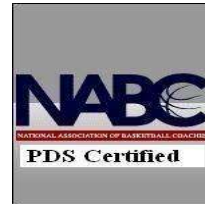




2026 HLB SPRING TEAMS SEASON

Parent Information – Program Outline & Core Details 3rd/4th Grade ACADEMY



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 & more specific situational experience to advance their performance AND, **most importantly, PREPARE them for the next level/grade** they are progressing to for 2025-26.

IMPORTANT: Our philosophy for 3RD/4TH Grade “Academy” approach is to continue a re-building effort after the covid years by focusing on core Club-style basketball, building a long term foundation for players of **MULTIPLE** skill levels/abilities and interest (Similar to the club style development programs overseas/in Europe and some US club sports.) See Parent info video for more on that.

Areas of emphasis

- Skill Set evaluation and development/progression
- **MAJOR** emphasis on developing/fostering players passion for playing AND working at the game
- Situational development in player execution and confidence levels
- Competitive outlets that early on, we have a good deal of control over, progressing later in spring to levels that challenge players/teams in other external competitive environments
- *Developing/enhancing* basic levels of **MENTAL TOUGHNESS** development for each player

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:

PRACTICES:

- 2/week on average: one will be a 1.5 hour practice during the week, the other likely a practice of 1-1.25 hours on their In-House game days, prior to their games. Highly structured practices covering: Individual Skill work; Situational breakdown work (example-how to use/guard ball screens, etc); and team concepts (man-man O, press, etc)
- Some extra “bonus” practices early in season, typically on weekends (+ annual “Mini-Camp”- see below)

COMPETITION

- IN-HOUSE LEAGUE: Will divide all players into teams of 6-8 for league play over 4-6 weeks that we control
- During those in-house league games, coaches will begin to identify what players are ready, prepared, able to compete in other local, exterior events (tournaments or leagues) and in later spring, we will divide those players by grade (at 3rd level, at 4th level) into teams to enter into some of those events. For those not ready for that competition yet, we will work on individual games and further player development to advance them to those levels.

COACHING STAFF

- Coach Raque and Coach Melton will oversee the overall program, supported by our entire staff of coaches
- We will assign 2-3 additional PRIMARY academy coaches who serve as the most “hands-on” coaches
- ALL Coaches that are hired are screened and supervised by HLB Sr Staff & ALL coaches will be mentored/“trained”

***Mini-Camp:** #1 highlight of spring: weekend of team practices/team bonding time to develop/improve team chemistry. **3rd and 4^{ths} have not typically been included in past years, UNTIL last year**, when we had several that did. So that will be an open option for all 3rd and 4^{ths} this spring. PLEASE refer to parent video and the specific Mini camp video for more info

PROGRAM FINANCIALS

SPRING TEAM FEES per player

Player Team fees cover:

All Coaches Stipends	All Practice gyms/space
In-House league fees to cover officials, gyms, game workers	Team Liability Insurance
All player Skill Sessions: Space & Instructors	Team Coordinator
All Administration, coaches training & certification	Practice gear/uniforms for each player
Team T-shirt and basketball for each player	

NOTE: The ONLY expense not covered in Primary team fees will be any tournament/event entry fees in May for teams/players that have external competitions. Those are divided among the participants for those events and collected the weeks of those events.

2024 SPRING Estimated Cost Ranges: *Below is the estimated cost range for this Academy approach per player. Please note that the specific, final amount will depend on the total numbers of participants from 3rd and 4th grades and how many teams we need to form. Typically, costs will fall somewhere right around the middle of this range.

2024 Academy for 3rd/4th grades estimated fees: \$350-\$385 per player

MANAGING TEAM FEES: Options for how to handle payments/team fees

1) Payment plans/Discounts

Full, upfront payments will have a 5-10% discount built in
HLB also offers 2 and 3 payment plans to spread out expenses over 2 or 3 months of spring
Venmo is preferred method. If alternatives are needed, please advise

2) FUNDRAISING:

We have a couple of tried & true fundraisers we can get families into each year via Kentuckiana Fundraising, a local Louisville sports fundraising company. Those are: Peel to Save Discount Cards & *Money Dolly*. We will explain and be offering these at the Academy's Kickoff meeting once informal evals are completed

NOTES: