

MEMO

To: 2026 Girls S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League Coaches, Parents & Spectators!

From: Tony Tewalt, Recreation Manager

Re: Coach, Player & Fan Conduct!

A quick reminder to coaches, players and fans of Skagit County Parks & Recreation's "ZERO TOLERANCE" of misconduct during the Girls S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League. Most teams and their fans over the years have been able to exhibit good sportsmanship during this league. However, there have been a few occurrences of poor behavior that we've witnessed that are worth addressing as the 2026 Girls S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League gets going.

Instances of Note:

1. **Support YOUR Team** – Remember to always cheer FOR your team and NOT against your opponent. Likewise, any concerns you have as a parent or spectator w/ the S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League should be brought to the attention of your coach or if it involves your coach, to my attention (call me direct into my desk at 360-416-1354).
2. **Negative Comments Towards a Referee** – Coaches, players and fans must realize that once they have made a comment 'personal' (i.e. swearing or comments like "you don't know what you're doing" or "you guys did a horrible job") that they have crossed the line into inappropriate behavior.
3. **Coaching Referee Calls** – telling a referee what they missed. Note that referees will miss calls in a game the same as when players miss shots and turn the ball over. Our referees will continue to improve their game management the same as your players strive to improve their game.
4. **Stepping onto the Court During Play or Dead Balls** – At no time is this permitted, even when trying to get the attention of a referee. Coaches must remain in the team bench area at all times. Any coach, fan, or player (outside of a normal substitution) coming onto the court during play will face an immediate ejection and a possible additional suspension.
5. **Standing During Games** – Only one coach at a time may stand during play. The exception is your bench standing to cheer a 'good' play, but not being demonstrative over a play you don't agree with. If a coach/bench is 'Seat Belted' by a referee during a game, any additional standing will result in an automatic technical and possible immediate ejection. Spectators are expected to follow this rule, also.
6. **Two Coaches Allowed on Team Bench** – If there is a problem with a team's bench, this loose rule will be strictly enforced. Spectators are not allowed on or near the team bench area during games.
7. **Scorers Table** – The scorers table is for league staff ONLY. If you have a person keeping a book, they must either sit on your bench or in the stands. At no time are they allowed to sit at the scorers table (no matter how big the table may be!).

Coaches are expected to exhibit self control of themselves and encourage self control and sportsmanship in players and fans. Failure of coaches, players, or fans to control misconduct will result in at least a technical foul being awarded and possible expulsion from the facility and any remaining Girls S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League games as a coach, player, and/or spectator. Head Coaches are responsible and may be held accountable for the conduct of fans, as well. A technical foul issued to a fan/spectator will be considered a bench technical and apply towards the head coach.

NOTE THAT MISCONDUCT THAT OCCURS PRIOR, DURING OR FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF A GAME WILL BE TREATED THE SAME!

We would like to emphasize that any questioning of a referee before, during, or after a game is completely unacceptable behavior. Note that a technical foul need not be called, but can be issued by a Skagit County Parks & Recreation staff member that deems the behavior inappropriate. Skagit County Parks & Recreation has the right to refuse entry or to expel any individual (coach, player, or spectator) that is not exhibiting good sportsmanship.

We ask that all coaches or team representatives direct any questions regarding the league to a Skagit County Parks & Recreation – Gym Supervisor or myself (360-416-1354 or tonyt@co.skagit.wa.us). Constructive suggestions are appreciated and always considered.