



PLAYING TIME EXPECTATIONS

Grades 5th-8th:

It is the Warriors athletic philosophy that these are the developing years for our young athletes, and while we do not promise minimums, we do make an effort toward playing time for all players at this level.

High School: 9th-12th grades

While it is true that the Warrior board and coaches believe it to be important to broaden the experience of our athletes, and that broadening is enhanced by playing time, it is also an important goal of the Warrior program to strive toward excellence. Therefore, no minimum per game playing time provisions or minimum numbers of games in which athletes must compete are established at the Freshman, Junior Varsity or Varsity level.

Playing time decisions are left up to the individual coaches. The coach will determine how much each player will play according to the strengths and weaknesses each player exhibits. Each player is competing for playing time and a starting position. Those making varsity teams will compete with teammates for playing time and starting positions. The coach will determine an athlete's playing time according to the athlete's overall performance, hustle, hard work and attitude in practice and games. Parents should not expect a coach to discuss playing time.



The Player Should: Practice so intensely that the coach feels pressure to reward him with playing time. Coaches notice intensity in practice, not occasional periods of intensity, but every day, every minute intensity. To have any legitimate reason to talk to a coach about playing time concerns, a player must bring to that meeting a history of practicing with excellence. Understand everything the team does, both offensively and defensively. A player can't expect to play if his coach has doubts about his understanding of what to do in the game. Develop knowledge of as many positions as possible. You never know when the opportunity may come, due to another player's injury or illness or other reasons. Be ready to go whenever and wherever needed. You should want to play- whether for long or short periods of time. Be ready by staying in the game mentally both on the court and on the bench. When the coach starts to think about whom to sub into a game, your chances of being chosen will be increased if he sees you focused, aware of the game situation, and encouraging your teammates from the bench. If you are a non-starter, genuinely cheer for those who start. There are two things that might affect the chances of a sub going into the game: the starter's mistakes, or the starter's playing with such great intensity and success. A true team player will cheer for the latter to occur. If you are a starter, be genuinely glad when the subs get to play and cheer for them. A starter can easily become spoiled and selfish. That is however, an inappropriate team mentality. Respect the subs for the role they play in practice, pushing you to become a better player.

The Parent Should: Consider the "big picture" before becoming critical. Remember that you are not at practice, and often game to game decisions are based on what happens in daily practice. Give the coach time to evaluate his players, to see who gets the job done. Realize that even the best players have an "off night" and that a less talented player can have a great game and deserve to be in the game more than usual. Avoid sowing seeds of dissention. Resist the urge to talk to other parents or fans about your dissatisfaction. Everyone loves to have company in their misery, but no good ever comes from it. Encourage your athlete to talk to the coach when playing time questions exist. Avoid robbing your child of a wonderful opportunity to mature and develop communication skills of his own. You may need to help him think through what to say to the coach. Support the coach even though you may not agree with his decisions. It will make your athlete's experience a much better one overall.