



GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission Statement

Our primary goal is to provide organized play in basketball and baseball for all members, in an environment where sportsmanship, fair play, and participation are the guiding principles. This organization was founded to give children of all skill levels an opportunity to play in a safe, nurturing and healthy atmosphere. It is our philosophy that winning will not overshadow these guiding principles.

The organization works to achieve this mission through its two-tiered program. The league/roster teams are intended to offer opportunities to participate at a level of play that is exclusive of players participating in High School programs. The open/tournament teams are intended to provide opportunities for players who decide that they want to participate at a higher competitive level.

Registration

Annual registration fees are set and approved by the BCSFYAO Board each year. Fees are based on the annual budget prepared by the Budget Committee. Fees as of **October 2008** are as follows:

E Instructional members	\$ 60.00
B, C and D League members	\$120.00
Open Tournament members	\$120.00

Fees are used to pay for insurance, gym rental, league registrations, equipment, uniforms and administrative expenses.

Parental & Player Participation

The BCSFYAO is sponsored by the Buddhist Church of San Francisco ("BCSF"). The BCSF provides the use of the gym for practices and activities and the classrooms for Board and Committee meetings. As a member of the BCSFYAO it is expected that both parents and players participate in BCSF and BCSFYAO sponsored events. A calendar of events will be provided to all members at the beginning of the year. Should there be any question about the schedule or your participation, you should discuss it with your Team Manager. The players and their parents are expected to participate in the following activities as designated by the BCSFYAO Board:

Mandatory Commitments

Both of the following commitments must be completed:

BCSFYAO Annual Basketball Tournament – Each family is required to provide a minimum of four to six hours of work either at a tournament gym site or at the BCSFYAO Tournament Social (held on Saturday evening of the tournament weekend). In addition to the work shift, each BCSFYAO player is responsible for selling a minimum of \$50 in advertising (or a \$50 booster contribution) for the tournament booklet. The tournament is scheduled for either the last weekend in March or the first weekend in April.

BCSF Ginza Bazaar – Each family is required to provide a minimum of six hours in set-up, bazaar shift, and/or clean-up. Each family is also responsible for a donation of baked goods and will be given raffle tickets to sell. The bazaar is scheduled for the later part of July.

Other Commitments

Any two of the following “other” commitments must be completed:

BCSF Clean-ups – Church clean-ups are scheduled for the Fall and the Spring. Volunteers assist in clean-up of church – BCSFYAO main area of clean-up is the gym

BCSFYAO Sunday Service – This is an opportunity for the BCSFYAO members and their families to get together and show their support for the church. It also gives the Reverend an opportunity to address the BCSFYAO as a group. Services are usually held on the last Sunday of November and in late May or early June. A luncheon follows the service in the Fall.

BCSF Chicken Bento – The BCSF holds a chicken bento fund raiser in October and February each year. BCSFYAO members are asked to sell tickets and assist in the preparation of the bento lunches in one of the four-hour shifts from Friday to Sunday of the weekend of the sale.

BCA Annual Report Collation – Members are asked to provide manual collation assistance for the BCA Annual Report on a Thursday evening in January. This will usually require two to three hours of work.

E Instructional Jamboree – The BCSFYAO holds a Jamboree for E level teams in February each year. While most of the manpower for the event is supplied by the E level parents, additional assistance is required for scorekeeping, referees and timekeeping. Volunteers can contact the Jamboree Coordinator to provide assistance as needed.

Additional Commitments – Members may be asked to provide assistance to the church for other activities which may involve serving as oshoko representative at selected church services, setting up tables and chairs, changing lights in the gym, repairs to church facilities, delivery or pick up of food for luncheons, or other additional assistance.

Failure of a member to fulfill the two mandatory service commitments will result in a \$250 fine per infraction. Failure to fulfill the required number of other commitments (as determined by the BCSFYAO Board) will result in a \$25 fine per infraction.

Noncompliance with service commitment requirements may result in the suspension or expulsion of the player. The Board may consider extenuating circumstances on an individual basis. Fines will be assessed after the August Board meeting each year. Team Managers will be responsible for monitoring member compliance with this requirement.

Communication

All members of the organization should feel free to discuss any concerns they might have with their child's coach, manager or any of the BCSFYAO Board members. Open communication is vital to this organization and its' member families. Should any questions, grievances or conflicts arise, please feel free to address them with your team manager or coach. If the questions cannot be answered or the problem is not resolved, they will seek the advise of the Boys' or Girls' Commissioner(s). Any problems that cannot be resolved at this level will be brought to the attention of the Vice President. The Team Managers will forward notices from the Board to their team members.

Board Meetings and Committees

BCSFYAO Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month and are open to all BCSFYAO members. There are many opportunities for BCSFYAO members to assist with the activities of the organization. Committees for planning of these activities report to the Board and are mostly voluntary. Should any member want to become more active and become a committee member, they should contact a Board member. Copies of the Board minutes will be distributed to all members by the Team Managers on a monthly basis and the Team Manager will forward it on to the members of their team. Families are encouraged to read the minutes in order to keep apprised of the activities of the organization.

BCSFYAO Website

The BCSFYAO has a website on which information is posted to keep members informed of future activities, game scores and general BCSFYAO information. The website is www.BCSFYAO.org.

Teams

BCSFYAO basketball teams (Taisho and Ardenettes) play in the Nikkei Youth Basketball Association (NYBA) and the East Bay Girls Athletic League (EBGAL). Formation of teams and participation in games is based on the bylaws of the respective leagues and the guidelines for formation of teams established by the BCSFYAO (see *Guidelines for Formation of BCSFYAO Teams*). The NYBA and EBGAL were established for the primary participation of Japanese American youth or youth that are active participants of Japanese American organizations. The BCSFYAO has established definitions for these terms (see *Definition of Terms*). Should you have any question about the assignment of your child to a team, please contact the Team Manager, Coach or respective Commissioner.

Team Managers and Coaches

All coaches and managers of BCSFYAO teams are volunteers. Should you be interested in being either a coach or manager of a team, contact the Boys' or Girls' Commissioner. To find out more about being a Team Manager, see *BCSFYAO Team Manager Responsibilities/Duties*. To find out more about the coaching and the BCSFYAO coaching philosophy, you can request a copy of the *BCSFYAO Coaching Clinic* booklet.

Coaches & Managers Appreciation

Coaches/Managers Appreciation Luncheon will be hosted by the 8th grade boys and girls.

Practice Schedules

Practice schedules for basketball teams are selected in September and are based on the availability of the BCSF gym. Practice times are selected with the D level teams having priority, followed by C level teams and B level teams. E Instructional teams will have last priority. Should there not be enough practice slots available at the BCSF gym, the Board will look to other gym sites for available practice times. Practice times will generally remain the same throughout the season and should be relinquished following the last tournament in which the team participates. Tournament teams will be assigned practice times following the completion of high school play in late February.

Baseball practices are determined by the availability of fields as assigned by the SF Park and Recreation Department. The Baseball Commissioner will obtain practice fields for all teams and notify Team Managers.

League Schedules and Information

League schedules will be distributed to all players and parents prior to the start of league play (December for basketball and March for baseball). Maps for the various gyms and field will be distributed by Team Managers.

Each team is responsible for providing a scorekeeper and/or timekeeper for each league game. It is requested that parents learn these duties in order that the responsibilities can be rotated on a weekly basis. The BCSFYAO will hold classes to teach scorekeeping skills prior to the start of the season.

During league games, only the coach, team manager, scorekeeper and players are allowed to be on the Team Bench during the game.

Uniforms

The BCSFYAO will provide uniforms for all players. Team Managers will collect a deposit fee for uniforms at the beginning of each season. Each team will wear either black, white or purple shorts and all players on a team will wear the same colored shorts. Shorts with the BCSFYAO logo can be purchased through the BCSFYAO Equipment Manager. It is the responsibility of each player to bring their uniform to each game. Uniforms may be hemmed or taken in to fit better. They should not be cut. All uniforms must be returned at the end of the season in their original condition. Lost or damaged uniforms are the responsibility of the player and will be replaced at the cost to the player.

Code of Ethics

All players and parents should recognize that the coaches and managers in the BCSFYAO are all volunteers who freely give of their time, energy and expertise. Please respect them because they are the backbone of the organization. The BCSFYAO expects all players, parents and coaches to abide by the following Code of Ethics.

Support Team

Please don't shout advice to your player during the game. Shout encouragement? You bet. A steady stream of technique suggestions, though, has no value. Your insightful tips may conflict with my instruction.

Please don't harass the referees. Parents that loudly harass the referee are embarrassing to the player and the team.

When a parent makes a spectacle of himself at a game, the player is embarrassed. If the referee is being reamed by a parent for a bad call (by definition, a 'bad call is any decision made against the parent's child), what does the player learn? He learns that the mistake wasn't his fault. It was the result of poor officiating. This is a bad habit to get into.

Don't encourage your child to place the blame for their failures upon others. One of the benefits of playing sports is learning to accept responsibility instead of making excuses. .

Sometimes a call is hard to take for whatever reason. Such times are tests of emotional control. If a player can learn to bite his lip and move on, a parent can learn to sit quietly for a moment and let the emotion pass. Learning to cope with disappointment is a valuable life skill.

Don't blame the coach for your child's problems or lack of playing time. Your child's struggles to succeed are your child's problems. Let him work them out without your interference. A player has every right to ask a coach what needs to be done to earn more playing time, for example. But a parent stepping in to demand playing time is another thing altogether.

Please don't talk bad about the coach in front of your child. The worst thing a parent can do is take pot shots at the coach, criticizing decisions, and complaining about his leadership. Support the coach and stand behind his decisions.

Please don't razz the other team's players. The other team's players should be considered off limits. Yelling at or deriding someone else's child is a shameful practice for an adult at a sporting event. Parents who intend to disrupt, distract or upset players exhibit the worst of poor sportsmanship.

As a parent, be involved in a positive way. Attend your child's games as often as you can. Cheer for all the kids on the team. Help with fund raising. Assist with logistics. If you're not sure how to help, ask the coach.

There is probably a hundred ways to be a good team member and a good parent at the same time. When the larger definition of team is working well, the experience can be wonderful for everyone involved. People who see our program in action will want to be a part of it. Parents looking ahead to when their child will be old enough to participate will want to fit in and help. This kind of teamwork perpetuates itself. Once it gets momentum, it can be quite a force. It just takes parents who care.

Disciplinary Actions

Unsportsmanlike conduct, verbal badgering and/or physical confrontations between parents, players, coaches, managers and referees will not be tolerated. Mutual respect between all members is essential for the well being of the BCSFYAO. Should the actions of a player or parent be deemed as contrary to the philosophy and guiding principles of the BCSFYAO, the

coach and/or manager of the team will take appropriate disciplinary action(s). The actions of the player or parent and the disciplinary action(s) taken will be discussed with the Boys' or Girls' Commissioner. The Commissioners will bring to the BCSFYAO Board any actions that they feel need further attention.

Fund-Raising

Currently there is only one fund-raiser sponsored by the BCSFYAO. That fund-raiser is the annual BCSFYAO Basketball Tournament. All proceeds from the tournament are retained for payment of necessary expenses. Should funds exceed actual expenses, the BCSFYAO Board will determine if they are sufficient to provide a rebate to the membership.

At the YAO tournament, each participating team is allowed to keep all proceeds from concessions at their site. Teams may decide what they want to sell at their concession booth, however, pricing should be relatively uniform between sites. Tournament booklets and T-shirts are not included and proceeds from these items will go to the YAO. Coffee and donuts are free at all tournament sites.

Individual teams can raise money by selling more than the required amount of ads for the tournament booklet. Each player is required to sell \$50.00 in ads for the tournament booklet (or make a donation of \$50.00). Any ad money over the minimum of \$50.00 per player will be returned to that team. Managers will be required to keep track. People with standing agreements with certain businesses are entitled to keep that business ad.

Individual teams can raise money for their team by having food booths in the various community events or other fund raisers. Ten percent of the profits are to be donated to the BCSF, ten percent is to be donated to the YAO, and the rest would go toward paying for tournament fees for the team. Any money above and beyond the tournament fees would then be split between the YAO and the BCSF. Records would be available for review by the board to insure that the money was spent on tournament fees. This fund raiser must be presented and approved by the Board.