

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

To follow are some commonly asked questions about the Spring Teams program

Partnership with HLA

1. What is HLA?

Higher Level Athletics (HLA) is a new and separate entity from Higher Level Basketball (HLB). HLA is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization formed over the last couple of years with input from HLB, community youth workers, and other sources. HLA's mission involves supporting young student athletes and their parents through social and academic programming, mentoring and developing a wide range of life skills, ranging from academic type support to core life skills.

2. What is the partnership between Higher Level Basketball & HLA?

HLB is the official, contracted basketball services provider, as well as the very first external organization to partner with HLA. All players who participate in HLB's team program beginning with Spring 2026 season do so by first becoming members of HLA. All administration related to playing is taken care of (from registrations to payments to team communications) by HLA. Players and their families can take advantage of the support services. While Higher Level Basketball is the 1st official partner of HLA, they will be adding many more across all sports in coming months and years.

3. What is the membership with HLA?

The membership with HLA is the "gateway" to playing with Higher Level Basketball each season. It is a \$25 monthly membership with HLA that covers the administrative and operating costs for the management of all teams that play with HLB. In addition, it also entitles the player and parents to take advantage of and be involved with HLA programs and support. Players **MUST** be members of HLA to participate on one of the HLB teams. (This does not apply to HLB's other regular services: training, camps, etc)

Evaluation & Tryouts

1. What is an informal evaluation?

Informal evaluations are simply sneak peeks into a certain grade level. They are free, no-obligation workouts HLB has for teams to allow parents and players to come experience how our coaches work, what we emphasize, etc. as well as see the other players interested at that grade level – all while allowing our coaches to evaluate the overall ability levels and positions represented at that grade. This allows for formal tryouts to be efficiently conducted. Informal evaluations are not absolutely mandatory, but it is **HIGHLY** recommended to attend at least 1.

2. What do you have to do to be able to try out for a team?

First & foremost, make sure you are on our team's email list and have all of the information materials that cover teams and how they operate. Those include the Parent info video/handout; Minicamp video; Evaluation/tryout dates. Those can also be accessed via higherlevelbb.com. Other steps:

- (a) During Informal evaluation week: See directions for pre-registering for tryouts posted that week. That is a short, simple registration via Team Snap. Registration **MUST** be completed prior to trying out, along with submitting the tryout registration fee (all covered in the directions for pre-registration).

(b) Attend a tryout for your grade – ***this also includes any returning or specifically recruited players who have already been granted a roster spot.*** If for any reason, a player cannot attend tryouts, and IF they attended 1 or more of the evals, that can be used to rank/decide

3. How soon do you know if you made it and what team?

Rosters are selected starting immediately at the end of the tryouts. They will be set by later that day/evening & everyone will be notified. For those that make a roster, your Team Kickoff meeting (parent/player official starting point) will be within 1 or 2 days (dates posted with eval/tryout info).

Minicamp

1. What is minicamp and why is it so important?

See this video for all info and details: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZLKALq6zh4>

2. What if my player can make some camp but not all of it?

It's always better for players to make at least some camp than miss all of it, even if it's just 1 day. Sat is typically the most important day with all that the coaches put in with their teams and then for what is the favorite part of that weekend for players, which is when they get to all go to dinner and hang out together, have some real team bonding time. But teams do valuable work each day of camp, so if they can make any, they should try. For those that absolutely can't make any, they just need to be ready to dig in after camp at practices to start catching up, as well as patient in getting caught up with everything.

3. As a parent, I'm interested in possibly chaperoning. How do I volunteer for that?

Near the end of the informal evaluation week, we will start communicating about minicamp further and asking those interested in being a chaperone to let their coaches know. Then once tryouts are finished and at the team kickoff meetings, we will follow up to coordinate chaperones, rides, etc. for camp.