

Dear Upward Parents of 1st through 4th graders,

Greetings! We hope this message finds you well. We are actively planning for the 2021 Upward Basketball and Cheerleading season and given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic we wanted to take this time to share our current thoughts on the upcoming season. It is our strong desire to have our 15th season in 2021, but we are also mindful that the safety of our community is of utmost importance. We are preparing for the season and plan to open registration on October 15th. Two important points: First, we will be monitoring the status of COVID-19 infections in Tarrant County from now to the start of the season and we want to be clear that the potential exists that we may have to cancel the season. In fact, if we had to make a decision today, we would most likely not move forward. We will be looking for improvement in the status of the pandemic in Tarrant County in the upcoming weeks. Second, if we are fortunate enough to move forward, Upward will look much different than it has in the past as we will make many changes for the safety of all participants and volunteers.

In terms of changes, most significantly, to accommodate social distancing safety guidelines and given our facility limitations, we have made the difficult decision to reduce the size of the league from approximately 500 participants to about 200 participants this season. This will enable us to play 1 game per hour (i.e. no simultaneous games) reducing the total number of people in the gym and also allowing time between games for facility cleaning. Registration will be on a first come first serve basis; however, for this age group priority will be given to those parents who plan to serve as head coaches, particularly returning coaches.

Other changes include:

- Registration will be online only, no paper registration and no in person registration
- No uniform sizing, parents will select uniform size during online registration
- Evaluations will be modified to accommodate social distancing guidelines
- Players will be required to bring their own basketball to practice
- Game fan attendance will be limited, potentially to one parent per player
- Non-participants will not be allowed in the gym during practices

As discussed, we will be monitoring the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in Tarrant County as the season approaches. We will look particularly at the rate of new infections and the percent of COVID-19 tests that are positive as suggested by the CDC. The national Upward organization has been extremely helpful during these challenging times and has committed to refunding participants registration fees in the event we would need to cancel the season. This is predicated on uniforms not being distributed, which typically takes place in the first week of January. While there may be others points along the way, our current thinking on decision points for the season are December 1st (prior to ordering uniforms), and January 1st (prior to handing out uniforms). As you are aware, we are operating in an extremely fluid environment and so any of these plans are subject to change.

Again, registration will begin online on October 15, 2020. On the Trinity Presbyterian Church webpage (trinitysouthlake.org) you will find a registration link, an Upward waiver form (you will acknowledge this when you register), and the Sick Player Plan. Player evaluations are scheduled for the following dates: Monday, November 2nd from 6:00pm to 7:30pm for 1st Graders; Tuesday, November 3rd from 6:00pm to 7:30pm for 2nd Graders; Thursday, November 5th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm for 3rd Graders; and Saturday, November 7th from 9:00am to 12:00pm for 4th Graders. Make-up evaluations, for all ages, will also be from 9:00am to 12:00pm on Saturday, November 7th. If you have multiple children in your family they can all be evaluated at the same session.

God Bless – John and Brian