PARKS AND RECREATION

Santa Cruz City Junior and Little Guard Competitive Philosophy

The Santa Cruz City Junior Lifeguard program believes in healthy competition for our participants. Therefore, it is important to share our competitive philosophy with all Junior Guards, Little Guards, parents and constituents. In every competition, there are a number of open events and team relay events. Open events are open to all competitors from every agency, and relay events have a limited number of entries depending on the event and the competition.

We encourage all Junior Guards/Little Guards to compete in all open events, which have unlimited entries. There are certain circumstances that may prevent some individuals from participating in particular events, but the training and conditioning provided in our day-to-day program prepares Junior Guards/Little Guards for a full day's worth of competition. We expect most Junior Guards/Little Guards to compete in all open events.

Little Guards are learning the meaning of competition. Little Guards are taught to give their best effort during all events and activities, but the primary focus is on participation. Team events have limited entries, thus not every Little Guard will be able to compete in every relay or team event. We make an effort to include every Little Guard in a minimum of one team relay.

In Junior Guards, divisions, C's – AA's, the focus is more competitive. The goal is to place as high as possible and score the maximum amount of points for the team. That being said, win or lose, we as a team know that we have put forth our best effort. We encourage all Junior Guard competitors to participate in all open events, but in the limited team events, we will to put together the best teams possible. Instructors spend hours reviewing practice times and putting together the fastest teams possible. Not every Junior Guard is able to compete in team events, particularly in large divisions such as C's. We understand, and take into account, that attitude and determination play a significant role in competitive success, but in a race to the finish line, speed has a significant impact as well. Please understand that the decision to include or not include a Junior Guard in a team event is not something instructors take lightly, and that we do our very best to support the success of all Junior Guards.

Parent signature required on backside of
<u>JG Participant/Parent Info Card & Release of Liability</u> ("pink" form)