



August 19, 2016

Dear Coaches and Team Representatives,

Thank you for participating in the 2016 Nikkei Games 3-on-3 and 4-on-4 basketball tournament. This year's tournament covered more than 24 hours of games over two days. There were 120 divisions, 480 teams, nearly 1,900 participants and an estimated 7,000 people in the Pyramid during the weekend, making this the second largest Nikkei Games basketball tournament ever. And we distributed over 1,500 medals and awards.

We were challenged this year with no PA system and clock on Saturday morning. But that did not stop us. We went with a manual PA system (me) and our first game was run off a cell phone timer. You know we are known for having the games on time, so no systems issue was going to stop the games from happening. Thank goodness both were available for the second game. On top of that, we had other electrical issues and did not get all the lights on until about 10:30am. And certain clocks would work for a while and then cut out. Same with the video board, which happens to be the largest wall-mounted video display in collegiate basketball. Good news was we moved forward and "Let the games begin." This was all fixed by Sunday morning when the technician arrived. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The other challenge we faced this year was discrepancies in game schedules that we placed in the team bags. That led to a lot of phone calls, text messages and anxiety as to what was the real game schedule. We apologize for the additional stress and confusion. At least the game times were correct, it was the court assignments that got mixed up. And we do not know how the print out got messed up. We suspect our data base was hacked by someone in the Ukraine. Nevertheless, we overcame this obstacle and teams were on the correct courts for their games. Some people, when they observe all the games going on all day, call this tournament "controlled chaos." Well, we had a little more chaos than we had planned. Thank you so much for getting to your courts on time and being ready to play amid all the confusion.

It is through your participation that makes this tournament possible. We are so thankful and appreciative of your continued support of the Nikkei Games. We hope you, your teams and families and friends had a great time. Hopefully, they enjoyed the venue - the beautiful CSULB Pyramid, as well as the exciting and fast-paced games of the 3-on-3 and 4-on-4 half-court format.

We thank you for helping us further the legacy our Nikkei Games forefathers started more than 80 years ago. Our goal is to create an environment for having healthy competition and building lasting friendships. We also endeavor to celebrate the Japanese traditions of our past and to preserve them for our future.

And part of what makes this tournament so unique and special is being at a single location, with games and award ceremonies spanning about three hours on the same day. Players from different teams get to hang out between and after their games as opposed to only seeing each other on the court. Also, people have a chance to see old friends and meet new ones since they are at the same gym regardless of what division they are playing. And if they have siblings, you could spend the whole day visiting and watching each other's kids play.

We are excited that this year we had 76 5-8 year old teams. We also had a record number 92 high school teams. Our youngest player was 5 years old and the oldest was 62 years young. We also had a Family Division where combinations of parents, children, cousins, uncle, aunties, and nieces and nephews all played on the same team. That can only happen at the Nikkei Games. And this is in keeping with our motto: "The Nikkei Games: Games for the Generations."

As we have seen in the past, the friendships displayed on the court on Sunday during the high school division, especially the co-ed 4-on-4 games when the Pyramid floor is filled with players (there were over 400 players at the high school level this year) surrounding the courts watching their friends play and cheering them on. And what continues to amaze us is all the special game jerseys the players make to wear now. This year every high school co-ed team was wearing a special home-made jersey. That is a great example of the friendships being built off the court in people's houses as they get together and make their personalized jerseys. What is also great to see is the use of these types of jerseys expanding to other age groups. This year we saw 9-14 year olds with unique, hand-made jerseys as well as many adult 3-on-3 and 4-on-4 co-ed teams. These special jerseys really symbolize what the Nikkei Games is all about.

The other example we saw of what the Nikkei Games represents is when a player on a team with only three players got hurt during her first game and could not play the next three games. The opposing teams instead of playing 3-on-2, which they could have done, pulled a player and played the games 2-on-2. That is the great showing of sportsmanship we strive to have in the Nikkei Games.

These are all great examples of the true spirit of the Nikkei Games and we thank you for embracing this spirit. We hope you will share this spirit and help make the Nikkei Games something our grandchildren and their children will be able to enjoy.

Pictures from the Games as well as the basketball tournament results will be up on the Nikkei Games website very soon at [www.nikkeigames.org](http://www.nikkeigames.org).

This year we closed almost half the divisions in June and nearly all divisions were closed in early July and we turned away about 40 teams. So next year please get your applications in early. The 2017 Nikkei Games basketball applications should be available on our website sometime in March 2017. The tournament is expected to be even bigger and better next year! Also, we are looking to have the tournament on August 12-13, 2017, assuming the HDLVI tournament remains the first weekend in August. Please pencil in the date on your calendar. We will confirm once the date is set.

Also, please join us in thanking our sponsors, coordinators and the more than 500 volunteers, which include the referees, who all worked to make the Nikkei Games event such a great success. The only way we can keep the player fee low and have the tournament at the Pyramid is through the generous support of our sponsors.

A special thanks to those who volunteered to be a court commissioner. For many of you, it was your first time. As you know, it is one of the most challenging roles of the tournament and it is also one of the most important. It is very clear the success of the tournament is directly related to the quality of our court commissioners.

Finally, if you have any comments or suggestions on improving the Nikkei Games basketball tournament, please let us know. Your feedback is very important in our goal to make the tournament better every year.

Again, thank you for your participation and support! We look forward to seeing you next year!

Sincerely,

Wallace Chan  
2016 Nikkei Games  
Basketball Chairperson