



**Grassroots Program Handbook**

**2026**

**4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**#StayLockedInOrGetLockedOut**

## Table of Contents

### 1. Program Mission

### 2. Code of Conduct

### 3. Player Expectations

### 4. Parent / Coach Relationship

Note – If you have any questions during the season, please communicate directly with your child's head coach and / or Vito & David. We look forward to a great season!

**Vito Buckle** – Owner of Vito Official Basketball – (202) 560-6842

**David Kosc** – Director of Vito Official Basketball Grassroots Program & Coach of Vito Focused (12u / 6<sup>th</sup> Grade) – (301) 785-9237

**Jimmy Little** - Vito Focused (12u / 6<sup>th</sup> Grade) – (240) 888-5141

**Chris Wilson** – Vito Venom (13u / 7<sup>th</sup> Grade) & Vito Genesis (14u / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) – (301) 525-8395

**DJ Johnson** – Vito Connect (14u / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) & Vito Titans (10u & 11u / 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade) – (202) 883-1096

## Program Mission

Vito Official Basketball equips our youth with vital life skills to succeed both academically and in basketball by establishing a growth mindset to prepare our players to embrace challenges, persist through obstacles, and learn that effort will lead to success.

We have developed a PLAYER PROFILE to identify the qualities that we are looking for in Vito Official Basketball players. We want players who are:

1. Scholars
2. Achievers
3. Communicators
4. Positive
5. Responsible
6. Coachable
7. Competitive
8. Committed (at the Grassroots level, we understand most kids are playing multiple sports. During basketball season, we expect Vito Official Basketball to be the priority over ANY other basketball teams.)

### Words about Winning

At the Grassroots level, our focus is on the process of improving as a team and as individuals; not directly on winning itself. We believe that if we concentrate on the process, then ultimately, we will be able to compete against any team we play against. Of course, during games we will play to win, but we do not define our level of success solely by the scoreboard.

## Code of Conduct

We have high expectations for our players, our teams, our coaches, and everyone associated with our basketball program. We use our Player Profile as a general framework to monitor how our players are progressing as athletes and young men.

All team members are required to follow the Code of Conduct as described below:

1. Arrive early / on time for all practices and games.
2. Bring and wear your practice jersey to all practices (one will be provided).
3. Put forth 100% effort and your best attitude with all things related to basketball.
4. Communicate positively and effectively with teammates and coaches.
5. Be respectful, attentive, and engaged with all things related to the team.
6. Demonstrate integrity and be held responsible for your actions.
7. Always act in the best interest of the team.
8. Accept feedback from coaches as an opportunity for self-improvement.
9. Practice sportsmanship AT ALL TIMES with referees and opponents.

## **Player Profile / Expectations**

**“Try to be the best FOR the team - NOT the best ON the Team”**

### **Team / Player Expectations**

- Play Hard
- Play FOR each other!
- Compete – Be a Competitor NOT a Complainer
- High five & Clap for your teammates
- Help any teammate up off the floor
- Next play mentality – Own the mistake and MOVE ON – Keep playing!
- Subbed Out – Rules:
  - Communicate who you were guarding / where you are on a zone / press.
  - Hustle off the floor by running to the kid subbing in for you to tell them the above
  - High-5 everyone on the bench before sitting down
  - Subbing is for multiple reasons:
    - Mental Reset
    - Breather / Rest
    - Give the team a new look
    - To be coached on the sideline
    - Sharing minutes with your teammates

## Parent /Coach Relationship

We want to thank the parents for allowing us to play an important role in your son's youth basketball experience. Our goal is to treat your son with the same level of respect that we expect for our own children.

We have only THREE items that we do not wish to discuss with parents:

1. Playing time
2. Game Strategy
3. Comparisons between players

Playing time is earned by meeting the player expectations noted previously - as well as at practice -by attending practice and demonstrating the ability to successfully run the offense, defense, out of bounds plays, hustling, rebounding, etc. This will get your son more playing time in the game.

Please **DO NOT Coach** your son from the stands – Encouragement and cheering for your kid & the team is the expectation. We need players to concentrate on listening to their coaches and interacting with their teammates during games and not be distracted by looking in the stands. Always cheer as loud as you can for your child's effort and attitude but refrain from telling them where to go on the court or what to do with the ball. Trust the coaches & the game plan.

Also – please refrain from yelling at or abusing the referees during games.

Reminder- your son plays for Vito Official Basketball & every game they wear the Vito Official Basketball uniform; you are both representing Vito as well as the organization. Set a positive example for your son – they tend to mimic their parent's actions and if they hear you criticizing the referees, they will think its ok

to do so as well. Please always represent the Vito Official Basketball organization in a positive manner.

We want to have a positive environment with open lines of communication with all parents. Being positive and being an effective communicator are aspects of our Code of Conduct that we want to model for all our players. We are always happy to discuss anything on your mind – please utilize practice days or scheduling a time with the coaches (and or with Vito & David) would always be the expectation. If you would like to discuss anything related to a specific game, please wait 24 hours before contacting the coaches to ensure topics are not discussed while emotions are high.

Thank you all and we look forward to your son's progress as a basketball player and as a young man.

Vito Buckle & David Kosc

## Parent Contract

### Required to be signed by a Parent / Guardian for every player

1. **Support All Players:** Cheer for effort, attitude, and teamwork; not just the score.
2. **Respect Coaches and Officials:** No arguing with referees or coaches and no coaching from the sidelines. Trust the coaches & let your kid play without your directions.
3. **Encourage Sportsmanship:** Teach kids to congratulate opponents and play fair.
4. **Stay Positive:** Focus on learning, improvement, and fun. Trust the process
5. **Communicate Constructively:** Address any concerns with coaches privately and respectfully. (24 Hour Rule, give it a day before approaching a coach about game issues)
6. **Be Reliable:** Ensure players arrive on time and are picked up promptly.
7. **Model Good Behavior:** Kids learn by example, so stay calm and kind during games.
8. **Pay Your Fees** - if there is an issue; please communicate with us (No Refunds)
9. **Playing Time** - Understand during tournaments, there are 3-5 Games per weekend - kids are not guaranteed to play every game and there might be a game where a kid is not playing well or doing the right things to help the team win. Some opponents style of play may dictate how much your kid plays & some kids will play more than others at times - this is not equal opportunity basketball.
10. **Practice is Mandatory** - Ensure timely transportation to and from practices (and games). Practice is how you earn playing time - by showing an understanding of the team concepts (offensive plays, various defensive responsibilities & out of bounds plays). Communication with your coach is required if you will miss practice (or game) and mark your availability in the app. DO NOT be a no show. Missed practices can affect playing time.

Sign Here : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# **Player Contract**

## **Each player is required to complete a contract**

### **1. Purpose**

This agreement establishes the expectations and responsibilities of the player and the organization for participation in the Spring / Summer Vito Official basketball program.

### **2. Player Responsibilities**

- Attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect toward teammates, coaches, referees, and opponents.
- Maintain passing grades in school in accordance with team rules. (i.e. 2.0 or Higher)

### **3. Organization Responsibilities**

- Provide safe and supervised practices and games.
- Offer fair playing opportunities and skill development. Note: playing time is not promised. Opportunities will be earned in practice & if you have success with that opportunity; your playing time will increase.
- Communicate schedules and expectations in a timely manner.

### **4. Conduct and Discipline**

Violation of team rules or poor sportsmanship may result in reduced playing time, suspension, or dismissal from the team.

- 1 Technical foul - Sit the rest of the game & 1st half of the next game;
- 2 Technical Fouls - Sit first half of the next game;
- 3 Technical Fouls - Sit the next entire game;
- 4 Technical Fouls - Sit out an entire tournament (all coaches discretion)

## 5. Acknowledgment

By signing below, all parties agree to the terms of this contract.

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach/Team Rep Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_