



Mission Statement

The Keys Foundation acknowledges that basketball is only one facet of a young person's life. Our mission is to use basketball as a platform to teach life lessons, character development, leadership, handle adversity, and work in a team setting. We believe that these disciplines can be used on and off the court and we take every opportunity to instill them into our athletes.

Coaching Staff Responsibility

The coaching staff of the Omaha Sparks is committed to carry out the following responsibilities:

- Strive to assist team members in the improvement of their individual strengths.
- Coach and stress the basic fundamentals of basketball.
- Create an environment in which the primary emphasis is placed upon the well being of the athletes.
- Conduct structured practices and attend all tournaments.
- Lead by example and demonstrate the value of fair play and sportsmanship.
- Be a leader and supporter of The Keys Foundation Mission statement.

Website and e-mail

Omaha Sparks official web site is used to better communicate information such as practice and tournament schedules to the team and parents. It is each player's responsibility to check regularly for updates. The web address for the site is www.thekeysfoundation.com. Email is info@thekeysfoundation.com

Issue Resolution

Coaches for the Omaha Sparks are exclusively volunteers that are doing the best job they can in providing an educational, healthy, safe and fun time for our players. Even with those intentions in mind it is inevitable that there will be conflicts between coaches, parents and players. We urge everyone to address these issues in a positive manner, keeping in mind that we do what we do for the girls. It isn't about the parent, it isn't about the coach and it isn't even about the Omaha Sparks, **it is about the players.** When an issue or problem arises please follow the following guidelines:

- Do not interfere with the coaches on game days. If you have an issue at a tournament that does not immediately affect someone's safety please schedule a time to speak to the coach in person, by phone or by email no sooner than 24 hours after the conclusion of the tournament.
- If your issue cannot be resolved by the coach please contact Keys at 402-452-0552. She will be certain to make sure that your issue is handled appropriately.

Club Refund Policy

The fees paid for participation in the Omaha Sparks Basketball organization are non-refundable once a player has been selected for a team.

Playing Time

Amount of playing time is up to the discretion of the individual head coaches. We understand that league and tourneys is not without cost and, as an organization, we feel that anyone who was good enough to make one of our teams is deserving of playing time in each and every contest so long as they have met practice requirements. However, you should not expect playing time to be evenly distributed, especially as the teams mature. Expectation is that the least skilled players on any team could play as little as 25% of the available minutes over the course of the season.

Player Responsibility

The following represent the expectations of the organization and the coaching staff regarding player responsibilities. Remember, you not only represent yourself, but the entire Keys Foundation organization. This is a tremendous responsibility. The coaching staff volunteer their time and we trust you will exhibit a sense of pride and respect both on and off the court.

Players are expected to demonstrate respect to the coaching staff, officials, opponents, spectators, the organization and especially their own teammates. The coaching staff places respect, attitude and character as top priorities of sportsmanship in our athletes.

Player Agreement

- Players are expected to be courteous in word. Vulgar language is not acceptable.
- Players are expected to be courteous in action. Fighting of any kind will NOT be tolerated.
- Any illegal activity will result in immediate suspension pending investigation by the board.
- To play on this team is a privilege, not a right. Playing time must be earned through hard work and a commitment to improve your basketball skills.
- Three unexcused absences may result in action determined by the club.
- Players are expected to call the coach prior to the start of a scheduled practice / game in the event they will be late or will not be able to attend.
- Practice and game attire should be appropriate including: sneakers tied, shorts worn at waist and no jewelry.
- Players must arrive ready to start practice on time.
- Uniforms must be maintained as originally issued and may not be altered in any way.
- Players must bring complete uniform to all tournaments and games.
- Players must bring issued practice jersey to all practices.

- Violation of any of the above responsibilities could result in suspension or dismissal from the team at the sole discretion of the board.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility

The Omaha Sparks is an all-volunteer organization. A non-refundable player fee provides the majority of the funding. This fee will cover expenses related to uniforms, league/tournament registration, gym fees, and team bags.

The Keys Foundation is a non-profit organization. Contributions are currently being accepted and are tax deductible. If you or the company that you work for is interested in supporting The Keys Foundation, please contact a Keys for information or visit our website www.thekeysfoundation.com.

The parent/guardian is responsible for:

- Arranging transportation to and from practices and tournaments.
- Arranging overnight stay at away tournaments.
- Expenses at away tournament, such as room for overnight stay, meals, etc.
- Demonstrating respect to coaching staff, officials, spectators, opponents and especially our team.
- As a team parent I recognize that I am a representative of the Omaha Sparks team. I will therefore maintain a positive attitude in myself and encourage that same positive attitude in my child in all team events and all related interactions at all times.
- Recognizing that I am part of a growing organization with financial needs, I will work toward assisting the organization in keeping our membership costs as low as possible by participate in team and organization sponsored fund-raising events.
- Understanding that failure to comply with club policies or failure to show proper respect to players, coaches or officials can result in disciplinary action or in extreme cases in the suspension or dismissal of my child from the team at the sole discretion of the Keys Foundation.