

2008-09 Lightning Basketball Program Grand Island, Nebraska

Director:

Montie Fyfe

info@gilightning.com

Web-site www.gilightning.com

All information for the GI Lightning will now go through our web-site. Please use this e-mail for any questions regarding the program.

The role of the Director has changed dramatically over the past year. The role is moving more from being the Director to being more of a Manager of the program. One major change is that coaches have been encouraged to establish their own criteria for the team selection process. Unlike the past, the director will not be assigning players to teams. It is now the responsibility of the coaches in that age group.

Also, the emphasis for the Director will now switch to GI Lightning tournament development and establishing an officiating crew, workers, and concessions to fill the important functions of running a tournament. The Director will also work on recruiting of teams to play in the Lightning Tournaments.

Parent / Player's Meeting Sunday, September 21st

6:30 p.m. @ Grand Island Senior High - Commons Area

Please reserve this night for our annual coaches-parent-player meeting to help everyone get the basic information needed to tip off the season.

Uniform Orders Sunday, September 21st

7:00 p.m. @ Grand Island Senior High - Commons Area

*All players wishing to order uniforms, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and/or sweatpants will do this on this night. There will be samples of uniforms for players to try on to be sized properly. You will receive a brochure via e-mail that describes all of the optional clothing items you may purchase. Each player must purchase a **GAME JERSEY** that will include each player's number and name on it. All other clothing is optional.*

Also new in 2008-09 will be that all clothing items will be personalized for each player.

Fees for the Program: due by Sunday, September 21st

*The cost for the basic Lightning season will be **\$145** for seven tournaments or 21-25 games. This is a \$40 decrease from last season now that our teams are no longer playing in the Lincoln Spirit League or a double league fee for the Hastings YMCA. Some teams will play an expanded schedule that will average out to \$18.00 per player. Many of the expanded tournaments are \$30-40 (as much as \$200) more expensive than the area tournaments. There is no refund unless we do not have a team for your child.*

Coaches do not have any fees for the team they coach.

The basic fees may be mailed or delivered at the meeting on September 21st. If you choose to mail the fees, please send them to the following address:

GI Lightning Basketball
c/o Montie Fyfe
2724 W. Anna Street
Grand Island, NE 68803

Fees for Uniforms and Extras

Abante

Uniforms are an extra expense for the player. This is a separate fee with many options. Abante Marketing handles all uniform orders. Mark Taylor is our contact for any questions regarding any of the clothing. Mark can be reached at mark@abantemarketing.com. New this year will be that uniform pick up will take place at Abante's business location.

I will e-mail all families when orders are ready for delivery. Approximately first of November.

Lightning Night Out: Friday, February 6th

Each year the Lightning program has a night where all the teams come out to an Islander Boys/Girls basketball doubleheader. This year Lightning Night will be against the Columbus Discoverers. J.V. boys and girls begin play @ 4:30 in the East and West Gyms. Lightning players must wear Lightning gear to be admitted into the games at no cost. Following the varsity boys basketball game there will be a pizza party with the Islander basketball teams. The evening will end at 10:00 p.m.

Islander Girls' Fall Ball Clinic (October)

Each Sunday in the month of October, the GISH girls' basketball program will host Fall Ball for the girls in grades 2-8. The cost is \$25 for those that wish to become involved in the fall ball camp. In 2007 this camp topped 100 girls each Sunday. Contact Coach Kelli Jeffries if you have any questions. kjeffrie@gips.org.

Schedule for Games

6-8th Grade Teams

November 29-30	Lightning Tip-Off Classic at Grand Island Senior High
December 14	Mr. Basketball SantaFest at University-Nebraska at Kearney
January 17-18	Mr. Basketball HoopFest: Boys @ Ravenna / Girls @ Cairo
January 24-25	Lightning Hardwood Challenge at Grand Island Public Schools
February 14-15	Lightning Heartland Hoops Shootout @ Grand Island Public Schools
February 21-22	Mr. Basketball Snow Jam @ Kearney area schools
March 7-8	Grand Island Hoops Mania @ Grand Island Schools

Schedule for Games

5th Grade Teams

November 29-30	Lightning Tip-Off Classic at Grand Island Senior High
January 3-4	Doniphan-Trumbull Booster Tournament @ Doniphan or Trumbull
January 17-18	Mr. Basketball HoopFest: Boys @ Ravenna / Girls @ Cairo
January 24-25	Lightning Hardwood Challenge at Grand Island Public Schools
February 14-15	Lightning Heartland Hoops Shootout @ Grand Island Public Schools
February 21-22	Mr. Basketball Snow Jam @ Kearney area schools
March 7-8	Grand Island Hoops Mania @ Grand Island Schools

Schedule for Games

2-4th Grade Teams

November 29-30	Lightning Tip-Off Classic at Grand Island Senior High (?)
January 17	Hastings YMCA - 2 games
January 24	Hastings YMCA - 2 games
January 24-25	Lightning Hardwood Challenge at Grand Island Public Schools
February 7	Hastings YMCA - 2 games
February 14-15	Lightning Heartland Hoops Shootout @ Grand Island Public Schools
February 21-22	Mr. Basketball Snow Jam @ Kearney area schools (4 TH)
March 7-8	Grand Island Hoops Mania @ Grand Island Schools (4 TH)
March 21-22	Mr. Basketball Blowout @ Kearney area Schools (4 TH)

*4th grade teams wishing to play the 5th grade schedule need to contact Montie. If this age group chooses to play a double Hastings YMCA schedule, we could make sure that there is not conflicts with the Lightning tournaments (maybe Sunday only) and then not play in Aurora or Kearney Blowout. This decision needs to be made by early October.

Expanded Schedule Possibilities

Coaches have a detailed list of most Nebraska Tournaments

November 7-8	Millard West Lady Cat Tournament (\$135)
November 14-16	Omaha Westside Boys Tournament (5 th -8 th) deadline 9/15/08 \$150
November 15-16	Cornhusker Shooting Stars Fall Classic (6 th - 8 th) (\$300)
November 21-22	Gretna Tournament (5 th -8 th) (\$125)
December 6-7	GI YMCA Tournament (4 th - 8 th grades) (\$110)
December 13-14	Sarpy YMCA Tourn-Papio (3 rd -6 th) (\$130)
December 19-21	Patriots Shootout-Millard South (5 th -8 th) (\$125)
January 3-4	Doniphan Booster Tournament (5 th - 8 th grades) (\$100)
January 3-4	New Year's Tournament -UNO (4 th -8 th) (\$135)
January 10-11	Giltner Booster Tournament (5 th - 8 th grades) (\$100)
January 10-11	Wood River Booster Tournament (5 th - 8 th grades) (\$100)
January 10-11	Bison Youth Center Tournament (5 th -8 th) \$300?
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	Aurora Youth Tournament (4 th - 8 th grades) (\$100)
Feb. 28-March 1	Sandy Creek Booster Tournament (4 th -8 th grades) (\$100)
Feb. 28-March 1	Hoops Classic - Norfolk (5 th -8 th) (\$90)
Feb. 28-March 1	Omaha Invitational - Creighton U (4 th -8 th) (\$130)
Feb. 28-March 1	Millard North Mustangs (7 th -8 th) (\$145)
March 14-15	Lincoln YMCA MIT Tournament (4 th - 8 th grades) (\$125)
March 21-22	Mr. Basketball Blowout in Kearney (4 th - 8 th grades) (\$110)
March 28-29	Hastings Hoops Classic (4 th -8 th grades) (\$100)

***Tournaments listed are based on dates from the 2007-08 season - TBA**

Expectations with the Schedule

We have so many multi-sport athletes within our program. I have created a schedule that is flexible for scheduling USVBA or other activities

Since the basic GI Lightning schedule is being released early, please make every attempt to avoid scheduling volleyball tournaments these same weekends. It just causes more conflict than good. I wanted to get all of our teams playing the same weekends so we can have that flexibility to have a life outside of basketball or youth sports.

Tournament Selections

The 2008-09 schedule has been completely revamped. Now that the GI Lightning Basketball program will begin hosting tournaments, the travel within the program has been cut back to three out-of-town tournaments for the BASIC schedule.

Basic Schedule

The plans will be to enter all of our teams into these tournaments early to secure a spot for every team. This schedule costs \$145 to cover fees. It is my feeling that the basic schedule can give all families a quality experience in travel sports and leave weekends open for other optional activities. With the basic schedule, this is covered by the coaches and players for our selected teams.

Expanded Schedule

This schedule becomes the responsibility of the coaches to organize. Montie will help with paperwork and sending in fees for those teams that can outline a schedule by November 1st. This would end up being a second payment that can be divided among the number of players on your team. We will do an expanded schedule payment by November 15th. I will have coaches e-mail me their expanded schedule selections and then inform families of those teams what the fees will be to play in the extra games. I may need help collecting brochures from some of the tournaments. Always feel free to mail info@gilightning.com or e-mail any tournament information you receive.

Expanded Schedule (cont'd)

Understand that in the expanded schedule, coaches will have the option to adjust their rosters however needed. The expanded schedule is provided for those players that wish to play more basketball. It will be during the expanded schedule that conflict cannot be avoided due to each family's personal schedule. Most of these games take place as many of our athletes are moving towards a spring sport. There is also no guarantee that Lightning teams may end up facing one another at smaller local tournaments.

Plans for the Practice Nights:

At the present time, the 6th grade girls are the only team with practice nights reserved at Walnut. These girls will practice Tuesday and Thursday nights @ 7:00-8:30. Coaches will sign up for practice times and days at the coaches meetings. If you are a teacher or have access to a gym (school or church) and would like to reserve a gym for your team on specific days, please set this up and I will put this on our master schedule. Last year we had a group practice at Newell at 4:30 a few times. The main gyms we will use are GISH (east & middle gyms) and Barr.

3-4-5 Grade Teams will have the 6:00-7:30 timeslots when possible.

6-7-8 Grade Teams will have the 7:30-9:00 timeslots. There will be times that these teams will have earlier slots.

Program Expectations

When a parent group met in 2004, we wanted to provide a basketball program to Grand Island area athletes that would be competitive and fun. This first group of athletes are now participating in their first year of high school athletics. Over the past four years the GI Lightning has provided much more than a competitive basketball experience. It has allowed families in the Grand Island area to come together and develop new relationships that extends beyond Grand Island and into the central Nebraska region.

The expectations have not changed. What we must continue to do is make sure families commit to practices, games and their teammates. Regardless of skill level, each member of the program will see improvement in their overall basketball skills by participating in the practices, games and an individual commitment to work on shooting at home.

It is the belief of the GI Lightning program that athletes develop a deeper sense of passion towards athletics when these young athletes have the opportunity to work side-by-side with other kids that share the same interests.

Practice Expectations

As coaches we know there will be conflicts and there may be a time that the players will not be able to make it to practice. What we do ask is that players not "skip" practices because they don't want to attend that afternoon or evening. I think everyone would agree that a player not attending practice should not get playing time like those that are committed to being there every night. One of the toughest calls a youth coach can make is deciding how much playing time each player should get. Speaking from experience, I know that a player that does not attend practice not only appears lost at games, but will normally have teammates that have ill-feelings towards them if they cause the offense or defense to be out of sync. I hope we can avoid these conflicts and would ask you to talk with the coach of your team to make sure they understand why practices are being missed. This will just help to prevent conflicts. Parents will notice that 2-3-4 grade teams will not practice three times per week. The only time any team will have three practices is prior to Thanksgiving.

Practice Nights (this is all tentative based on gym availability)

Grades 2-3-4	Monday and or Thursday. We will try to get in a Minimum of one practice per week.
Grades 5-6	Tuesday & Thursday
Grades 7 Boys (prior to Christmas)	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday (as often as possible)
Grades 7-8 Girls (prior to Christmas)	<i>We will try to schedule one practice per week for Coaches to work on offense/defense & shooting. We may use Sundays for a 2nd practice at times. Middle School schedules will cause conflicts.</i>
Grade 7 Boys (after Christmas)	<i>We will try to schedule on practice per week for Coaches to work on offense/defense & shooting. Middle School schedules will cause conflicts.</i>
Grades 7-8 Girls (after Christmas)	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday (as often as possible) *three practices per week are very highly unlikely due to lack of gym availability.

The Lightning has put gym requests in for Barr, Walnut, Westridge and GISH from October through February. After Hoops Mania, it will be up to individual coaches to find and set up their practice schedules.

Team Divisions

Teams for the GI Lightning may involve a variety of selection processes. With the design of most youth tournaments, there will be A, B and C brackets. Due to that fact it is strongly suggested that teams be formed according to skill level so we can place teams in separate brackets to avoid competing against one another.

*A change from the past selection process is that coaches have the discretion to divide the teams up according to their own personal criteria. Some teams wish to keep their same players from a year ago while others are choosing new teams. I strongly advise coaches to keep no more than 8 players per team for the basic schedule. As teams make decisions to play tournaments in the **extended season**, this is where it may be advised to realign teams with 9-10 players per team as many of these tournaments ask that rosters have 9-10 players per team. It is also recommended due to the fact that many of these games will be during the basketball off-season when our kids are becoming more involved in other activities.*

Parent Expectations

Parents, we live in a very competitive world that can be very unforgiving when we act foolish. I always add these parent expectations so you can reflect on what poor decisions can do to you, your child and the team.

Although we want to end up in the win column after each game, the value of learning proper fundamentals, commitment to a team and the ability to be coached, and sportsmanship are very important components of any athletic program. With this in mind, I remind parents that we are not playing for the National Championship at this stage of athletics. You as a parent and parent group are representatives of the Lightning, Grand Island and surrounding communities. I always tell teams that I coach that two of the most rewarding compliments a coach can receive from their opponent is:

1. Your team is very competitive and never gives up
2. Your team has a lot of class and shows great sportsmanship

Parent Expectations (cont'd)

This should be expected from you as parents as well. Yelling at the officials or saying negative comments about our players or the opponents doesn't do anyone any good. Usually a parent that makes negative comments towards players on the team creates a division among the parent groups. If an official needs to be confronted, please allow the coach to take care of the issue. A parent yelling in a game can bring embarrassment to the team, but most generally causes problems for that parent's son or daughter. They either become embarrassed by their parents' actions or feel that their parent has provided them an excuse to place blame elsewhere when many times other parts of the game have lead up to the frustrations.

Parents have the responsibility to model appropriate behavior for their children. You have a better chance of your child continuing to play athletics if they enjoy their experiences.

Coaches at all levels like working with supportive parents - not one's that bring negative attention to their teams. We have so many great kids in the program that want to come and spend time with their friends to have fun. Let's keep that in mind every game. Let's be a model for other youth programs to admire.

Expectations for Coaches

The program is based on having two coaches for each team we have. I ask for suggestions on people to contact for coaching and those of you that have an interest in coaching. Since the program expectations asks coaches to commit to many practices and be in charge of games, the coaches are not responsible for any fees for the child they are coaching.

We are very fortunate to have so many experienced coaches on our staff. Many are high school or middle school coaches. Others are experienced youth coaches that understand what to expect. This kind of experience cannot be replaced. The kinds of people we want coaching our kids are of the following:

- 1. Positive Role Model for the Kids (not negative and shows compassion)*
- 2. Sideline Conduct and Behavior is appropriate for elementary and middle school athletes.*

There is no place for technical fouls due to behavior. Coaches are expected to have self-control.
- 3. Knowledge of basketball and how to run drills as well as offense and defense.*
- 4. Committed to the program and a hard worker at practice.*
- 5. Desire to be a team player with the rest of the coaches in the Lightning.*
 - a. The coach understands that the entire program has a general philosophy shared at all levels.*
 - b. Is willing to focus on more than their own child.*

Questions and Answers Section

Last year I created the Q & A section in the handbook to answer some of the most common questions I receive each year. The answers are my own personal opinion and the basis for the decisions we make in the program.

Questions & Answers

Question: *Does my son/daughter need to be a basketball “star”?*

Answer: *Absolutely not. The entire goal of the program is spelled out in the handbook. What each athlete must have is a commitment to be at as many practices as possible. They must also have a desire to listen and learn from our committed coaching staff. If he/she can handle these expectations, then he/she is a good candidate for the GI Lightning Program.*

Question: *Is there a tryout? Do you make cuts in the Lightning program?*

Answer: *How a coach chooses his/her team is totally their responsibility. A tryout/evaluation phase may be used to just observe the kids, but does not mean that teams will be aligned by talent specifically. We want to avoid having to ever cut a child in the Lightning program. The only reason this would happen is because we don't have a parent step forward to coach the team. We can't have rosters of more than 10 players, and ideally it is 8 for playing time issues. Cutting a youngster from any kind of program is cutting a kid from his/her opportunity to live out a dream. Who knows, the next Michael Jordan may just be developing. Understand, that when we do not have enough coaches, then we have no other choice by*

Question: *We have a schedule conflict because of another activity.*

Answer: *Schedule conflicts are inevitable. Keep in mind that the more conflicts you have and miss basketball practices the more your son/daughter will fall behind in skill development and understanding offensive and defensive concepts. I have tried to lock teams into the specific nights for practice to help with schedules. Please attempt to schedule around these practice times. When we practice on other nights, our coaches totally understand that there will be practice conflicts and understand your decision.*

Question: *I would like to help coach but I just don't know if I can make it to all of the practices. Can I still be a coach?*

Answer: *As listed in the handbook, the most coaches a team can have is two. Other parents are welcome to assist as long as the coach is willing to permit it. If you want to be a head coach or the assistant, there can be some flexibility in your attendance at practice. Coaching youth basketball is not your “real job” in life and everyone understands that work and other family commitments will at times come first. If we can come up with 3-4 coaches per age group, the busy coach can miss some practices because the other coaches should have everything covered. If your decision to be a coach also hinges on whether a group of kids will be able to have a team, then I would hope that the other coaches would kick in to help when the coach cannot be there.*

Question: *I would like to have my son or daughter play on his/her friend's team.*

Answer: *The guidelines on how we divide up teams is listed in the handbook. Understand that the coaches will collaborate on who should play on which team. Sometimes there will be clear cut A & B teams. Then there will be teams that appear to be more evenly divided. Unless your child's team and coach come over as an entire package, then there cannot be any guarantees for team assignments.*

Question: *Explain how the teams will practice.*

Answer: *We will practice with all teams from the same grade level at the same location at the same time when using the assigned Lightning practice schedule. When it comes to working on offense/defense, we will then split into our teams. Otherwise they all practice together. It also gives us a chance to practice between different grade levels as well. Coaches like this because we usually have four coaches per grade level and sometimes there are schedule conflicts with these people as well. So we will always have coaches present for practice and you are pretty much guaranteed to have enough kids to have a productive practice.*

Question: *Please convince me that the Lightning Program is the right thing for my child.*

Answer: *I explain this throughout the handbook - competitive sports are not for every child or family. I don't want you to feel like you have to be a part of the program to "keep up with the Joneses". Let me use 19 years of high school coaching speak to you. Youth sports are becoming more and more critical in the development of today's athletes. As I talk with coaches from Omaha and Lincoln, it is obvious that youth programs are strong in each city and so is the competition level. They don't need to travel out of city limits to find competitive teams. As for us, we have no choice but to get in our vehicles and travel hundreds of miles to compete against better talent level. Grand Island can't provide this for us - we just don't have the population base or interest level to develop great athletes with Grand Island resources only. With the creation of three GI Lightning tournaments this upcoming season, we do have the opportunity to draw teams to Grand Island to help us avoid the travel we have endured over the past four years.*

The next question then becomes, "how long are you willing to wait until your son or daughter is pushed to a new competitive level?" I believe the 3rd grade level (or even advanced, passionate 2nd graders) is the right age to begin to play competitive basketball. With the Lightning your son/daughter will learn basketball concepts that are very rarely learned playing on a recreational team. Our coaches are committed to focusing on the fundamental skills that will help these kids as they enter their freshman season - and this needs to begin at a very young age so by time they get to middle school it is just a matter of mastering ball skills.

Question: *I have an issue with the coach of my child's coach. What is the best way to handle the issue?*

Answer: *The golden rule for handling issues with coaches go like this:*

- 1) Never confront the coach right after the game. Give yourself a day to think about it. Then if you still believe you have a justifiable reason to question the coach, please contact that coach about the issue.*
- 2) Make sure that your discussion is always about your child only. Coaches don't want to hear about your opinion of other players on the team. This is when the coach may end up "telling you to coach the next game." You don't want to go there.*
- 3) The best way to talk to the coach is in person. In our busy schedules, this can be difficult to do outside of practice time, and we don't want to use practice time to deal with coach-player issues.*
- 4) If the problem still exists, then you may want to contact the director.*

Question: *What can my child expect about playing time at games?*

Answer: *In the ideal world each player would get equal playing time. I do believe that if the kids are showing up to every practice and giving a great effort, they do reserve adequate playing time. I also encourage the coaches to go for the victory down the homestretch of the game. This may mean that five players are locked into playing while the other 3 or 4 players may receive little playing time down the final stretch of the 4th quarter.*

Another major factor is commitment to practices. I know parents pay good money for their kids to play for the GI Lightning (although we are not even close to the cost of most programs) and would like to see their kids play all of the time. In recreational sports the practice time is nothing like the travel teams. It is very important to be at practices. I will support a coach that does not play a player if that athlete has not been attending any practices. One major characteristic of being on the basketball team is being responsible and being at practice.

Question/Issue: PAYING TO PLAY

Answer: No other issue causes more conflict in youth sports then the "Paying to Play" concept. Regardless how many times coaches are reminded that all players pay for their children to play, it is still the biggest issue of the GI Lightning program and probably other programs similar to ours. Just so this is in writing and does not need to be explained on a weekly basis, it is the philosophy of the program that every player have an opportunity to play a minimum of one full quarter (8:00) of floor time. As teams begin to get above 8 players on a team, this may not be realistic. It would be unfair to say that every player should receive two full quarters of playing time, because then we move towards a recreational philosophy and no one wants the coach to be more concerned about equal playing time and also trying to coach the team. Yes, hopefully we can get to a place where all of the players get equal playing time... and maybe this will happen.

If this becomes a problem for any parent or coach, it needs to be addressed by the parent to the coach. Hopefully all of the coaches can get a rotation where every player gets a sufficient amount of playing time, but that doesn't always happen. Coaches do a great deal of evaluating during practice times during the week. If your son or daughter is missing practice or does not understand the concepts in being able to demonstrate the skills, then their playing time may not be as much as others.

2nd Annual GI Lightning Basketball Tip-Off Classic (Nov.29-30)

In 2007-08 we were able to host our first GI Lightning Tournament. Although we keep this tournament small, it was a very good experience to get all of the players out on the court with officials and fans in the crowd. Games on Saturday and Sunday will begin at 11:00 a.m.

1. We will play combined divisions (3-4, 5-6, and 7-8)
2. Teams will be assigned to pools.
3. Games are just 20 minutes in length to allow teams to play a variety of teams.
4. Each team will play a minimum of 4 games, and most likely as many as six.

1st Annual GI Lightning Hardwood Challenge (Jan. 24-25)

This will be our first of two major tournaments for the GI Lightning. With the hopes of drawing teams from around the Midwest, in the future this tournament should help provide a strong local tournament for all of our families. A minimum of three games will be played. I'm still considering a USVBA format of using pool play on Saturday and then advancing to very pool championships on Sunday.

1st Annual GI Lightning Heartland Hoops Shootout (Feb. 14-15)

In 2008-09, this tournament will be running in conjunction to the Heartland Hoops Classic for high school teams at the Grand Island Events Center. The schedule for the youth tournament will work around schedule requests for Saturday. A minimum of three games will be played. Our Grand Island teams will probably be heavier on Sunday games to open up spots for out-of-town teams to get two games in on Saturdays. Should be a nice weekend for basketball fans to enjoy youth and high school basketball.

Important Contacts/Phone Numbers/Web-Site/E-Mails

Kearney Basketball Tournaments: www.misterbasketball.com

doug@misterbasketball.com

Doug Koster	308-237-4012
SantaFest	December
Hoopfest Tournament	January
Kearney Snow Jam	February
Kearney Blow Out	March

Lincoln Spirit League:

rrhodes@ymcalincoln.org

www.ymcalincoln.org/youth

Rhonda Rhodes	1-402-434-9214
Weather Hotline:	1-402-434-9211 (after 9:00 a.m. on Sundays)
MIT Tournament	March

Hastings YMCA League

shannons@hastingsymca.net

www.hastingsymca.net

Shannon Staffer	1-402-463-3139
YMCA League	

GI YMCA Tournament

craigr@giymca.org

www.giymca.org

Craig Rupp
Tournament (Dec. 6-7)

Gym Reservations

Parents need to understand that the Lightning Program is considered an "outside" user of the gyms. This means that any kind of school activity can "kick us out" of our gym times. Although I provide you with a very detailed practice schedule, it is always subject to change. I will always try to have cancellations on our web-site by 3:30 p.m. the day of the cancellation. If you notice a 7:30 or 8:00 start for practice, this means we are following a 9th grade basketball game that is in the gym until 7:15 or 7:45.

Please do not have your child at the practice site no more than 10 minutes before practice starts. While at the high school, please keep your children in the hallway until Coaches are done with the 9th grade practices.

I'm providing you contact sites and names if you are confused on a practice site. The e-mails would be in case you decide to cancel your practice and would like to give the gym to someone else. The High School Sports.net site gives you a detailed account of what is going on at GISH.

High School Gym Use

Grand Island Senior High East/Middle/West Gyms

www.gips.org/senior/calendars4

This site will allow you to see which gyms and what time we have them reserved at Senior High. It will also help you to plan ahead if you would like to get a gym yourself.

Athletic Office

Renee Albers, secretary
Maria Tomlin, secretary
Joe Kutlas, AD

ralbers@gips.org
mtomlin@gips.org
jkutlas@gips.org
308-385-5950 (ask for A.D. office)

Barr Middle School

Kevin Jenkins

kjenkins@gips.org
308-385-5875

Westridge Middle School

Craig DeNoyer

cdenoyer@gips.org
308-385-5886

Walnut Middle School

Tom Koch

tkoch@gips.org
308-385-5990