

PISTONS ELITE HANDBOOK



The intent of this handbook is to familiarize parents, players, and coaches with Pistons Elite, and create a source of structure for the expectations of the Pistons Elite experience. For our program to be successful, the rules and regulations provided in this handbook must be adhered to and enforced. We want our program to be recognized as one of the best programs available due to our services and our transparency. With the cooperation of parents, players, and coaches alike, we will earn the respect and recognition due. We hope that this handbook will answer many questions that you may have. If you have any questions or concerns that are not addressed in this handbook, please direct your inquiries to the following contact:

Leavohn Lewis

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WELCOME

Pistons Elite is honored to have your attention, and eager to share what we offer you and your family. Pistons Elite is looking forward to a very productive and rewarding third year in 2023. Everyone involved with Pistons Elite, directly and indirectly, will be asked to make sacrifices and commitments to assist in the development of the program and all our players. This will require respect, discipline, dedication, and determination from all parties involved, which will result in undeniable team success. Our number one goal is building a strong foundation for the lives of all the youth involved in this program. Our objective is not just to win basketball games, but to win at life. We will win at life by living our lives with honor and respect in everything we do. In our constant pursuit of victory, we will carry ourselves with humility, and represent our families, our schools, our communities, and, above all else, our Heavenly Father with class and dignity.

CORE VALUES

RESPECT | DEDICATION | DETERMINATION | DISCIPLINE

MISSION STATEMENT

Pistons Elite mission is to help the future leaders of our community become phenomenal people who achieve an abundance of success academically, personally, and professionally by instilling the core values of respect, discipline, dedication, and determination using the love, joy, and passion we have for the game of basketball as our tool. Ultimately, the Mission is to make **A BETTER PERSON! A BETTER PLAYER! A BETTER STUDENT! ... BY GETTING BETTER EVERYDAY!**

VISION STATEMENT

Pistons Elite vision is to create a culture of service and community that is attractive, enjoyable, and fosters the retention of families. Pistons Elite wants to provide a positive, safe, healthy, and organized environment for our players to develop an appreciation for self-discipline, accountability, physical conditioning, healthy life choices, responsibility, teamwork, sportsmanship, self-esteem, pride, integrity, and competition. Pistons Elite will educate and train our players to be positive contributors and leaders in our communities, to dedicate time to charity, to hold themselves to high standards, and maintain a strong academic prowess. Pistons Elite expects players to be committed to improving in all aspect of life. Pistons Elite will challenge players to use basketball as an escalator for higher aspirations to prepare for the next chapters of their lives. Pistons Elite will hold players accountable for understanding and appreciating the sacrifices of everyone, especially their parents or guardians, who helped them get this opportunity.



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Spouse: Ashleigh Lockett
Birthplace: Opelika, AL
Hometown(s): Moultrie, GA and Inkster, MI
Interests: Coaching Basketball, Mentoring, Family, and Business
Education: Tuskegee University Class of 2018
Degree: Mechanical Engineering, B.S.
Current Employer: General Electric Aviation
Executive Director and Founder of Pistons Elite
Coaching/Mentoring Experience: 9 Years

STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am a living testament to the positive impact a youth basketball program devoted to instilling core values of respect, discipline, dedication, and determination, while creating a culture of service and community, have on an individual succeeding in all aspects of life. This is the reason why Pistons Elite was founded. It provides an opportunity for me to connect with the youth, the future leaders of our communities, and share the love and appreciation I developed for the game of basketball, as well as all the life lessons I have been blessed to experience, and pour it all into the youth. In hopes that I can serve them in a positive and constructive way that instills hope and confidence to conquer any adversities and win in life. I want my life to serve as a reminder to them that every attribute they acquire as a member of this program is powerful when applied properly. As a young man who has endured hardship, failure, and discrimination, I also have been the beneficiary of GOD's unyielding grace and favor to overcome and enjoy the blessings of strong faith and hard work. As a husband, son, brother, friend, scholar, engineer, and mentor I am always striving to become better and lead by example. The mindset of continuous improvement has always been a part of me, but basketball was the key to unlocking my latent potential. I have thirteen years of experience as a competitive basketball player. I have eight years of coaching experience. I have been blessed to travel all over the United States as a player and coach in youth basketball. However, I believe that at this stage of my life basketball is not the only thing I have to offer the youth. I believe my life's experiences, my background, and my age give me an advantage in developing and guiding the youth into phenomenal people. My guarantee is that your child will receive the necessary skill development and fundamentals to excel and compete at a high level on and off the basketball court. I will always give my best to every athlete in the program. Choices seem endless for basketball programs in our community. If you do decide Pistons Elite is the choice for you; know that it will not be about me, but about what it will do for your child... **CHOOSE PISTONS ELITE!!!**

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Pistons Elite is built on **DEFENSE, COMMUNICATION, SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENDLESS EFFORT, and HEART!** Pistons Elite coaches will use a wide variety of coaching strategies and techniques to teach and develop our players competitiveness, work ethic, discipline, and respect. Pistons Elite players will be **EXPECTED TO HUSTLE EVERY PLAY, PLAY TOUGH DEFENSE, and COMPETE EVERY SECOND** of a practice or game. Pistons Elite is not blinded by winning because we recognize that some of the most valuable lessons are learned in losses. Pistons Elite takes pride in teaching players the fundamentals of basketball, and how to play the game the right way because that is where winning programs and coaches at every level find their success.

OUR GOALS

Pistons Elite has two objectives. The first is to provide players with everyday examples of our programs core values and quality instructions in all aspects of life. The second goal is to prepare players who have the desire, athletic ability, and academic standing to play at the high school, collegiate, or pro level with all the necessary tools to stand out and compete. Pistons Elite believes healthy competition breeds camaraderie, teamwork and accountability are vital to individual success, and mental and physical health are vital to quality of life. "Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Pistons Elite is committed to providing players with the proper tools to succeed. Participation with Pistons Elite is a privilege that requires a sacrificial commitment to the game, the team, and the organization. It is imperative that everyone involved is willing and able to make this type of commitment in order for all our players to reach their full potential.

OUR COMMITMENT

Pistons Elite will be a four to five-month commitment to basketball.

- The 2023 Spring/Summer season will begin on March 3rd
- Tryouts will be February 21st and 23rd

PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMITMENT

Parents and Guardians commitment to Pistons Elite include, but are not limited to, honoring the financial agreement and codes of conduct. Parents and guardians must make a reasonable and responsible commitment to practices, tournaments, travel, and team activities. Pistons Elite expects the same from players and coaches.

OUR PROGRAM: OFF THE COURT

Pistons Elite has partnered with The Healing Harvest to provide players with life skills coaching through their Facing My Giants Youth Program.

The Healing Harvest, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501 (c)(3) organization that educates youth and adults while encouraging them to overcome their adversities. Their mission is to advocate growth and development through coaching programs created to elevate productive citizenship.

The Healing Harvest will provide group life skills sessions built into mini workshop series for youth. Each session capitalizes on the participants' personal and professional development while providing skillful training to help them thrive in their everyday life.

OFF THE COURT: CURRICULUM

- Goal - Setting
- Financial Management
- Career Development
- Community Service Learning
- Health & Well-Being
- Conflict Resolution

OFF THE COURT: PROGRAM GOALS

- Utilizing the lessons and tools taught in this program, youth would develop into great individuals and grow into productive citizens.
- Promote positive youth development and healthy life choices by engaging teens in curriculum-guided discussions and community service learning.
- Help to lower the risks of teen pregnancy, school suspension, course failure, reduce incarceration and school dropout rates.
- Encourage youth to learn how to overcome life obstacles with expectations of reaching their highest potential in their future.

For more questions or concerns.
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PROGRAM HISTORY

Pistons Elite was founded and established by the current director, Leavohn Lewis, in February of 2021. Pistons Elite is a non-for-profit organization that accepts donations from sponsors and collects annual player fees to fund the operations of the program. The funding provided goes towards the costs of all team related events, including, but not limited to, the following list of items: practices, tournaments, travel, attire, paraphernalia, equipment, bonding activities, service events, etc... Last season was the second official season for Pistons Elite, and we had two teams. One seventeen and under that was compromised of an all-guard group of ten players, and one fourteen and under that was compromised of an all-guard group of fourteen players. With these two groups of talent, we created a fast-paced position-less offense with a tough, disciplined, and fundamentally sound defense that led competed hard in every contest and battled through an injury riddled season with grit and class. After a five month stretch of basketball, ten tournaments, two service events, three team events, and a first annual awards banquet, we had a very rewarding season even though this was a down year in terms of our on the court tournament success. We believe all our players, parents, and coaches had a wonderful experience developing and growing together as a family over the course of the season. We are looking forward to the third season of Piston Elite in 2023. We are hopeful and making the necessary efforts to keep our program to two teams across the following age groups Fifteen and under and Fourteen and under.

PLAYER FEEDBACK

"I have gained many things while playing with this program. The main thing I learned is how to become a leader. I learned that you do not have to average forty points a game to hold your teammates accountable for not hustling, not getting after loose balls, and not listening to instructions. Another key thing I learned from this program is that effort is everything. You can be the most talented kid on this planet, but if you give zero effort your talent will not show. Also, I learned to take pride in defense."

- **Alex "AP" Powell | Class of 2023 | Marietta, GA**

"Since being a member of this program, I have learned the importance of leadership and trust. I have also gained the life skill of perseverance that will carry me through any hardship life may bring. I have learned that you can accomplish anything by working together, and that nothing is impossible as long as you have a drive to do better than before and strive for greater. I have learned that through listening and applying what you have learned that you can excel and surpass your competition. I have learned that it is not just about me, but about the whole family. I have learned that when you do not have the support of a strong family it can be hard to navigate through life. This is what Pistons Elite has instilled in my mind, and what I apply everyday in life."

- **Bryce Reives | Class of 2023 | Smyrna, GA**

"Since joining the Pistons Elite, I have learned that basketball is not just about bouncing a ball and making baskets. It is a lifestyle that must reflect a positive attitude and good behavior. Playing for Coach Lewis means respecting others and myself; It is about maintaining good standings in the community and at least a 3.0 grade point average in school. I have become a better player and learned a spot is not given to you; It is earned through hard work and consistency to learn and improve. I realized that I have to listen, practice what I am taught, and execute in the game."

- **Sha'Yah Goba | Class of 2024 | Smyrna, GA**

"I have learned the importance of fundamentals when playing basketball since joining the Pistons Elite program. When I first joined the team, I thought I knew what it took to play basketball, but Coach Lewis has taught me that in order to play this game you must have respect, discipline, and confidence. I have learned how to get along with my teammates as well as my coaches! I have learned that I am a young man first and education is important. I will keep pushing to do my best! These are the things I have gained from being a part of the Pistons Elite program."

- **Jermaine Williams Jr. | Class of 2023 | Austell, GA**

PARENT FEEDBACK

“Let’s talk about the Pistons Elite Program. This program started a team for our son and another young man in the middle of the current pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, we had no idea where our son would play. A year later he still plays with the Pistons Elite program. This program is an awesome one. It holds players accountable for their actions. Players are responsible for their grades, chores, as well as putting in the work on the court. The program also adds team building... looking out for your fellow brother. For all of the above reasons, the Pistons Elite program is A1.”

- **Allen and Ferlecia Powell | Parents of Alex “AP” Powell**

“Since my son has been a member of Pistons Elite, I have seen so much development in him as a young man and an athlete. He has gained greater confidence in his basketball abilities and his decision-making skills. I believe Pistons Elite has top notch coaching staff that truly cares about each player’s growth and maturity both on and off the court. I can’t wait to see what next season brings.”

- **Toneta DeWitt-Reives | Mother of Bryce Reives**

“As a parent of a child that is interested in playing basketball on the college level and dreams of playing professionally one day, development is the key. I want my child to be within a system that puts school, discipline, respect, and integrity before basketball. The Pistons Elite Basketball program delivers all the above while using the sport as a tool and incentive to keep the young men in a positive mindset and focused on their goals and dreams. The Pistons Elite program has helped my son to remain steadfast through adversity while maintaining his focus on the objectives and task to overcome it and win.”

- **GaYah Goba | Father of Sha’Yah Goba**

“As a parent of a member of the Pistons Elite AAU Team, I have gained a significant amount of awareness, positivity, and knowledge of the game of basketball. My spirit is overjoyed to see how Coach Lewis and Coach Patrick have embraced these youths, as well as being instrumental in raising a village of scholars. As I advise my own son to be more than mediocre because the sky has no limits when you give 100%. Subsequently, the Pistons Elite program focuses not only on basketball, but also on learning life skills for life after basketball, which is important to me. The most significant benefit to me about this program is the fact that the program addresses being a SCHOLAR-ATHLETE FIRST!”

- **Charmaine L. Benifield | Mother of Jermaine Williams Jr.**

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

Pistons Elite will be evaluating prospective players mentally, physically, and professionally in formal tryouts and other outside activities and events. In no particular order, players will be evaluated and selected on the following criteria: academics, athletic ability, attitude, coachability, competitiveness, drive, effort, energy, fundamentals, IQ, potential, size, skillset, speed, stamina, strength, teamwork, toughness, and work ethic. Our selections will be based on our perception of players performances and fit into the program during evaluations.

Pistons Elite expects for each team assembled to be of exceptional quality. Each team will be expected to be capable of competing on a national scale. It is imperative that only players and parents that fit into our program, and truly understand and align themselves with our values, mission, vision, philosophies, and goals be selected.

Assimilation of the Pistons Elite culture will be vital to the productivity in player development and team success. We are capable of accomplishing much more together if we all operate by the same core values, execute on the same mission, adjust our focuses towards the same vision, adopt the same philosophies, and strive for the same goals. "United we stand, divide we fall." – John Dickinson

Each team will be comprised of 10 players. All prospective players and parents will be notified of their selection status directly via email, text, or phone call February 24th, 2023. Pistons Elite finds no gratification in cutting players or turning players away from the program. Pistons Elite will extend offers to participate in the other activities and/or trainings out of season. However, Pistons Elite understands the current constraints hindering our capability to keep more players. Please be mindful that there are no intentions on crushing confidence or destroying dreams. Pistons Elite will not always select the most athletic, tallest, smartest, or most talented players because we are human and we make mistakes, but it is never with ill intentions to deprive or hinder a player from achieving their dreams.

PARENT/PLAYER/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Coaches are a pillar for great basketball programs. All Pistons Elite coaches have been selected because we believe they are qualified and bring unique talents to our program. One of the most important aspects of coaching youth sports is having good communication between players and their parents

Pistons Elite understands that at times basketball can be an emotional sport and some parents are prone to issue instructions to their player from the sidelines. If those instructions are contrary to those of the coach, this will only cause confusion for the player and will hinder their progress in overcoming emotions and adversity. Please encourage your player to follow their coaches' instructions and allow coaches the opportunity to coach. We believe parents play a vital role in a player's development and comprehension to what a coach is teaching. Coaches are most successful and players are more inclined to cope with the natural frustrations of being a team member when parents align themselves with the program and reiterate whatever the coach is teaching.

Basketball provides the youth with an excellent opportunity to be exposed to the realities of competitive situations and learn how to navigate the natural adversity those situations create. The most important life lessons they must and will be taught in the Pistons Elite program are how to be a good team member, how to use both positive and negative feedback, how to handle adversity, how to be mentally tough, and how to learn from wins and losses.

When a player has a concern, parents have the responsibility of empowering their player by guiding them on how to properly resolve the situation on their own. Exceptions can be arranged for situations involving the endangerment to a player's safety or player abuse, both of which will not be tolerated by any parties involved with Pistons Elite. The following steps should be taken if a player has a concern with their coach:

Step One: The player should discuss their problem or concern with their coach and try to arrive at a solution. This is important because we want to teach all of our players to be confident, responsible, and effective communicators. (This approach may not be appropriate for children under twelve years of age.)

Step Two: The player should contact the director to schedule an appointment for the player, parent, and coach to meet at an appropriate time and place. **(See Grievance Policy on Page 15)**

Under no circumstances is a parent to approach a coach with a complaint or evaluation of coaching philosophy. The two-step procedure above must be followed in dealing with any situation that may arise. The parents and families of Pistons Elite players have been very supportive in the past, and Pistons Elite hopes that support will continue to grow each year. Pistons Elite hopes that our parents continue to support our players by attending games and giving positive encouragement. Pistons Elite expects parents to refrain from being overly critical of their child, their teammates, their coaches, or the officials.

Pistons Elite will not tolerate the coaches or players being wrongly condemned by parents or teammates. If a parent or player refuses to follow the guidelines set forth, they will be asked to leave the program. We all have to remember this program is for the players, and as the adults we have an obligation to lead by example and demonstrate how to be professional, polite, and manage emotions.

PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Pistons Elite expects all of our players to exercise good sportsmanship at all times. Pistons Elite believes that basketball should be viewed as a privilege, and all of our players are expected to represent Pistons Elite, their families, and their communities in a positive and respectful manner. Players are expected to be self-disciplined and hold themselves and their teammates accountable to the standards of our program. Players must adhere to the following Codes of Conduct:

1. Players will give respect to all parents, coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, locker rooms, and facilities. Negative attitudes will not be tolerated.
 - a. Players must address everyone with respect.
 - i. Yes, No, yes sir, no sir, yes ma'am, no ma'am, yes coach, no coach, excuse me, may I, please, and thank you.
 - b. Disrespect is unacceptable and inexcusable, and any/all will be penalized.
 - i. Yeah, Nah, What, Huh, and any profanity
 - c. Players will not back talk or show up anyone of authority when given guidance.
 - i. Any parents, coaches, officials, or event staff.
 - d. Players will respect transportation resources, hotel rooms, and gym facilities.
 - i. If any damage is reported, players will be held accountable.
2. Players will exhibit the highest form of respect for game officials and event staff. Players will not question an official's decision on a call excessively or dramatically.
 - a. Officials have the right to remove a player from a game for bad behavior.
 - i. Any ejection from a game will result in a minimum one GAME SUSPENSION.
 - ii. Players must overcome any form of adversity. i.e. opponent, officials, facilities, etc.
 - iii. Never back talk or show up an official. Officials are human and mistakes happen.
3. Players must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 throughout the academic school year. Academics must be a priority for prospective STUDENT-athletes for the following reasons.
 - a. Eligibility to compete for academic and athletic scholarships.
 - b. Personal brand and resume building.
 - c. Eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities can boost confidence.
 - d. Prioritization is a valuable life skill.
 - e. Setup to succeed in activities outside of basketball.
4. Players will always value good character over winning. Players will lead by example and fulfill their commitments to Pistons Elite, their families, and their communities at all times.
 - a. Players will always protect their brand by conducting themselves in a positive manner.
 - i. If any violence arises before, during, or after a game because of a player this will be grounds for immediate suspension and/or punishment.
5. Players will respect the game of basketball. Players are expected to give one hundred percent of their effort every second of all their practices and games.
 - a. Players are required to arrive 10 minutes prior to practice, 30 minutes prior to a game or as otherwise directed by your coach.
 - i. Players are responsible for notifying coaches about their attendance status.
 - ii. "To be punctual is to be professional."
 - iii. "Early is on time, on time is late, and the late are forgotten."
 - b. Players are expected to be disciplined enough to practice how we want to play.
 - i. If attire is not on properly, if attitude is not correct, if energy is not high enough, if failing to communicate, if mind is not focused on task at hand, if for any reason a player chooses to deviate from coaches provided instructions they will be held accountable, and are subject to corporal punishment.
6. Poor Behavior such as: profanity, physical/verbal intimidation, fighting with other teams/players, and arguing with officials or spectators are not permitted and will be addressed with punishment.

7. Players will demonstrate sportsmanship, play fair, set an example, and rise above poor behavior.
 - a. The way in which you conduct yourself has a long-lasting effect on everybody around you.
8. Players will value the instruction of your coach.
 - a. Disrespect will not be tolerated
 - b. Players must listen attentively, retain, and apply what their coach instructs.
 - c. If a player is deemed a hinderance to the team by his coach said player will be required to meet with director, parent, and coach to resolve issue. Player may be asked to leave program.
9. Players will be committed to being a team player.
 - a. Players will appreciate and celebrate their teammates.
 - b. Players are expected to push each other to become better. Iron sharpens iron.
 - c. Players are expected to love on each other like brothers and build each other up.
 - d. Basketball is a team sport and winning only happens when the entire team works and plays together for the success of the team and not for selfish gain.
10. Players will take care of their uniforms.
 - a. Cost for replacing any lost or damaged uniform will be the responsibility of the player and their parents. Failure to pay replacement costs will result in an ineligibility to play.

Enjoy the journey! Win, lose, or draw enjoy every moment on the court both during the games and during practices. Basketball for Pistons Elite is and will always be challenging, tiring, hard work, and fun!

PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents of Pistons Elite players are expected to represent Pistons Elite, their families, and their communities in a positive and respectful manner. Parents are expected to lead by example and be positive influences and role models for their children. Parents will be held to the same standard of our players and coaches. Parents must adhere to the following Codes of Conduct:

1. **Be a leader.** Leaders are people whose actions inspire others. A leader treats their children's teammates, their peers, their coaches, their opponents, and officials with the same respect they want to receive. Leaders value respect, dignity, and sportsmanship at all times.
2. **Do not draw attention away from the players.** Pistons Elite and the activities it will be involved in are for the benefit and development of our players. If you ever find yourself too emotionally invested in what is transpiring on the court, take a moment to breath, relax, and allow the players to figure it out.
3. **Value your players commitment.** Hold your player accountable to the commitment they have made. Make sure your player arrives to practices and games on time. Make sure they have their equipment to perform their job. Make sure they eat and drink the proper nutrition before, during, and after practices and games. We are only as strong as our discipline. The more our players see us act responsibly, the more they will adopt responsibility.
4. **Be respectful.** Nothing is better for a young player than having their parents support to watch them play. However, nothing is worse for a young player than hearing a parent using profanity, booing, taunting, screaming, or making unwarranted comments at or about any players, coaches, fans, or officials. Please keep in mind that officials in all tournaments have the right to remove any athlete, coach, or spectator from the games or tournaments premises. If deemed necessary, Pistons Elite director reserves the right to ban any athlete, coach, or spectator from future games or activities.
5. **Refrain from showing up an official or projecting your feelings about a call at an official.** Mistakes will happen because officials are a part of the game and they are just human. Parents should demonstrate proper behaviors to the players. It is not the parents, players, or coaches' job to officiate the game. Please accept the call and move on.
6. **Allow players to come to you for advice.** Be motivational and boost your players confidence. Try and identify a positive from every practice or game to help build their confidence. For young players the greatest motivator is a sense of achievement. Please refrain from being overly analytical and critical of your player's performance following every game. They will know how they played, and if given a peaceful, loving, and safe environment, they will open up to you when they are ready. If you are overly analytical and critical after every game, chances are they will start to avoid talking to you after games or worse wish you would not attend games any more.
7. **Allow players to be coached by their coaches.** Hearing multiple sets of instructions confuses players. Sometimes players can be distracted and underperform when parents scream directions from the sidelines. Please refrain from providing directions to players that are contrary to the coaches. If you must give directions to you player, please reiterate the coach's instructions to show your players they must mesh into the Pistons Elite system in order for everyone to succeed.
8. **Practice good healthy communication.** If you must communicate with coaches about an issue after a game please allow twenty-four hours to pass. This will allow all parties an opportunity to reflect on the situation, and help to avoid any inappropriate events from occurring, Odds will likely increase for a successful resolution to whatever the issue may be. We never want to make a scene in front of our team that will be an embarrassment to our families, our communities, or Pistons Elite.
9. **Maintain your players equipment.** Cost for replacing any lost or damaged equipment will be the parents and players responsibility. Failure to pay for replacement may result in player ineligibility.

Enjoy the journey! Win, lose, or draw enjoy every moment. Keep the outcome of every game in perspective, and remind players each game has a winner and loser and how to handle both with honor.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Coaches of Pistons Elite are expected to represent Pistons Elite, their families, and their communities in a positive and respectful manner. As a coach of Pistons Elite, you are responsible for guiding players in the right direction for their future. You are the light that will lead them out of darkness, the navigator that will inform them of what they cannot see, and the barometer of success that they will strive for and exceed.

Coaches must adhere to the following Codes of Conduct:

1. Conduct thyself in a dignified manner relating to emotions, language, attitude, and actions.
2. At all times protect the principles of fun, safety, and development of all athletes.
3. Demonstrate respect for the ability of opposing teams as well as for the judgement of officials.
4. Display control and professionalism at all times under any circumstance.
5. Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of every person, including but not limited to opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, parents, athletes, and spectators.
6. Refrain from physical contact with athletes except where necessary for the development of the athletes' skills or athletic ability.
7. Be aware of and understand the role and influence of a coach as an educator, imparting knowledge of skill as well as proper personal, professional, academic, and social behavior.
8. Be reasonable in demands imposed on athletes' time, energy, and enthusiasm.
9. Be fair and provide all athletes an opportunity to earn playing time by being clear in expectations and consistent in observations and decision making.
10. Ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate for the level of the athletes.

Enjoy the journey! Win, lose, or draw enjoy every moment. Remember that it is a long season, and it will be a roller coaster of emotions, failures, and successes. Treat every moment as a learning opportunity and cherish them. You have a difficult job, but all progress, big or small, is worth celebrating.

PLAYING TIME

Pistons Elite is aware that every player wants to play and the most common concern for players and parents will be geared towards playing time. We will emphasize the following points as a philosophy for playing time.

- **Playing time must be earned. It is not guaranteed and is not disbursed equally.**
- **Playing time is based on the players performance at practice. If you are not at practice, for any reason, it is difficult to earn playing time.**
- **Coaches will determine who plays and for how long. There are various factors that contribute to coaches', but it will always and only be the coaches' decision.**
- **Parents are always welcome to WATCH practices. Only coaches are allowed to coach, unless coach has personally asked for assistance for a specified duration of time.**
- **Be on time!**

PRACTICES

Practice is mandatory for all players.

- It will usually be two or three times per week. They will last normally for 90 minutes.
- You will be notified of practice times and locations by your coaches. Please be flexible and cooperative to practice times and location changes. We cannot promise changes will not occur, but we will make every effort to minimize the changes to practice times and location.
- If a player must miss or be late to practice, they must contact a coach ASAP. Players who miss practice miss valuable information and may have playing time effected by consistent absences or tardiness.
- All players should arrive at least ten to fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled practice time. This will give player an ample amount of time to get ready and stretched for practice.
- We encourage parents to stay at practice, but please do not disrupt or interfere with the session.
- Please pick up you player promptly at the end of practice.

CLOTHING

- Piston Elite uniforms (jersey and shorts) must be worn to all games, but not to practice.
- Shorts, Shirt, and basketball shoes must be worn for every practice.
- Jerseys must be tucked in before all games start warm ups.
- Please label all items received, **EXCEPT UNIFORMS**, with player name and contact information.

GAME DAYS

- All players must arrive by the designated arrival time.
- All players must be in complete uniform before beginning pre-game warm ups and team stretches.
- During the game, all players should be focused on the task at hand, **THE GAME**.
- If not physically in the game, players are to remain mentally in the game at all times.
- All players are expected to run on and off the court during player substitutions and time outs.
- Verbally supporting your teammates is strongly encouraged and expected.

POST GAME

- At the conclusion of each game, players are to form a single line (with their coaches and teammates) and shake hands with the opposing team.
- After shaking hands, players will proceed to an area designated by their coach for a team meeting.

TOURNAMENT TEAM RULES

1. Remember that players, parents, and coaches are to represent Pistons Elite with honor and respect.
2. Players are responsible for their uniforms when attending tournaments. When traveling, prior to departure, please make sure that your gym bag is in your possession and packed with your uniform, shoes, and any other items required for you to play. (i.e. contacts, braces, knee pads, etc.). It is a good idea to pack an extra pair of socks and personal items in your bag.
3. Players are expected to wear appropriate clothing at all times.
4. Parents should plan hotel accommodations and coordinate travel arrangements with coaches.
5. No people other than Pistons Elite players, coaches, and players' family members are permitted inside of a players' hotel room.
6. No players are allowed off hotel property without parents, coaches, and/or chaperones permission.
7. When we travel out of state for tournaments, we will attempt to travel together.
8. When we travel, we will try to eat together and spend time together as a team.
9. Pistons Elite is dedicated to developing all of our players on and off the court. Pistons Elite wants to provide unique experiences for our players, and will try to dedicate some of our free time to activities outside of basketball whenever possible. However, it is important to remember the main reason for travelling to tournaments is to compete in basketball games.

PLAYER AND COACH REQUIREMENTS

Players:

1. AAU Registration (\$14) | [Link to website](#) | Join Club – W397D9
2. BBCS Registration (NCAA Certification) | [Link to website](#) to be provided by Director
3. 3.0 GPA (B Average) required to play in games
4. Complete All Forms
 - a. Player Information (Before tryouts)
 - b. Liability Waiver (Before tryouts)
 - c. Pistons Elite Team Agreement (After making the team.)
5. Participate in All Fundraisers

Coaches:

1. AAU Registration (\$16) | [Link to website](#) | Join Club – W397D9
2. USAB Coaching Gold License (\$68) | [Link to website](#) to be provided by Director
3. BBCS Registration (\$30) (Gold License Required) | [Link to website](#) to be provided by Director

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Participating with Pistons Elite takes a ton of commitment from the parents and the players. As an organization, we will try our best to coordinate fundraising activities to keep player fees low. Pistons Elite understands all family's financial situations are not created equal, and we are making a valiant effort to solicit sponsorship to cover the vast majority of the costs associated with the program's operations. Player fees will be required in order to participate with Pistons Elite this upcoming season.

FUNDRAISERS

- Shoot-a-thon event through Giving Zone. [How it works?](#)
- 20/20 Drive

PLAYER FEES

Returning Players: 800 USD (\$50 discount per child for families with more than one child in the program.)

New Players: 850 USD (Discount also applies for new families.)

Fees will include the following:

- 1 Team Uniform
- 1 Shooting Shirt
- 2 Practices Per Week
- 6 Tournaments (additional fees may apply for additional tournaments not on initial schedule)
- Pistons Elite Basketball Program Experience

Payments can be made in the following forms:

- Cash | Check | Cashapp | Venmo | Zelle | Apple Pay | PayPal (Please contact Coach Lewis for details)
- Donations can be made through fundraisers.

Player Fees must be paid in full by April 7th, 2023 by 5PM

Payment Plans can be created for individuals who need more time. Contact Coach Lewis Directly

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITMENT

Participating with Pistons Elite will require players to commit to completing a minimum of twenty hours of community service. We plan to provide opportunities for all players to participate in service events, but it may not constitute for the entire twenty-hour requirement. All events with Pistons Elite will be posted on schedules.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY AND NUTRITION

Use or possession of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and other harmful substances, as well as the illegal use or possession of narcotics or habit-forming drugs are prohibited. If there are any player infractions said player will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

NUTRITION

The night before a game, players should eat a low fat, high carbohydrate meal, such as pasta, salad, and fruit. The day of the game, carbonated drinks, candy, milk products, and heavy or greasy foods should be avoided, as they are hard to digest. Fruit juice, water, diluted sports drinks, and light foods are recommended for consumption during game days.

- Do not eat one to two hours before your game. Running on a full stomach can cause problems. You need to eat, but plan it according to your game schedule.
- Bring food. Concession food is normally available, but the selections are normally limited and not as healthy as we would like for our players.
- Bring a bottle or two of water. Hydration is vital to perform at your highest potential.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE/POLICY

The grievance policy and rules to abide by are listed below. Please responsibly address any safety concerns.

- Refrain from addressing playing time with coaches during practices, games, or tournaments. All communication regarding playing time in these situations will be redirected by coaches.
- Electronic messaging may be used to request a meeting with coaches and/or the director. Please refrain from utilizing this method to vent frustration or disappointment that more respectfully should be discussed face to face. Allow at least twenty-four hours to pass before initiating communication. This time will be a cool down period to be used for situational reflection and emotional processing.
- If contacting a coach regarding a concern, always copy the director or consider contacting the director first for guidance. Abuse or disrespect toward our coaches will not be tolerated, just as abuse or disrespect toward our families or our players we will not be tolerated.
- Players must be encouraged and allowed to speak up for themselves. This is a fundamental life skill, and we work hard to create a culture that provides a safe environment to nurture this skill. Parents are asked to work with the director to demonstrate respectful problem solving.
- Coaches are supported by Pistons Elite in regard to coaching decisions and determinations. Pistons Elite expects coaches to be open and accessible to resolving individual player concerns.

Grievance Procedure Steps

1. Write down the specific concern or problem. For the sake of clarity, please write down specific details related to the concern. During the moment, if emotions are elevated the root cause to any problem can be hidden by any minor irritants.
2. Determine who is involved in the concern or problem. Is the concern between teammates, between players and parents or family members, between a player and coach, between a parent and coach, or is it among the team or parent community? This step helps you narrow down who is actually presenting a problem, and better prepares us for a resolution.
3. Plan how you will present the concern or problem and to whom. This step is where you assess our guidelines to follow. We recommend you present based upon the following examples. Coaches care about your concerns, but sometimes the concern or problem is bigger than they are prepared or expected to handle.
 - Player driven concern with team, teammate, or coach: Player notifies coach before or after practice of need to speak privately. Player should be prepared with specific information. If courage is an issue, please assist your child.
If parent is involved, please include director.
 - Parent driven concern with team, teammate, or coach: Parent notifies director and coach of need to meet to address concern. Player may be asked to participate in resolution process.
 - Family driven concern or personal matters: Parent notifies coach and director unless there are confidentiality concerns, and if so, director should be the sole point of contact. The director will work with family to resolve as necessary.