

YOUR ASSUMPTION OF RISKS AT VICTORIA AND DISTRICT BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION GAMES, EVENTS AND PRACTICES

As a parent with a child playing basketball you should be aware of certain risks of harm that you or your child may face and that you assume by registering your child in our association:

1) **Coach abuse of players can occur**

WE DO NOT CONDUCT CRIMINAL RECORD BACKGROUND CHECKS ON COACHES. It is your responsibility to satisfy yourself that your child's coach has the appropriate character and credentials.

SEXUAL ABUSE is a reality of life that you should prepare your child for. We urge you to discuss with your child the information contained in the booklet that is available at every gym from the gym supervisor. *A well-informed child is your best protection against abuse.*

ANY PLAYER CONCERNED ABOUT COACH ABUSE CAN PHONE US AT _____ FOR ASSISTANCE

- 2) **Basketball is a contact sport.** There is risk of injury while playing or practicing from inadvertent and intentional contact. Injury is unavoidable. Referees do not, cannot, and should not prevent all contact.
- 3) **Conditions on the court may cause injury.** Sweat, spit, or spilled water on the floor can cause injury. Coaches are asked to carry a towel and wipe up any spills, but perfection is difficult to obtain. Court size may contribute to playing conditions that cause close contact, especially when older players play on smaller courts. Garbage and clutter left around on benches may cause injury.
- 4) **Difference in size of players may cause injury.** While the Association attempts to play teams of like ability and size against each other, perfection in this regard is not possible to obtain. Size differential in itself can be the cause of some player injuries. *Size differential occurs within teams and within age groups.*
- 5) **Players in the heat of the moment may start a fight.** While this is infrequent it does occur and a player could be seriously injured in this event.
- 6) **Leaving the gym at night on game nights can be dangerous.** Children should never be left alone outside a gym at night. We do not control who can access other areas of the school on the grounds. Collect your child in the gym. If you are late after the last game your child should report to the gym supervisor who will assist with communications and ensure a safe ride home. **Make sure your children understand this procedure.**