

## Notes for the National Tournament in Springfield, MO:

### The Nationals Experience:

1. Going to Nationals is a great experience with a lot of benefits.

### Communication:

2. Coaches will use their regular group text for their team.
3. Overall group text by Joe Whisenhunt for communication applying to entire group.

### Hotel:

4. Let's be on our best behavior at the Hilton Garden Inn. We have a long-standing reputation for being a well-behaved group. Obey all the hotel rules.
5. All players in their rooms by 10pm. Be respectful of families with small children going to sleep earlier.
6. No boys in the girl's rooms, and no girls in the boy's rooms.
7. Full breakfast every morning.
8. Teaming, the kids are good at coming up with a couple of games to play in the lobby during the week for team bonding. Can also bring board and card games.

### Laundry:

9. Everyone needs to bring a "garment" bag that can hold the player's uniform for laundry purposes. Please label your garment bag with last name and #.
10. Everyone should also bring a set of hangers so that the uniforms can be hung up to dry.
11. We will need a volunteer each night from each team to do laundry, but ONLY FOR THE BBALL UNIFORMS. Jersey, shorts, socks, sports bra, but THAT IS IT. 12's and 14's will play early in the day, and the 16's will play later in the evenings, so we need to plan accordingly.
12. If you prefer to "opt out of laundry" duties, you can provide the laundry detergent.
13. In order to do laundry, please bring a roll of quarters or there about...
14. Will turn in your uniforms to your coach Friday after last game.

### Games:

15. No admission, and there are no spectator tickets required for Nationals. There may be overall spectator limits (not per athlete), but no tickets required.
16. Make sure you have read and signed the COVID policy (Liability Waiver). We need to abide by mask requirements with a smile on our faces. Venues may have differing requirements.
17. Most gyms have bleachers for spectators, but because of COVID this could be different. Plan to bring some chairs just in case.
18. ALL TEAMS HAVE GAMES EVERYDAY NO MATTER HOW THEY ARE DOING. They end up playing at a level where they are most competitive. In general plan for ONE game per day per team.
19. Process: Teams are divided into classifications roughly based on program size (gender specific). They spread out 1 & 2 seeds across these classifications. After the first day, half the teams go to the left of the bracket and half advance on the right. With 6-8 teams per classification, the Championship Game is usually played the 3rd day. Those that win their classification receive a GOLD BALL. Runners up receive a SILVER BALL. The rest of the tournament, the GOLD BALL winners play off for UNDISPUTED. SILVER BALL winners also play each other.

20. The tournament is not over once a team has been eliminated from Gold Ball contention as they will mix in with other classes and continue to compete, whether it is for Division II Championship, Bronze Ball Bracket, or the Silver Ball Showdown Series.
21. GYM LOCATIONS: Keep the gym map handy (on our website). All courts are listed separately by number.
22. Home page on our Website will have links to items that provide additional information for the tournament: Gym map, schedule of events, Hotel information and map. There is also a link to the brackets page that is updated regularly.
23. We will be responsible for either the clock or score book.
24. Facebook and Pictures, if someone would like to volunteer to take pics and someone to live stream the games, that would be great for each team.
25. Bring a picture of your birth certificate on your phone.
26. Conduct, try to remember to stay positive during the games, no yelling at the refs.
27. Drum corps and onesies!! No noise during free throws or timeouts. Drums for 12 yrs and older. Cheering each other's teams on... Cheer for Arkansas teams!!! Flames, Ft Smith, Harrison, Saline should all be there.