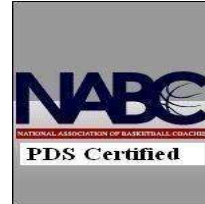




## 2026 HLB SPRING TEAMS SEASON

### Parent Information – Program Outline & Core Details Middle/Grade School Boys Grades 5-8



[www.higherlevelbb.com](http://www.higherlevelbb.com)

### **PROGRAM PURPOSE**

Offer a structured, progressive, competitive outlet for players to not only improve their individual skills, but also gain both general game experience & specific situational experience to advance their performance AND, **most importantly, PREPARE them for the next level** they are progressing to and for **next year's school tryouts/teams**.

#### **Areas of emphasis**

- Skill Set development/progression
- Situational **game speed** development: Improving player's recognition, reaction & execution ultimately improving performance results
- Competitive outlets that test/push players under appropriate ability/grade levels via league & tourney play
- *Developing/enhancing MENTAL TOUGHNESS for each player*
- Addressing the above while enhancing the player's passion for working on his game

#### **PAST RESULTS/SUCCESS of HLB Team Program**

Since 2008, HLB has had 109 high school players move on to play at the college level (at 43 different schools in 19 states), garnering over \$9,820,000 in both athletic scholarships/financial aid. In that same time frame, 237 former middle/grade school players have gone on to play high school in KY, IN, OH & FL

#### **PROGRAM consists of:**

##### **COMPETITION**

- Teams usually play 1 spring league locally and then 2-4 tournaments based on ability/grade level & player availability  
NOTE: Some teams may opt to play local tournaments only based on player availability
- Tourney schedule/decisions are made after the 1<sup>st</sup> week of regular practice & the annual Mini-Camp

##### **PRACTICES:**

- 2/week on average. Highly structured, quick paced.
- Goal is to get players practicing at 1 grade level higher than current grade by end of spring/summer
- Practice schedule typically 2 weeknights but some teams use 1 weeknight and 1 weekend time  
(Scheduling *does* have *some* flexibility. **Schedule conflicts are requested from parents during informal evaluations**)

##### **COACHING STAFF**

- Coaches are screened, hired, trained & mentored by HLB Sr Staff & required to have experience at middle/grade school levels

**\*MINI-CAMP:** #1 highlight of spring: **HUGELY IMPORTANT WEEKEND for all teams!!** Enormously important for team chemistry/bonding & for putting in each team's core Offensive & Defensive X/O's. Camp is a weekend (Fri night – Sun noon) out of town at Mt St Joe's University, Cincinnati. PLEASE REVIEW the 8:00 Minicamp video for all details.

**NOTE on ROSTER size:** 8-10 players per team. Occasionally, we **may** combine grades (typically only at 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>) depending on how ability levels matchup. We do also consider players playing UP 1 grade level if benefits both player and team

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#### **NOTES:**

## **PROGRAM/TEAM FEES**

### ***Player Team fees cover:***

Head & Assistant Coach Stipends	All Practice gyms rentals
Team League Entry Fee	Team Liability Insurance
Practice jersey	Team Coordinator
All Administration, coaches training & certification	Team T-shirts

### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- Tournament entry fees for any tourneys entered are not included in main team fees. Because we won't know who exactly is participating in which tourney prior, we do NOT pre-charge for tourneys like other organizations. For any of those the team enters, we divide up the entry fee by # of players playing in that tournament & that is collected the week of the tournament
- **UNIFORMS:** Each parent/family will purchase their own uniform directly. We will provide instructions for how to do so from the team store at the team kickoff meetings after tryouts

**2025 SPRING Primary Team Fees/Estimated cost Ranges:** Cost ranges are below. Precise total will fall in that range and be specified once team rosters are selected (post tryout)

<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b> \$440 - \$485 per player	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b> \$420 - \$475 per player
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grades:</b> \$395 - \$440 per player	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b> \$390 - \$440 per player

### **\*\*COST COMPARISON with other Teams/Sports Programs in the region:**

We research, analyze & compare our spring team fees with multiple other organizations/AAU's in the region each year to see how are costs compare and what they are offering in comparison to HLB, as we strive to remain competitive in what we have to charge. For 2026 our market research has found:

- **Basketball:**
    - Higher End AAU teams: some regional travel; 1-2 practices per week. Stipended coaches. Range: \$375 to \$625
    - Moderate level: local games, 1-2 practices per week, mix of volunteer & stipend coaches: Range: \$325 to \$565
  - **Other Sports:**
    - Higher ability, Moderate travel teams: lowest \$525 for returning players up to more than \$1100
    - Non travel, moderate or lower ability: from \$450 to near \$1000
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### **MANAGING TEAM FEES:** Options for how to handle payments/team fees

#### **1) Payment plans/Discounts**

Full, upfront payments will have a built in 5-10% discount  
HLB also offers 2 and 3 payment plans to spread out expenses over 2 or 3 months of spring

#### **2) FUNDRAISING:**

We work with Kentuckiana Fundraising, a local sports fundraising company, in offering 2 tried and true fundraisers for anyone wishing to do an individual fundraiser. Those are: Peel to Save Discount Cards & *Money Dolly*. We have a separate fundraising video and will cover these in detail at each team's Kickoff meeting after rosters are set. At a glance:

**3) Special Payment Plan intervals:** there may be some options for setting up special payment intervals with HLA. If that is a concern, you can reach out to Bob at HLA or coach Raque at HLB for more info.

**4) HLA Financial Assistance:** With the new partnership with HLA

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### **NEXT STEPS/Getting Involved**

1. Make sure you are on the teams email distribution list. If a returning player, you are already on that list. If new, contact HLB OR you can click the "register" button below the team info on higherlevelbb.com and get your email registered.
2. Make sure you have reviewed the Parent Info video and this handout and understand how Spring program works for teams
3. Recommended: Also review the Minicamp video (short 8:00 video) on what that is and how it works
4. Review any other materials you need for more info on HLB and it's history (can find on [www.higherlevelbb.com](http://www.higherlevelbb.com)) and it's coaching staff. Coaches bio document will be linked online & emailed for reference)
5. **Know when Informal evaluation & tryout dates are.** Those are posted on higherlevelbb.com and updated through 2/19 as well as emailed to all on the teams email list. ALL players (returning or new) should attend at least 1 informal eval + tryouts

**Informal Evaluations are free, no-obligation "sneak peeks" into our teams,** where you can see/experience how our coaches work, how our practices are conducted, and what the other interested players are like

**Roster selection & Posting:** Some returning players will be offered spots on a team *prior* to tryouts. They DO still need to attend tryouts. After tryouts conclude, the roster will be selected & everyone notified. 1-2 days after tryout the team will have it's "Kickoff" meeting for spring.