



## HTB 2023-2024 Parent Guidelines & Expectations

Welcome to all our new and returning families. As a volunteer led organization, thank you to our volunteer board for their time, efforts and commitment to getting our season off to a great start. We know the times the past few years have been unpredictable and as an organization, we are committed to providing a safe, fun and positive experience for the players, volunteer coaches and our families.

Our program would not be possible without the dedicated and committed volunteer coaches. A special thank you in advance for investing in our program and more importantly, the players.

This year we are thrilled to have 15 teams and over 150 youth playing in our program! For the first time ever, we have a team in every grade for the girls and have two teams for each grade for our boys. Our boys play in the Merrimack Valley League and for the girls, the River Valley League. Over the next few weeks, we have league meetings to create our game schedule and our coaches will communicate when completed on the league website.

Our season officially tips off on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> where we begin our skill development and team practices. As a program, we made this shift a few years ago to dedicate one night to ball handling, shooting and additional skills for our players to improve upon and then separate team(s) practice to focus on game situations. We have seen great success with this model.

During the season, every team will have the option to be entered into two tournaments that will take place the following times: Thanksgiving, December & February holiday breaks to name a few. These two tournaments are included with your child's participation in our program and if teams elect to play for more than two, then the team families will split the additional cost.

As a program, we take all parent, player and coach behavior seriously. By registering your child, you are agreeing to our code of conduct. We do not want to suspend parents, player or coaches due to inappropriate, aggressive or disrespectful behavior towards, referee's, other town player's, parents or coaches. Any issues for your child's team, the opposing team or parents can be emailed to the directors or HTB email. We have a zero tolerance policy-let's all do our part. **Most importantly, let the coaches coach and you be a positive parent for all players!**

In today's world, social media platforms are extremely influential in both a positive and negative manner for our children and even parents. As a program, we have a zero tolerance policy for any inappropriate behavior, language, pictures or any other suspect or inappropriateness. Failure to follow this, could result in your child or families dismissal from the program based on the situation and per the HTB Board of Directors.



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Our coaches are the key to our programs success and providing a positive experience for you and your child. We are thrilled to have decades of experience throughout our program. We ensure our volunteer coaches are screened appropriately, complete and pass all the required trainings to lead your child's team. We are finalizing a couple of teams for coach assignments and we are hopeful this is complete in the next 48 hours. All volunteers will submit and sign off on background checks and our Code of Conduct along with completing a Concussion Training through CDC Heads Up.

For any issues during the season with your child's coach, parents, teams or towns please contact:

- Boys Contact: Eric Michitson [michitsone.htb@gmail.com](mailto:michitsone.htb@gmail.com)
- Girls Contact: Donny Bautz [dbautz.htb@gmail.com](mailto:dbautz.htb@gmail.com)

We are thankful to have an opportunity to have a great relationship with HPS and the Facilities Department to have our practices at our elementary schools and our home games at the high school gymnasium. Our practice locations are at the Hunking, Consentino and Nettle Schools. **Per our program and HPS, parents and siblings are not allowed in the gymnasium during practice.**

Program Reminders & Info: We understand fall sports are ongoing, please work with your child's coach on any scheduling conflicts.

- Players must bring their own ball & water to practice
- League play will begin the weekend of Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> for both leagues; we rely on parents to help out with the scorebook and scoreboard during games
- If there is no school, then we do not have practice whether a holiday or snow day
- Inclement Weather: Coaches will notify and/or will be posted on our social sites
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updates; we will continue to increase our social media presence this year, let's showcase our players!

As a charitable organization, we provide financial assistance to families in need and as you can imagine, the requests are even higher this year. Over the past two years, have provided over \$12,000 to allow children the ability to be able to play basketball. We are always looking for support from community partners or organization and our HTB families. We will be having select events and opportunities to fundraise for our program with select events like: HTB Night at the TD Garden on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> vs. Minnesota T-Wolves; we have 75 tickets and players have the opportunity to play on the Garden floor! We are bringing back our Hoop A Thon & Team Pictures in January!

For questions or comments, please contact your child's coach first, then if further assistance is needed the coach will reach out to the director or program.

Thank you for being a part of our HTB family for the upcoming season!