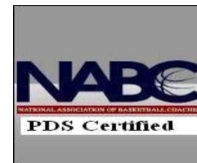




HIGHER LEVEL BASKETBALL



www.higherlevelbb.com

HIGH SCHOOL AAU Info Spring 2026

Purpose: (1) Assist players in improving position on school teams, helping to increase playing time and/or production; and (2) Increase recruiting exposure resulting in development of recruiting options

Experience/Advancement:

- ⇒ Develop ability to practice at least 1 grade level beyond their current grade by end of summer
- ⇒ Help players elevate their level of play to improve their role & performance for school teams in high school teams June season

Recruiting Exposure:

- ⇒ Provide **EXPOSURE:** (in particular for 11th/10th levels) to college coaches via Circuit play and/or recruiting exposure or certified recruiting events
- ⇒ Actively invite and schedule for college coaches to attend some HLB practices in spring and summer, as now allowed under new NCAA rules, as well as tournaments our teams play in

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.

PROGAM COMPONENTS

IMPORTANT NOTE: Players selected to play in the spring are also on the summer roster.

Spring season ends the week prior to or on Memorial Day weekend. HLB's summer Season begins **AFTER** the high school summer season ends on June 25th (typically around July 1st/2nd)

Coaches

ALL HLB coaches are tightly screened for background, experience & skills before being hired. High school coaches all have high school and/or college coaching/playing experience & receive a stipend.

Competition

- 5 tourneys in Spring and/or Circuit play/events. HLB actively seeks tourneys with recruiting exposure footprint via video streaming & archiving of games
- Grades 11 and 10 typically will travel from 2-4 weekends in spring for tourneys or in the case of Circuit events. For 9th grade, they may do the same 2 or 3 times.

Practices

- 2 per week on average, usually on weeknights, but some teams may use a weekend time and 1 weeknight

****Mini Camp:** *CRUCIAL piece of spring season* (and the highlight for most players.) A weekend set of team practices and team bonding time to develop/improve team chemistry, as well as allow coaches to put in most of their X/O needs. Held at Mt St Joe's University in Cincinnati. See the 8:00 Minicamp video for all details. Dates for 2026 are March 6-8.

Recruiting assistance session for parents/players on the Recruiting process and how it works – rules, how coaches/colleges operate in recruiting, strategies on player promotion & how to put together a highlight video

FINANCIALS/TEAM BUDGET INFORMATION: Spring Season

Estimated Budget Ranges. Amounts are *per* player. Final/exact amount depends on final # players on roster & specific tourneys & is sent to all selected for the team in the Team Details email sent right after tryouts. It will fall within the ranges below.

10th/11th Grade teams : \$650 - \$710

9th Grade teams: \$595 - \$645

Costs Cover:

5 Tournaments
Team Coordinator
Team Liability Insurance
Player Practice jersey
Mini-Camp Facility rental and coaches travel
Player T-shirts

Gym rental/space for all practices for 10-11 weeks
Coaches Certifications & memberships for events
Trained/Supervised Head Coach + Staff Assistant
Recruiting Assistance info session and materials for parents
ALL administration, coaches training

MANAGING TEAM FEES: Payment plans/Discounts (*Make Sure to review Parent video for specifics*)

Full season payments at the start get a small discount (5-10%) built into the 1 full amount

HLB also offers 2 and 3 payment plans to spread out expenses – very helpful for anyone wanting to do any fundraising. Players participating in fundraisers (*see below & video*) typically earn \$100 to \$300.

In some cases, special payment intervals may be setup as well (weekly/biweekly) if needed to make team fees work. If that is a concern, please contact coach Raque at HLB or Bob Smith at HLA once your grade's evaluations start and they can get you more info.

COST COMPARISON with other Teams/Programs in the region: (depending on travel frequency & distance)

Higher end teams – more extensive travel out of region: low end \$650 – high end \$1200+

Mid level teams – local area and short travel within region: low end \$575 – high end \$920

Items NOT covered in base team fees:

Possible depending on events/if need to travel:

TRAVEL (IF incurred): Player/parents pay own expenses when teams need/decide to travel & stay overnight for tourneys. Some families go on these – others may have 1 parent and a couple of players to reduce any expense.

Coaches travel: we limit travel distances where we can to keep these low, however when a coach needs to drive his own vehicle or stay overnight, all players on team chip in equally to cover gas/lodging expenses. We combine coaches from multiple teams when we can to keep costs down. Typically they run:

Gas: \$4-\$8 per trip

Lodging: \$15-\$25 per trip requiring overnight

UNIFORMS: *For 9th grade, all players will need one of the new uniform styles adopted last season starting with our Middle school level. If player has one of those from last year, they can still use that one (assuming still fits.) For all others, you will be able to order your uniform from the team store directly and have it shipped directly within 7-10 days.*

****For Grade 10 & 11, coaches will discuss whether you wish to, as a group, purchase the new uniform styles or use the previous loaner sets.** That will be discussed at your team kickoff meetings.

FUNDRAISING:

We work with Kentuckiana Fundraising, a local sports fundraising company, in offering 2 tried & true fundraisers for anyone wishing to do individual fundraising: the 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.

Financial Assistance: With the new partnership with HLA, there may be some limited financial assistance available. For those that may need that, you will be able to contact HLB or Bob at HLA during the evaluation week/prior to tryouts for more info.