



BASKETBALL PROGRAM

# Frequently Asked Questions

## *2025–2026 Season*

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Thank you to every family who shared feedback after this season. Your voices help us grow, and we're grateful for the care behind every response. The questions below reflect the themes we heard most often, answered in light of our Athletics Handbook and CGSAA guidelines. We hope this brings clarity and shows how much we value this community. As always, we encourage you to review our Athletics Handbook on the SEAS website or reach out to the school if you have additional questions.

### **PRACTICE & PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

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#### **Q Why does my child only have one practice per week?**

**A** Gym time is a shared resource across all SEAS sports and grade levels. Per our Athletics Handbook, practice times are allocated by the Basketball or Gym Coordinator based on availability, number of teams, and grade level — with older grades receiving first priority. We know one hour a week feels limited, and we're actively exploring options such as using the court divider to run two teams simultaneously to expand access for younger grades. Any changes will be communicated before next season. Coaches are also allowed to rent out other gyms to increase practice time (done by one or two teams this season). We are advocating hard for a new gym so all teams can practice more — hopefully good news to come soon.

*Questions about practice scheduling can be directed to Athletic Director John Vollbrecht or Basketball Coordinator Derek Washington.*

#### **Q Will there be a pre-season skills camp again?**

**A** The pre-season skills camp was incredible and our goal is to have one every season.

## TEAMS & ROSTERS

### Q How are teams assigned?

A When 16 or more players register for basketball at the same grade level, the Athletics Handbook requires two teams to be formed. Our Team Selection Process follows a structured sequence: first, an evaluation practice where all players are observed by coaches using agreed-upon drills; then team formation by coach consensus with the goal of two equally competitive rosters; and if consensus cannot be reached, a formal draft. In cases where coaches cannot agree, the Athletic Director or a neutral third party makes the final determination. The goal is always two balanced, fair teams — not simply separating the strongest players.

*All ranking and selection data from this process is kept strictly confidential.*

### Q Can I request my child be placed on a specific team or with certain players?

A Placement requests from parents are not part of our Team Selection Process. We understand this rule might have been broken this season and it will not happen going forward. The process is designed to be fair and consistent for every family, and allowing individual requests would undermine that fairness and place an unfair burden on our volunteer coaches.

*Requests made through coaches or school staff will not affect roster decisions.*

### Q Will there be A and B teams — a competitive and developmental track?

A Our current handbook does not establish a formal A/B tiered structure. Teams are formed with the goal of being equally balanced and competitive. That said, we do allow for an A/B structure in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and we evaluate each situation separately and in conjunction with the coaches, make the decision that we believe is best for the kids and upholds our school values. This is one of the most discussed topics from this season's survey, and the Athletics Committee is actively listening. Any changes to team structure would be communicated clearly to all families before registration opens for next season — directly from the committee.

### Q What is expected if my child also plays another sport?

A Our Athletics Handbook states that attendance at practice can affect playing time, and parents are expected to notify the coach promptly if a student athlete cannot attend a practice or game. While we understand families manage multiple commitments, we ask that players honor their commitment to the team. Unexcused absences affect the whole roster and, in some cases this season, left teams short-handed for games. Clear commitment expectations will be reinforced at the pre-season parent meeting each year.

### Q How is playing time determined?

A For grades 2-5, CGSAA minimum playing time rules apply and coaches are required to follow them. Beginning in 6th grade, there is no mandatory CGSAA minimum; however, SEAS encourages all coaches to provide every player with meaningful playing time. Beyond minimums, the handbook states that playing time is based on practice effort, attitude, and hustle — not just athletic ability.

## GAMES & SCHEDULING

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### Q Why are some games scheduled late on Sundays?

A Game schedules are set in coordination with CGSAA and other participating schools — SEAS does not control the full league calendar. We hear the concern about late Sunday games for younger players, and we will continue to advocate with CGSAA for earlier start times for our elementary-age teams wherever possible. Please understand that the CGSAA puts on over a thousand games per year and has limited gym availability to do so. Still, they do not schedule games after 6PM on Sundays.

### Q What happens when a game is cancelled due to weather?

A We are at the mercy of the CGSAA and what they decide. We do not control what happens if a game is cancelled. We do know the CGSAA tries their best to reschedule but is limited by the lack of gym space, referees and other logistical issues.

## TOURNAMENT & LEAGUE RULES

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### Q Why were middle school teams allowed to combine for the end-of-season tournament?

A Our Athletics Handbook does permit middle school teams to combine for tournament play in conjunction with the CGSAA rules and expectations. Similar to the formation of A&B teams, each case will be reviewed separately by the Athletics Committee in conjunction with the coaches and communicated early in the season.

### Q Why can't certain age groups play full-court defense past the 3-point line?

A This defensive restriction is a CGSAA rule, not one set by SEAS. Multiple families raised this concern, we will formally bring this feedback to CGSAA.

## UNIFORMS, GEAR & GAME DAY

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### Q Who owns the uniforms, and what happens if one is lost or damaged?

A Uniforms are the property of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. They must be returned to the P.E. teacher within one week of the season ending. Non-returned or damaged uniforms will result in a replacement fee billed through FACTS. Parents are responsible for proper care and laundering throughout the season.

**Q Will girl-specific uniform cuts be available?**

**A** This is something we are actively looking into for next season. Properly fitting uniforms matter, and we want every player to feel comfortable and confident on the court. We'll share updates on this before next season's registration.

**Q Will warm-up gear be available?**

**A** 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams have purchased warmups in years past based on approval from the Athletic Committee. These were purchased by the parents and not the school. If a team would like to get warmups the coach should address it with the Basketball Coordinator.

**Q Can we get music during games? Is a sound system possible?**

**A** We believe strongly in providing a fun environment for games and luckily this year we were able to provide music more often (as seen in the tournament). Ultimately, music has to be played by our Gym Coordinator who is also busy keeping score, working with officials/coaches, and making sure there are no other issues in the gym so sometimes music doesn't take top priority. If you would like to volunteer to run music for the gym during games please let us know.

**Q Will every team be included in pep rally videos and school communications?**

**A** Every team and every player deserves to be celebrated. This year coaches were asked multiple times to provide pictures, videos, etc to the Basketball Coordinator so they could be included at the Pep Rally. A request was also made via the weekly newsletter. Ultimately, the school was forced to go with what was provided. Ultimately, it is up to a team's coaches and parents to provide pictures and videos if they want them to be included.

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## **POLICIES, COMMUNICATION & HANDBOOK**

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**Q How can families stay informed about how the program is run?**

**A** Coaches are required to attend a Coaches meeting with the Basketball Coordinator and Athletic Director and encouraged to have a Parents meeting before the season begins. The Parents meeting will no longer be encouraged but required in order to ensure clearer communication for the season.

**Q Who do I contact if I have a question or concern during the season?**

**A** The Athletics Handbook outlines a clear process: if you have a concern about a coach, player situation, or game incident, please wait at least 24 hours before discussing it with the coach — calmly and privately. If the issue is not resolved, contact Basketball Coordinator Derek Washington. Unresolved matters can then be escalated to Athletic Director John Vollbrecht in writing. Coaches are volunteers focused on your children — program and policy questions should come directly to the committee.

*Written grievances must include the nature of the concern, relevant dates, and your desired outcome. The Athletic Director will respond within 10 business days.*

**Q Is there a concession stand requirement?**

**A** Yes. Every family with a student participating in basketball or volleyball is required to sign up for one one-hour concession stand shift during the season. Families who do not fulfill this obligation will be assessed a \$75 fee through FACTS at the conclusion of the season. Middle School SEAS students may fulfill this requirement for volunteer hours if a parent is also present.

**Q Will the season be longer next year?**

**A** Season length is largely determined by CGSAA scheduling. We're always looking at ways to grow the program meaningfully, and any changes to the season calendar will be communicated to families before registration opens.

– SEAS Athletic Department • 2025-2026