



# Florida Lady Comets

Vision for the Future

**Girl's Basketball Program**

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# Florida Lady Comets

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## **FORWARD**

Compiling this manual has given me the opportunity to express my vision for The Florida Lady Comets' Basketball Program and the roles that I will play in helping The Florida Lady Comets become a great national basketball team. I see The Florida Lady Comets' Basketball Program as the vehicle by which people can learn more about our program.

I envision The Florida Lady Comets' Basketball Program becoming the model girls' basketball program by which all others will be measured. A program that graduates its athletes, wins on the basketball court, and does both with integrity and class.

I can't find any reasons why we cannot reach our goals. The Florida Lady Comet's parents should expect and settle for nothing less. I hope this manual will help you understand the plan by which we will achieve our goals. While, this is but a small part of my complete blueprint, I want you to be assured that I have spent some time preparing for this opportunity.

## **FLORIDA LADY COMETS BASKETBALL MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of The Florida Lady Comets' Basketball Program is to be an institution of higher learning where education may be gained under good moral influence and ideals. It holds, therefore, that the girls' basketball program should be operated with sound principles and ideals as the foundation for everything that we do. I feel that we can accomplish this by having coaches and support staff who have strong beliefs that are morally and ethically above reproach. We must then conduct ourselves so that we will set examples and be an inspiration to our student/athletes and those around us. We will create an environment that will allow them to grow and develop their lives.

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## **PHILOSOPHY**

The goal of the Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program is to graduate 100% of our student/athletes, to win the Florida Sunshine State Games, YBOA State, USSSA State, YBOA National championships, AAU National Championships, have a good showing at Extreme Team Camps, and perform well at the NCAA College Exposure Camps on the basketball court and off the courts..

While these are very lofty goals, I would not be coaching the girls' basketball team with the Florida Lady Comets if I did not think that they were attainable. Having had the experience of winning the national championship at various levels of basketball, I am confident that I have a unique perspective on where we want to go, and most important, how we are going to get there.

The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program is in an enviable position that should allow us to move forward and go to the next level by participating on college women's basketball teams. There are certain colleges that have the advantages necessary to become a consistent Top 10 basketball program, and a team that will be a contender for the conference basketball championship every year; however I am convinced that Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program has everything needed in order for us to place student/athletes in some of these elite programs. First, we have the skills and academics that are necessary to win at the top level. Second, we are located in Florida, where there are more great high school basketball players than anywhere in the country.

I feel that the experience of being part of a program that moved to the top echelon of AAU basketball and stayed there gives me the background and experience necessary to move Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program forward. If Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program is to move to the next level, it is essential that the leader of the program have the experience of having been there.

# Florida Lady Comets

## **A. Basketball Philosophy**

I believe very strongly that winning does not just happen. It is not a coincidence that the same teams and the same coaches seem to win every year. These “winning” programs are successful because they have a comprehensive 365-day a year plan that they believe in. We have a plan that will take Florida Lady Comets Girls’ Basketball Program to the pinnacle of girls’ basketball.

I believe we control our own destiny. We and not our opponent decide whether, we win or lose. We will spend a tremendous amount of time on the fundamentals of basketball. We will improve everyday by working diligently on passing, dribbling and shooting. We will attempt to cover every possible situation that may arise in a game and instruct our players on how to react. We will build a basketball program that is fundamentally sound and a team that is in excellent physical condition.

The ultimate key to success is to develop a team that possesses great confidence in everything it does. This is gained through hundreds of hours of hard work and commitment by the coaches and players. The result is a team that goes on the basketball court every day with the attitude that we are going to win and that we expect to win. A confident basketball team will find a way to win. It never gives up. This is the attitude we will strive for.

## **B. Offensive Philosophy**

To be a championship program, we must be balance on offense. While some teams win by pressing the ball and some have won by running patterns, most teams who consistently win can press and run patterns. There are many different schemes and offenses that will allow us to be balanced; our objective will be to use the one that is best suited to our personnel. We will have coaches with varied offensive backgrounds and this will allow us to constantly diversify our offense. We will strive to be an entertaining, wide-open offense that will be balanced, but unpredictable. It will also be our goal to be a tough, physical, and hard-nosed team that can press the ball to set up easy baskets.

## **C. Defensive Philosophy**

Championships are won by teams that play great defense. Our top priority will always be to have a strong defense. We believe in an aggressive attacking type of defense and this is what we will strive for. In defending today’s offense, speed is crucial and we will approach those needs. We will have a defensive scheme that is flexible and easily adjustable to the multitude of offenses that we will face.

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## ACADEMICS

Our goal is to graduate 100% of our student/athletes and to win the national championship for graduation rates. Our philosophy will be that when we select a student/athlete, we have the responsibility to do everything we can to help her earn a degree.

Academics will always take precedence over basketball. We believe very strongly that basketball and academics can work hand in hand and there is no reason that we should not strive to win the state and national championship both on the basketball court and in the classroom.

**To achieve our goal of 100% graduation among our student/athletes, we will follow the following policies:**

- A. Select only those student/athletes who possess the ability and background to graduate from school. This is the most important step we can take to improve our graduation rate.

It is not fair to the student/athlete to select someone who is not academically qualified to compete in the classroom. Through a process of evaluating the prospective student/athlete's school academic records and test scores, our staff will select student/athletes that can be successful in the classroom and on the basketball court. It will also be the responsibility of the staff member to diligently investigate the background and character of the individual and to ensure that we only select those who are highly motivated to seek a degree.

- B. During her time with The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program, the student/athlete will be provided with the guidance, the means and the assistance necessary for her to earn a degree.

First: **Academics will be a priority!** The head coach will make this evident to players and to the staff members. The staff members will assume the responsibility of motivating their respective players and keeping up with their progress with the academics advisors, counselors, etc... This will include regularly scheduled conferences related to academic matters and involvement in educational endeavors of the student/athlete, including class attendance.

Second: **Class attendance will be expected of all student/athletes.** This will be monitored with the academic staff, and we use whatever means necessary to ensure that our players are attending classes regularly. There is no place on The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program **for someone who will not go to class.**

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**Our guidelines for these relationships will be as follows:**

## **Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program**

### **A. Coaching Relationships**

1. The main objective of an assistant coach is to put all her/his efforts into making the program and squad more successful. This is why we have staff that must please the head coach. The head coach however, cannot be expected to please the staff.
2. Disputes between coaches should never occur in front of the squad. That is why we have staff meetings.
3. Be prompt for all meetings.
4. Techniques of offense and defense must conform to the head coach's philosophy.
5. The head coach will hold the assistant coaches accountable. If given a responsibility, they will be expected to carry it out.

### **B. Relationship with the players**

1. Praise, rather than criticism, is a far more effective coaching technique. If the players need to be pushed or corrected, do not wait for the head coach to do it.
2. Be fair and consistent in your relations with the players. This is one of the most critical mistakes made by coaches. The players have to know what to expect from your behavior day after day.
3. Remember; there is no such thing as a democracy in coaching.
4. Censure must not be personal. Always make sure that a player knows that you are for her rather than against her. After practice, encourage the athlete you have been the hardest on in your criticism.
5. Never criticize a player in public.

### **C. Relationship with parents**

1. We will work hard to make the players' parents feel they are a vital part of our program and to include them in The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program.
2. As a general rule, an upset parent would rather talk on the phone than in person. The best approach to an irate parent is to talk to the person face to face. Do not make that person an enemy, but turn him or her into a friend of our program.
3. Do not hesitate to refer parents to the head coach, but first inform the head coach of the situation.

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## **D. Relationship with the community**

1. It is important to remember that many people in the community are acquainted with you because of your association with The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program. Therefore, you must conduct yourself accordingly.
2. Constantly strive to gain good community support. Be proud of what you do and what you represent.
3. In order for us to reach our goals, we must work to become not only The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program but also the state's team and the national's team. We will do this not only winning, but also by developing positive feelings in the community.
4. Always be available to speak at the civic group activities. This helps get the message out about what we stand for and allows us to share with others the vision that we have for The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program.

### Selecting Players

Our goal will be to select the very best student/athletes available. We will always select under the guidelines of the State of Florida Athletics' Rules. In all cases, we will represent The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program with integrity and conduct ourselves in a manner that will bring respect to our Program. We will sell the positive of being at The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program and never talk negatively against another team/school.

Selecting the right players without question is the key to our success. Being located in Indian River County gives The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program a tremendous advantage in the area of selecting student/athletes.

**Our staff will implement a plan that will allow us to select the type of student/athlete that is essential to reaching the highest level of girls' basketball. Our plans will consist of the following:**



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## **A. Selecting Coaching**

Once the interested student/athlete has been identified, one of the coaches will assume the responsibility of mentoring. Scouting will be a priority except in special cases. We will build and maintain our program by selecting quality school student/athletes.

We have a basketball program that is second to none, and we will select our student/athlete with this in mind. The selecting coaches (including the head coach) will be professionals who can identify the top student/athlete and will not settle for the second best. We will use the rules to our advantage and will constantly strive to find areas in which we can outwork our opponents. Establishing a close relationship with the student/athlete and her family will be a goal. Better decisions will result from knowing more about a prospective student-athlete.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

- A. Coaches are expected to be dressed and ready for practice 15 minutes before the players report to the basketball court.
- B. Work with every athlete that comes on the basketball court. Do not allow anyone to go unnoticed.
- C. Be properly dressed.
- D. Do not use profanity at players.
- E. If you have “jumped on” a student/athlete, be sure to talk with them after practice.
- F. Do not run off right after practice. Sit around and discuss the practice.
- G. After practice, roam around talking and joking with players.
- H. Do not accept anything less than perfection. Do not overlook anything.
- I. You cannot motivate players if you are motivated yourself. Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm.
- J. Strive to make your group the best on the basketball court.
- K. Do not argue or discuss problems on the court with other coaches.
- L. Do not lose your poise or confidence on the court or any other place.
- M. Our practices must be tough mentally and physically.
- N. Have our practice schedule duplicated and in each coaches hands by 1:00 p.m.
- O. Pay strict attention to the schedule. Do not abuse the time allotted for each segment.
- P. Players must respect you. This can only be done if they have a feeling for you.
- Q. Breed confidence into your squad.

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## **Team Conduct**

Our basketball team will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is a “cut above” other students. They will be subjected to The Florida Lady Comets Girls’ Basketball Team Rules in addition to those pertaining to all other students. Considering the visibility of our program, it is imperative that our student/athletes be cognizant of the fact that they are constantly being watched and should conduct themselves accordingly.

**We will expect the following conduct:**

### **A. Team**

Our athletes will not expect nor will they receive any special treatment. They will be students first and will act appropriately.

### **B. Community**

As representatives of The Florida Lady Comets Girls’ Basketball Program, our players must conduct themselves in a manner keeping with the ideals and philosophies of The Florida Lady Comets Girls’ Basketball Program. The public will formulate their attitude and feeling about our program, in large part; by the way we act and interact with the people in our community.

### **C. Team Travel**

On any team trip or function our players will be expected to represent The Florida Lady Comets Girls’ Basketball Program in an exemplary fashion. Proper dress and conduct will be required at all times. On away trips our players will wear the appropriate attire. We will carry ourselves with pride as we represent The Florida Lady Comets Girls’ Basketball Program.

### **D. Game Day**

When The Florida Lady Comets Girls’ Basketball Program takes the court on game day, one will see a sharp looking, well-organized, disciplined basketball team. Every player will be dressed alike and there will be no room for individual fashion statements. If The Florida Lady Comets Girls’ Basketball Program does not issue it, it will not be worn.

During the game we will conduct ourselves with poise, confidence, and class. While we stress aggressiveness, enthusiasm and excitement, we will not tolerate any show of individualism. Celebrations will be team oriented and within the rules. We will always be in control and will conduct ourselves in a way that will bring credit and recognition to The Florida Lady Comets Girls’ Basketball Program.

# Florida Lady Comets

## **Discipline**

Discipline will be the foundation of our basketball program both on and off the court. We will expect and demand that our student/athletes follow the rules and regulations set forth by The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program. We will be firm in our conviction that "doing things right" is the only way we will operate. We know what is important and will never compromise our philosophy and beliefs.

There are two disciplines for a The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program. The first is team discipline, which is under the control of authority, where rules and regulations have been set forth. In basketball you must have order, rules, and regimentation. The other discipline is an individual's self discipline. This is the discipline an individual exerts on herself when team discipline is not in effect. We will constantly strive to develop self-discipline in our student/athletes. Our approach to discipline will always be firm, but fair. It is important to have rules, but we must keep them reasonable and to a minimum. Above all, we must enforce the rules that we have.

We will never sacrifice the welfare of the team for the welfare of an individual. You never lose a game because an athlete does not play. You win, because of the manner in which those who play perform.

## **Family**

There is no greater asset that a basketball coach can have than the love and support of his family. At The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program, this is especially important because of the sound principles and family values that The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program represents.

I have been extremely blessed to have a wife who has always been very involved and supportive of my career. In all of our years of marriage, Debra has been to numerous games. Sometimes, this has meant driving hours one way so that she could be there. This has meant a great deal to me and her loyalty and support will be a tremendous asset to The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program as well.

The head coach, his family will form a team that will promote and represent The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program in a manner that will be an example of the values that The Florida Lady Comets Girls' Basketball Program signifies.