



NEW HAMPSHIRE BASKETBALL COACHES ORGANIZATION

The NHBCO is on the move and gaining steam establishing a highly productive organization. Two years ago, our organization decided to make a commitment towards improving New Hampshire basketball. We sent 4 of our officers to the NHSBCA national conference in Las Vegas. The opportunity to sit down with so many knowledgeable members of the NHSBCA inspired this group to come back and share the ideas that were successful from other states associations.

A return trip last year to Kansas City, for the NHSBCA July convention, allowed us to gain confidence and start moving in a new direction. In the past, we were an association that always found reasons why things wouldn't work, instead of being aggressive and making ideas become a reality. Over the last two years, the NHBCO has developed and maintained a website for all of its basketball coaches (www.nhbco.org). One of the functions on this site is the nomination of players for all-state. Utilizing the site, coaches can cast their vote for all-state selections at the end of the season. The site also allows schools to send in nominations for "Coaches Academic all-state players" (juniors and seniors) who have established a B+ average or are in the class top 20% in the schools. Also, through this website, we've established a partnership with *NHsportspage.com*, an organization that covers New Hampshire basketball and promotes our state athletes. Other partnerships that have been developed over the past two years are: *Hudl*, *Fastmodel sports*, *Dr. Dish*, *Adrenaline Fundraising*, *Baron Rings*, *Graphic Edge*, and *RC Brayshaw & Company*. We were able to establish relationships with these companies due to our alignment with the NHSBCA.

Last year at the NHSBCA summer meetings, one of the topics discussed was - "*what do you get for your membership?*" Because of what we learned there, we decided that at our annual coaches clinic, we would give away *scout cards packets* for those in attendance. This package gets NHBCA members into any game in New Hampshire, note pads for scouting, along with t-shirts, pens and other small tokens of appreciation for attending and continuing with "coaching" professional development. This was WELL received.

Another example is how our state has grown in its relationship with Vermont. Each summer the two states send their best twelve female and male athletes to compete in what we call the *Twin State Classic*. This year we are hoping to tie this event in with another great organization - the *NH-VT Special Olympics*. The plan will be to have 3 games on the same day at the same location featuring a girl's game, boy's game and a *Special Olympics* game between the two states. We are excited to continue this long-time rivalry, and the addition of the *Special Olympics* game will bring another meaningful benefit to the festivities.

Finally, over the last few years we have established an award in the name of Jack Ford, one of the founding fathers of our organization. Each gender and division names one athlete who best represents the values that Mr. Ford helped to establish for our organization. To be eligible, each nominee must be strong equally in each of the following three categories: Basketball Performance, Academic Performance, and Citizenship/Community Service. At the end of the year coaches from each division nominate and vote on the player who best deserves this award.

In closing, New Hampshire has always had a rich tradition in basketball, but our new mission is to bring "New Hampshire basketball" into the twenty-first century. To do this we have accomplished our first goal – join with the NHSCBA and align ourselves with them to further the development of our basketball community.

Respectively submitted / NHBCO Officers: David Chase-President, Tim Latorra-Vice President, Cassie Turcotte-Treasurer, and Jamie Hayes –Secretary.