, it is your responsibility to ask your Head Coach. Knowing and understanding these things will make your participation a positive experience for your player as he/she develops to the highest level. The club has high expectations for our teams, coaches, players and parents, both on and off the court. These expectations are really the rules, regulations, and policies for the Team Nikos Basketball Academy. So that players and parents in our club can get the maximum benefit, the club requires that all players and parents abide by club rules, regulations and policies.

### **If disciplinary actions are necessary, the following steps may be taken:**

- I. Step I: Intervention at the player level. The Head Coach and/or Program Director will discuss the problem directly and privately with the player with the expectation that the problem will be corrected immediately. If the problem continues, escalation to Step II will occur:
  
- II. Step II: Intervention at the parent level. A meeting between the Head Coach and/or Program Director and the player's parents will be conducted to discuss the failure of the player to correct the problem on his/her own. If the problem still continues, escalation to Step III will occur:
  
- III. Step III: Temporary suspension of the player. The specific terms of the suspension will be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the exact circumstances and severity of the problem at hand. Terms will include length of the suspension and level of involvement, if any, in practices, academies, games and/or tournaments. If this still fails to resolve the problem, escalation to Step IV will occur:
  
- IV. Step IV: Removal from the Club. If the situation warrants, the Program Director may recommend to the Board of Directors that the player be removed from the club. The Board of Directors will notify the parents of the Program Director's recommendation. The parents of any player recommended for removal from the club may request to meet with the Board of Directors and the Program Director. There may be problems or circumstances that warrant the Team Nikos Board of Directors' need to take immediate action. The Team Nikos Board of Directors, at their sole and absolute discretion, will determine which problems and circumstances will require their immediate action. Problems or circumstances may include, but not be limited to: member misconduct (whether player, parent, coach, assistant coach, official or officer). Should the Team Nikos Board of Directors find the conduct of any member detrimental to the best interests of the Club or to the purpose for which the Club has been formed and/or to the interest of basketball, the Team Nikos Board of Directors may take such action as they determine reasonable, applicable, and appropriate; including but not limited to suspension from or removal from the Club. Such action shall require the vote of a majority of the Team Nikos Board of Directors.

NOTE: Depending on the severity of the problem or situation, the Program Director, at his discretion, may choose to take any of the above Steps (I through IV) immediately. In other words, the escalation process is not in any way a guarantee that it will proceed exactly as outlined above.

*Our desire is to work in a positive and constructive way with our players. Everyone has problems from time to time, and the club will make every effort to work with a player and his/her parents to help resolve any problems. After exhausting all effort to solve a problem, the club will be left with little choice other than to pursue the disciplinary actions as outlined above.*

# PAYMENT, DROP AND INJURY POLICIES

## PAYMENT POLICY

**Initial Payment:** An initial payment is due at or prior to the Annual Club Parent Meeting at the beginning of each new season. Payments made by check are to be collected on or before the night of the Annual Player/Parent Welcome Meeting. If payment was made online, a copy of the paid receipt (or email confirmation of payment) shall be turned in at or prior to the meeting.

**Remaining Payments:** Remaining payments, if applicable, are due on or before the date identified on the payment schedule in this packet. Payments are to be made online or mailed directly to the Team Nikos Program Manager. Alternate payment plans require approval.

**Late Payment Fees:** A \$25.00 late payment fee will be assessed each time a payment is made past the payment due dates identified in the payment schedule in this packet, or past the due dates in any approved alternate payment plans. This fee will be strictly enforced.

**Payment Default:** Any player is considered “in default” when payments are delinquent 3 or more days. Any player delinquent in club and/or team dues will be notified by the club; players will be prohibited from participating in any club activities and competition until their account is brought current; membership privileges may be revoked if the account is in serious arrears (30+ days past due).

## DROP POLICY

**No refunds will be granted to players who drop out during their one-year commitment to the club.** In order to maintain a high-caliber program dedicated to developing skilled basketball players, we expect players to commit to a full season (minimum of 6 months for multi-sport athletes). Dropping out of the program early is disruptive to the other players and team process; therefore, refunds are not generally given. Should a family have an unavoidable need to exit the program, a refund request would need to be put in writing for board approval. Approval is not guaranteed, but is based on the board’s consideration of all factors. Should a refund be granted, it will be pro-rated and exclude the non-refundable deposit. Approved refunds will only be paid out once the vacated roster spot has been filled and the new player’s dues have been paid.

## INJURY POLICY

In order to receive a partial refund of dues paid, a player must have missed 4 or more months of the club season and provide a doctor’s note (the high school season does not count as part of the club season). Refunds will be paid as follows:

- \$500.00 if a player misses 4 months
- \$100.00 for each month thereafter, not to exceed \$400.00

Total Refund Possible: \$900.00 for eight months of missed games and practices due to an injury.

## **TUITION ASSISTANCE OPTIONS**

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Families facing difficulties in paying the club dues may apply for financial aid within one (1) week of submitting their online registration. Parents will be required to fill out the Team Nikos Basketball Academy (“TNBA”) Financial Aid Application and provide all requested financial information. The TNBA Financial Aid Committee, at their sole and absolute discretion, will either approve or deny the request for financial aid within ten (10) business days of receiving the application and any additional information requested of the family.

### **ALTERNATE PAYMENT PLANS**

Alternate payment plans may be available for families who are unable to meet one of the payment schedule options detailed in this packet. Families must request an alternate payment plan within one (1) week of submitting their online registration by submitting in writing the terms of the payment plan they are requesting. The Accounting Department will either approve or deny the request for an alternate payment plan; such approval or denial will be at the sole and absolute discretion of the Accounting Department, and will be made within ten (10) business days of receiving the request. If the Accounting Department denies the request for an alternate payment plan, the family will be required to make payments according to one of the payment schedule options detailed in this packet. If the Accounting Department approves the request for an alternate payment plan, the family will be required to make their payments according to the agreed-upon plan and any late payments will be subject to the Late Penalty and Payment Default provisions listed above.

Any Alternate Payment Plan Agreements must be secured by a promissory note.

Families applying for financial aid or alternate payment plans must pay 100% of uniform/gear package and 100% of per diem fees upon registration.

***\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS ARE MADE ONLINE THROUGH BANK TRANSFER OR CREDIT CARD, AS DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING PAYMENT SCHEDULE.\*\****

## 2016-2017 Club Dues and Payment Options

### Spring/Summer Club Fee (5 Month – Program)

Payment Option	Description	Payment Due Date	Payment Amount
OPTION # 1 – Pay in FULL (10% discount of \$100)			
	Full payment	February 28, 2017*	\$900.00
			TOTAL DUES: \$900.00
OPTION # 2 – Pay in 2 Installments (5% discount of \$50)			
	Payment # 1	February 28, 2017*	\$475.75
	Payment # 2	By March 28, 2017	\$475.75
			TOTAL DUES: \$950.50
OPTION # 3 – Pay in 4 Installments			
	Payment # 1	February 28, 2017*	\$250.00
	Payment # 2	By March 28, 2017	\$250.00
	Payment # 3	By April 25, 2017	\$250.00
	Payment # 4	By May 30, 2017	\$250.00
			TOTAL DUES: \$1000.00

**\*Uniform/gear (varies) and per diem fees are also due, in addition to your club dues or deposit, at the time of registration. Please complete your online registration to order your uniform and gear, and to calculate the total fees due at registration.**

Online registration includes credit card payment option. If paying by credit card, please note that a nominal fee will be added to cover the merchant fee.

If paying by check, make check payable to

**Team Nikos Basketball Academy**

and bring your payment with you to the Annual Club Parent Meeting.

**IMPORTANT:** be sure to identify your child's full name in the memo section on your check.

**Installment Payment Instructions:** Upon receipt and processing of your registration, monthly installment instructions will be emailed the primary parent/guardian on file.



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## Spring - Summer 2017 CLUB TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

MONTH	DATE(s)	TOURNAMENT or EVENT	LOCATION	TEAMS
MARCH		Team Nikos Long Beach Day		
APRIL				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Shootout	TBD	ALL
	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	OGP Super 8	NLSC	ALL
MAY				
	20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Focus Basketball	TBD	ALL
	27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	Nikos	LSC	ALL
JUNE				
	10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	Edge	NLSC/MAP	ALL
	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	JW	NLSC/MAP	ALL
JULY				
	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	SGV	ASC/NLSC/MAP	ALL
	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	JAM ON IT	Las Vegas	ALL

*ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. WE WORK HARD TO STAY ON THE SAME WEEKENDS AS POSTED, BUT SOME TOURNAMENTS DO CHANGE THEIR*



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## **2016-2017 TEAM NIKOS STAFF**

<b>STAFF NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
<b>LARRY CUNNINGHAM</b>	<b>President &amp; CEO/Coach</b>	<b><u><a href="mailto:larry@teamnikos.com">larry@teamnikos.com</a></u></b>
<u>Management and Administration Staff</u>		
Jalonni Diggs	Head Coach	jalonni@teamnikos.com
Gus Keller	Head Coach	guslb@teamnikos.com
Mac Unegbu	Head Coach	maclb@teamnikos.com
Justin Noriega	Head Coach	justinnoriega24@gmail.com
Karina Figueroa	Head Coach	Figueroa.karina2020@gmail.com
Jennifer Richardson	Program Manager	Jenmrich0811@gmail.com

*“Our mission is to dramatically improve every player’s skill level each season. By focusing on both the physical and mental aspects of the game, we will work with every player to set achievable goals designed to increase their ability, confidence and competitive drive. The end result should be each individual player’s enhanced capacity to triumph against the highest levels of competition both on and off the court.”*

### **1 TEAM 1 UNIT**



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## **COMMITMENT CONTRACT**

Team Nikos Basketball Academy strives to teach each student the importance of hard work and commitment. As a Team Nikos basketball team member you are afforded an opportunity for both fun and learning, as we want each student athlete to make the most of his/her experience.

Team Nikos has an experienced host of coaches who are committed to helping each player reach his/her full potential in the game of basketball. We believe the development of a solid work ethic at a young age greatly improves an athlete's chances of playing the sport at a higher level. In order to implement this, each student athlete is asked to read this contract carefully with his/her parent(s). This is your Formal Notice of the commitment, responsibilities and requirements needed from both our parents and student athletes as we move into this upcoming season. ***Please read this section carefully, as you will be asked to agree to it in the “Acceptance of Commitment Contract, Terms and Conditions” document to follow.***

This Commitment Contract holds each student athlete to a certain standard of behavior, both on and off the court. Parents and classroom teachers are asked to report behavior that goes against this code of conduct, and they are invited to discuss consequences with the athletic director.

### **COMMITMENT 1 – ATTENDANCE**

All student athletes are expected to be on time and attend every practice, every SAC training and at minimum one (1) “highly encouraged/optional” Academy training each week.

Any athlete arriving late, leaving practice early or missing practice altogether will be expected to complete a specified amount of sprints. This is not necessarily a punishment, but to keep our athletes in shape and continue their athletic conditioning.

All athletes need to meet 30 minutes before every game and check in with their Coach. The meeting time for each game will be designated at least one day before the game.

### **COMMITMENT 2 – ATTITUDE**

Sportsmanship and a positive attitude are expected at all times and will be reinforced on and off the court.

Student athletes must foster an uplifting and encouraging atmosphere towards peers and opponents at all times.

Undermining the authority of coaches, referees, or parents is not acceptable. When instructions or criticism is given, student athletes are expected to respond with an attitude of respect and compliance. Student athletes are expected to respond respectfully to all authority figures.

No offensive language. No exceptions.

### **COMMITMENT 3 - NOTIFICATIONS**

Immediately notify your Head Coach AND Team Manager if you are forced to miss a practice, academy or any tournament game(s), and include the reason why you will miss. (7<sup>th</sup> Grade through High School players must contact coach personally via phone or text if they are going to be absent and they MUST include an explanation as to why).

Immediately notify your Head Coach AND Team Manager if you notice a schedule conflict on the Team Nikos calendar of events, which can be found at: [www.teamnikoslb.com/calendar](http://www.teamnikoslb.com/calendar).

Respect the coaches' time as you wish the coaches to show the same respect for your schedule.

### **COMMITMENT 4 – ONE TEAM**

Players currently enrolled in the Team Nikos Club Basketball are prohibited from being concurrently enrolled and/or actively playing with another club basketball program. Playing on an NJB team (including an All-Star team or All Net team) or on a school team (e.g. private schools that have sports teams) are the only exceptions allowed. Players



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discovered to be in violation of this policy could face consequences, including potential dismissal from the Team Nikos program.

## **ABSENCE POLICY**

Learning teamwork and a team spirit is an important aspect of club basketball (as with all team sports), and it takes a serious commitment to your team by all parties in order to be successful at the club level of competition. As such, it is an important aspect of your commitment to your coaches and teammates to be present for the majority of practices and games.

*The following reasons for missing a practice, game or tournament are considered **EXCUSED** absences:*

- *Emergencies*
- *Illness*
- *Family Obligations (i.e., immediate family)*
- *Religious Observations*
- *School*
- *Multi-Sport\* schedule conflicts*

*All other reasons for being absent are considered **UNEXCUSED** and will be subject to the following consequences:*

<u>TYPE OF ABSENCE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1 unexcused missed practice .....	1 <sup>st</sup> half of next game on the bench
2 unexcused missed practices during the same week .....	No play during next tournament
1 unexcused missed game during a tournament .....	No play for the rest of the day (or first game of the following day)
1 unexcused missed day during a tournament weekend .....	No play for the rest of the tournament
2 <i>excused</i> absences during the course of one week .....	Player will not be eligible to start at the next tournament

Consequences for absences in most cases will be dealt with by the Head Coach. Of course, certain circumstances may necessitate exceptions, in which case the Head Coach will consult with the Program Manager to order to determine the best course of action.

\*Multi-sport athletes are always welcome with Team Nikos, and we do our best to work with you and your team in order to make it good and positive experience for all parties. We ask that multi-sport athletes enrolled in our program attend a minimum of one (1) practice per week and one (1) Academy per week during the season of their other sport (if this proves difficult, please discuss alternate arrangements with your Head Coach to ensure you are getting a chance to work on your basketball skills and learn team plays). We also ask that multi-sport parents advise their Head Coach and Team Manager of their game times and schedules with their other sport(s) with as much advance notice as possible, so that we can do our best to try to minimize your conflicts during basketball tournament weekends.



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## TEAM ROTATIONS

At any time throughout the season, Team Nikos may have multiple teams in some grade levels. When this is the case, the teams are named/identified by color (Black, White, Blue, Grey, etc.). For these grade levels, the coaches have the authority to rotate players up to a higher level team or down to a lower level team. All player rotations are discussed in a roundtable meeting with the Program Directors, and the Head Coach who is presenting the team change must present clear and sound reasons for doing so.

The ***primary goal*** for player rotations is to ensure that all players have their best opportunity to develop and improve their game over the course of the season. We are committed to seeing all players show clear and noticeable improvement, from the time the season began up through the last game of the season.

The decision to move a player up or down a team is based on several factors, including (but not limited to):

- Skill (basketball skills, general athletic ability, court awareness and IQ, etc.)
- Performance (working hard, doing everything they are supposed to do, being coachable, etc.)
- Player Development (overall basketball or position-specific skills, leadership skills, organizational skills, etc.)
- Consistency / Work Ethic (attendance, being on time, attention to detail, listening skills, attending optional trainings, etc.)
- Position(s) Played
- Opportunities for more playing time

It is important to note that kids develop at different rates and times, and that moving to a different team (whether up or down) is always a possibility for all players at any given time. For this reason, we have implemented our “training camp” during the month of September, when all players are evaluated before the teams are finalized at the end of the month. This allows our coaches to determine the best fit for all players, given their talent and skill level, as well as their individual opportunities for play time and development. That said, player evaluations continue to take place throughout the season, and a player can be moved to a different team at any time if it is deemed to be in his/her best interests.

We realize that moving teams can be a difficult transition for some players and parents. Please know that we are here to support you in any way that we can, and if there is anything we can do to help make a transition easier, please don't hesitate to contact us.



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## 2016-2017 Acceptance of Commitment Contract, Terms and Conditions

The Team Nikos Basketball Academy (TNBA), the Player and his or her Parent(s)/Guardian(s) agree to uphold the high standards of the Team Nikos Program and perform the duties and commitments outlined in the above Welcome Packet.

By digitally signing this agreement, I am agreeing to the following:

- I have read the 2016-2017 Welcome Packet in its entirety and agree to abide by the terms of the Commitment Contract and Absence Policy on pages 20 and 21 of this document.
- Payment of all player/club fees and dues will be paid in full as outlined in the Payment Schedule in the Welcome Packet or prior agreed-upon Alternate Payment Plan. ***I understand that any late payment fees will be strictly enforced.*** Late payments will deem my player ineligible from competition in tournaments and/or practices and training until the account is made current, or until specific payment arrangements are made.
- ***I have reviewed the Tournament Schedule in the Welcome Packet and I will schedule our plans around these dates,*** as I fully understand the importance of our commitment to the team and the program. I understand that failure to attend team practice(s) and/or tournament game(s) results in hardships on the team and the coach, and unexcused absences will result in consequences per TNBA policy. If my player must miss a team practice or tournament game, I agree to notify the coach immediately and with as much advance notice as possible. I understand and accept that if there are any changes to pre-scheduled practice and/or tournament dates, TNBA will provide as much advance notice as possible.

I HAVE READ THIS CLUB/PLAYER/PARENT AGREEMENT AND I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE POLICIES OF THE TEAM NIKOS BASKETBALL ACADEMY CLUB FOR THE 2016-2017 CLUB BASKETBALL SEASON. AT THE END OF THIS SEASON, MY COMMITMENT IS COMPLETE AND MY PLAYER IS THEN FREE TO PLAY FOR ANOTHER CLUB IF I SHOULD SO DECIDE. LIKEWISE, THE CLUB'S COMMITMENT TO ME IS COMPLETE AT THE END OF THIS SEASON. I AM FREE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO HAVE MY PLAYER ATTEND TRYOUTS FOR NEXT YEAR'S TEAM/SEASON.

I am aware that this is a full release of liability and a contract between myself, my child (the "Player") and Team Nikos Basketball Academy Club Inc., and I sign it of my own free will. I have read this document carefully and fully understand these terms and conditions. MY DIGITAL SIGNATURE HEREBY GIVES PERMISSION FOR MY MINOR CHILD (the "Player") TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED as a participant of the Team Nikos Basketball Academy program for publicity purposes, including but not limited to newsletters, web sites, newspapers, social media and any and all promotional materials. I further agree that my child will not receive any compensation for such use of his or her likeness, name, quotation and/or photographs.

### PLAYER ACCEPTANCE

I, the Player, agree to work hard and make the necessary sacrifices to be able to reach my ultimate goal of developing to the next level and being courteous of my teammates' and coaches' time and commitments.

### DURATION OF THE SEASON:

**This agreement shall commence on the date hereof and expire on July 31, 2017.**



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## **Team Nikos Basketball Academy FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

We have put together this brief Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQ’s”) to help you in making a decision about Club Basketball.

*Being part of a travel team is demanding and time consuming for all parties involved. We stress the importance of family/religion, schoolwork and development of our players throughout our club at all levels.*

**Q: How long is the Club season?**

A: The full club season runs from approximately the beginning of October through the end of July. For those who are interested in a shorter club season, we also hold tryouts toward the end of February for a March through July season.

**Q: How many days will my son/daughter have practice?**

A: Team practices are generally held twice per week, with Academy training on Monday evenings.

**Q: What is Academy?**

A: Academy is fundamental skill training focused on improving players’ dribbling, ball handling, shooting and footwork. Academy is separate from the team practice sessions, and we highly encourage all club players to attend regularly.

**Q: How many players will be on a team?**

A: There will be 8-9 players on each team at all grade levels. In some cases we have enough skilled players in a grade level to form multiple teams. For these grades, players will be placed on teams at the coaches’ discretion.

**Q: How many coaches are involved with each team?**

A: Each team will have a Head Coach.

**Q: Will my son/daughter have guaranteed playing time?**

A: Club basketball is different from NJB basketball in that there is no guaranteed playing time for any player. Coaches will do their best to get every player in the game, but some players will play more than others.

**Q: How many tournaments do you play in and how often?**

A: We play in two tournaments on average per month from October through July. September is when we come together as an entire program, hold training camp and learn the plays, and we may or may not participate in tournaments as part of training camp. Most tournaments will have games on both Saturday and Sunday. Some tournaments will be on holiday weekends with games taking place over three days. Our full tournament schedule for the upcoming season can be found in the Welcome Packet.



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## **FAQ's (continued)**

### **Q: When will we find out which team our player will be on?**

A: As stated above, we hold "training camp" directly after tryouts and for the majority of the month of September. This gives all players (both new and returning) an opportunity to be further evaluated by our Team Nikos staff of professional coaches, so that their skill level and areas for development are fully considered before they are placed on a team. Teams are officially announced during the last week of September, and will participate in their first tournament as a finalized team in October.

That said, players continue to be evaluated throughout the season to ensure that they are on the correct team for their skill level and to maximize their development. Please see the "Team Rotations" section of the Welcome Packet for more information.

### **Q: How soon in advance will we know the game times for a tournament?**

A: We realize that every family has schedules outside of basketball and likes to plan their weekends in advance. With many club basketball tournament organizers, schedules are not set until typically the Thursday night before the tournament begins. In other words, the schedules are not set by us, but by those putting on the tournament. We send out schedules as soon as we receive them, in order to give our families as much notice as possible. Please know that scheduled tournament dates are always subject to change at the tournament hosts' discretion, and is outside of our control.

### **Q: Do you play in out of town tournaments that require hotel stay?**

A: The large majority of our tournaments will be local (most will be in Ladera Ranch, Garden Grove and Anaheim). However, we will play in 1 to 3 out-of-town tournaments each season. In previous seasons we have traveled to locations such as Santa Barbara, San Diego, Phoenix, Arizona and Las Vegas, Nevada. Hotel stay is recommended for out-of-town tournaments, and we typically contract with a local property for a group rate.

### **Q: Do tournaments cost extra?**

A: The cost for a team to play in a tournament is covered in your club dues. However, every tournament charges an entry fee for spectators. It is the nature of the sport. Parents, grandparents, siblings, etc. will pay a daily admission fee and most often a parking fee. These fees are determined by the tournament host(s) and/or facility, and are not controlled by TNBA.

### **Q: What is AAU Basketball?**

A: Team Nikos is officially sanctioned by AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) which allows us to be nationally ranked and play in high quality AAU tournaments. Each club player must become a member of AAU. Membership is \$16 for one year.

### **Q: What does Team Nikos Club Basketball cost?**

A: Team Nikos Club Basketball has a fee structure for a full 10-month season and a shorter 5-month season. We also offer discounts based on your payment method. Please see the Payment Schedule in the Welcome Packet for complete details for the upcoming season.

### **Q: Are uniforms and gear included in the cost?**



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A: The cost of the uniforms/gear are specified in the Uniforms and Gear section of the Welcome Packet and is paid at the time of registration as part of the non-refundable registration fee. It is not part of the Club Dues. The uniform/gear package includes game uniform (jersey and shorts), game shooting shirt, reversible practice jersey and team bag. There are optional items available for purchase when completing your registration online.

**Q: Can we drop out if it's not for us?**

A: We ask every player to make a commitment they plan to honor for the entire season. Pulling out of the program is disruptive to the program and the team. Please see our full Drop Policy found in our Welcome Packet.

**Q: What is the next step after tryouts if my son/daughter makes the team?**

A: If your son/daughter makes the team you will be contacted within 3 days of tryouts.

For any additional questions, please contact us through our website at:  
<http://teamnikoslb.com/contact/>

Thank you!