



August 15, 2017

Dear Coaches and Team Representatives,

Thank you for participating in the 2017 Nikkei Games 3-on-3 and 4-on-4 basketball tournament. This year's tournament covered nearly 24 hours of games over two days. There were 122 divisions, 488 teams, over 1,950 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 1,600 medals and awards.

We have our challenges every year and this year was no different. On Saturday, the A/C system did not turn on until close to noon. On Sunday, we had some electrical issues with certain clocks not working for a while and the video board having intermittent outages, which happens to be the largest wall-mounted video display in collegiate basketball. Good news was we did not let this interrupt any of the almost 1,000 games. Thank you for your patience. And thank you for your understanding about the parking permit fee increase that was implemented by CSULB this year.

We are so thankful and appreciative of your continued support of the Nikkei Games. It is through your participation that makes this tournament possible. 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 over 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 120 5-9 year old teams. We also had a record number of 48 Men's teams as players who have graduated high school continue to participate in the Games. Our youngest player was 5 years old and the oldest was 65 years young. We also had a Family Division where combinations of parents, children, cousins, uncles, 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. That is a great example of the friendships being built off the court as they get together and make their personalized jerseys. These special jerseys really symbolize what the Nikkei Games is all about.

The other example of what the Nikkei Games truly represents was when a player on a team with only three players got hurt during a game and could not continue to play. The opposing teams instead of playing 3-on-2, which they could have done, without hesitation pulled a player and played the game 2-on-2. That is the great showing of good 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.

This year we closed many divisions by mid-June and almost all divisions by the end of June, which was before the application due date of July 1. We are excited by the growing interest in the Nikkei Games and we really did not want to turn away the nearly 48 teams and approximately 200 players who wanted to play. However, there is a physical limitation called "time" that prevents us from accepting all those teams. We do not believe teams want to be playing at 11:00pm on Saturday evening. So next year please get your applications in early. The 2018 Nikkei Games basketball applications should be available on our website sometime in March 2018. The tournament is expected to be even bigger and better next year! Also, we are looking to have the tournament on August 11-12, 2018, 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. 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
2017 Nikkei Games
Basketball Chairperson