



**NEW BOARD MEMBER:**

**CHRISTA GRANLUND**

**Christa Granlund joined the board in 2018 and is working to learn various positions in anticipation of taking on a full time role next season.**

**Christa has two kids, her son has been in the program for six years and a daughter. When she isn't running her kids to various activities she enjoys a really good workout, coffee and good conversation with friends and traveling.**



*Christa Granlund, with daughter Addison*

**IRONDALE GREAT SHOOTOUT**

The IBA's annual tournament is the single biggest fundraising event for the association. This year's tournament was a big success and we want to thank all of the parents, high school players, and additional volunteers who helped make it happen. Throughout the weekend there are hundreds of games played, people walking through the doors, and concessions items being distributed by our volunteers. What does it take to run an event of this magnitude? We asked our tournament director, Shanna Woodbury to shed some light on this for you and share some of the details.

**GREAT SHOOTOUT STATS**

Each year the board tries to solicit as many teams as possible to fill out the brackets and work to ensure our kids have a strong tournament. This year was no different and we wanted to share some of the statistics from this year's event:

**Boys side of the bracket:**

- **66 total teams participated this year.** There were 11 total IBA teams playing in the event. From a standings perspective, the IBA boys teams came out as follows:
  - **Boys 4A** – Second place
  - **Boys 6A** – Second place
  - **Boys 7A** – First place
  - **Boys 7B** – Third place
  - **Boys 8A** – Consolation
  - **Boys 8B** – Third place

**Girls side of the bracket:**

- **35 total teams participated this year.** There were 4 total IBA teams playing in the event. From a standings perspective, the IBA girls teams came out as follows:
  - **Girls 7B** – Second place

**Hats off to all of our teams for their success!**



## **IRONDALE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**

### **Logistics:**

From a logistical and financial perspective, the tournament was a success and we wouldn't have been able to pull it all off without the multitude of parent and high school volunteers that helped at admissions, concessions, scoring tables and everything else in between. To give some perspective on what it takes to make the tournament run, here is a breakout of how things shaped up:

<b>Games</b>	Over the course of the weekend, at three locations, 171 total games were played
<b>Parent volunteers</b>	There were ~160 parent volunteers who helped in various capacities
<b>Kid volunteers</b>	There were ~100 high schoolers who ran scoreboards and kept book throughout the event
<b>Income</b>	The association, after expenses, netted a profit of just over \$18,000 for the event

### **Q&A with IBA Tournament Director, Shanna Woodbury**

**Q: *In your opinion, what makes for a successful tournament?***

**A:** Sportsmanship! The biggest obstacle that deters families from enjoying the experience is poor sportsmanship. At this year's tournament we had very limited issues at all of our locations. Both the athletes and supporting parents seemed to allow the referees to do their jobs and for the most part, our games ran on time and without issue. We appreciate this more than you know!

**Q: *What is one thing that sets the Irondale Great Shootout tournament apart from others in our area?***

**A:** The volunteers make or break the tournament, without them, we wouldn't be able to support the various sites. In addition, a very unique function that we provide versus other tournaments I have been at is how we provide both the scorers and book keepers at every gym (high school volunteers). This provides an environment where parents can watch their kids play (and not have to go do a book) and the process seems to run more smoothly.

**Q: *What could make the tournament experience even better next year?***

**A:** We work each year to incorporate small changes from lessons we have learned the prior year. This year, as an example, we moved the concessions at our Island Lake facility closer to the action in front to make it easier for folks to find and take advantage of. I would actually open this question up to the families of the IBA and seek input from them on any ideas that we use to improve the event for next year. If you have a suggestion, please visit our website and send in your idea.

### **IBA YOUTH NIGHT – AROUND THE CORNER**

On **February 27, 2018**, Irondale Highschool opens its doors to the entire youth program and invites kids to attend a game free of charge. Kids are allowed to grab a free snack and there are plenty of fun and exciting activities throughout the night including an on court shooting display that always entertains! More information will be posted to our website prior to this event.

### **EQUIPMENT RETURN**

As the season winds down we'll be working to collect all of the equipment from coaches and players. Please keep the following in mind:



## **IRONDALE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**

**Instructional** players are allowed to keep their jerseys. This is a service the IBA funds each year for the instructional kids. Coaches will be asked to return their ball bags in the coming weeks, with some dates to drop off at our equipment shed in Fridley (address below).

**Competitive teams** are required to return uniforms along with their equipment (ball bags and basketballs). As the competitive teams wrap up their respective seasons a bit later than our instructional kids, be on the look out for return dates. Same process, drop off dates & times will be established at our Fridley equipment shed. In addition, all paid coaches are required to turn in end of the season player evaluation forms when they drop off as well.

### **IBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

As has been previously communicated, the board is in need of additional parent volunteer support. This year we'll have two members retiring, and some of our newer members will move into roles for the upcoming season. We'd love the opportunity to take on additional members to shadow folks next year to learn roles and fill in gaps when the following years turnover occurs. There are four current members who have kids leaving the program and we'd like to work to ensure a seamless transition. Below is a summary of what will likely be needed for next season and some gaps that will need to be filled:

**Tournament Director.** This is a pivotal role for the board. Our tournament is the single largest fund raiser for the association and we need an individual with strong organizational skills who is connected within the IBA community to come in and learn the role. Our current director has indicated a willingness to train and shepherd the new person so there will be a ramp up period of preparation. This specific role is crucial for the continued success of the organization.

**Secretary.** This is an officer position on the board with minimal responsibility. The secretary is in charge of facilitating notes from meetings, securing meeting spots, and various other tasks in support of the President as needed. An organized, proactive individual is best suited for this role.

**Communications Coordinator.** The communications coordinator is responsible for sending out information to parents as the season progresses, updating and maintaining our website, and working to promote our Facebook page as the season progresses. This position is critical as a bridge between the IBA community and the board of directors. We would like to bring on a self motivated, well organized person who has an interest in managing the communications pipeline for the board.

Other positions will be vacated after the following season. There are many veteran members of the board who are willing to put in the time and effort to set folks up for success so please, come and join a meeting and see how things happen behind the scenes. The next meeting date is posted below.

### **IN CLOSING**

As the end of the season quickly approaches I would like to extend a "thank you" to our many parent volunteer coaches who have spent countless hours in gyms coaching our kids this year. We know that this is a great effort and undertaking on your part and we couldn't offer a basketball program without your help and involvement. Thank you for your efforts and for your time and dedication to making the season an enjoyable experience for your respective teams.

There are a few tournaments remaining and we wish all of our competitive teams the best of luck up in Brainerd and at the various other tournaments that our kids will partake in the coming weeks. We hope the instructional teams had positive experiences this year and that we'll see many new faces at tryouts this coming Fall. We would encourage all of those



# IRONDALE

## BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

families interested in making basketball the sport of choice to continue to work in the off season on improving your child's skill sets. There are many opportunities to take advantage of, from clinics and one on one help to strong AAU programs that are available for spring ball. I'll list a few below for reference (please note, the IBA doesn't support any of these directly, they are listed only as a reference and not meant to be an exhaustive list):

### **One on One Instruction:**

Reggie Hall: <http://www.halloffameathletics.com/>

Minnesota School of Basketball: <https://www.mnschoolbball.com/>

### **AAU Leagues (Boys):**

MN Heat: <http://www.minnesotaheat.net/>

E1T1: <http://www.eachoneteachone.biz/>

NMB North Metro Basketball: <http://www.northmetrobenegals.com/>

### **AAU Leagues (Girls):**

MN Suns: <http://www.mnsuns.com/>

MN Heat: <http://www.minnesotaheat.net/>

E1T1: <http://www.eachoneteachone.biz/>

Thank you all for a fun and enjoyable season!

A special thanks to contributing writer, **Bryan Kiani**, for his contribution and development of the Q&A session with Irondale Girls Varsity Coach, Nicole Bullock in last month's newsletter. We hope you all found the tips and pointers that were offered to be of value.

Sincerely,

Chris Draack, President IBA

### **UPCOMING KEY DATES:**

**Equipment Return:** Competitive and Instructional Programs

**Dates:** TBD (watch your email and the website)

**Location:** Trojan Storage, Fridley, 7220 Central Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55432

**Tuesday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>** – Irondale Youth Night, Irondale High School

**Wednesday, Mar 21<sup>st</sup>** – Board meeting (see website for details)