



2025-2026 HUDSON TRAVEL BASKETBALL (HTB) PARENT FAQs

1. What is Hudson Travel Basketball (HTB)? We are a registered organization with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, incorporated to enhance the education of the youth of Hudson, Massachusetts in Grades 5 – 8 through the promotion and support of athletics and travel basketball. We are separate from the Town's Recreation Program. We are recognized as a 501(C)(3) charitable organization. We have an elected board of directors.
2. What makes Hudson Travel Basketball different from the Hudson Recreation's in-town Program? The biggest differences are the competitive nature of the league (see <http://www.cmybl.org> for more information), skill of opponents, and commitment level. Our program is designed to further enhance / develop a player's basketball abilities, building off the basic skills he/she has obtained from previous basketball experiences.
 - a. HTB will ask that each player committed to our program be available for two (2) weeknight practices and one (1) game on Sunday.
 - b. HTB will play competitive basketball against neighboring communities (see <http://www.cmybl.org> for more information)

The Hudson Recreation "Rec" program is an in-town league with a one-hour practice during the week, and a game held on Saturdays. It is a great venue for players to learn fundamentals and play games with badged referees. While participation in "Rec League" is not required, we encourage every child to play.

3. Has the Hudson Rec. department defined their program? Will there still be a program for middle school players that don't want to commit to HTB? We are not affiliated with the Rec Program. For more information on their program, please follow the Hudson Division of Recreation on Facebook or at <https://hudsonrecreation.recdesk.com/Community/Page?pagelid=1092>.
4. Will the coaching philosophy be focused on winning games OR equal playing time and player development? The coaching philosophy is to further player development and, in due course, produce a competitive team to best represent our town and community. With that being written,

playing time will be earned by each athlete, using attitude and effort as the main driver towards coaches' game day rotation decisions. *

***Playing time may not be "equal". This needs to be clearly understood.** It is one of the most important delineations between our program and the Division of Recreation's traditional "Rec" program. We feel that playing time is earned through consistent hard work in practices, games, and the off-season. HTB places a heightened emphasis on practice and the attitude a player brings to it every week. Unexcused and missed practices will affect playing time. Every player will play in the game except due to missed practice, injury, illness, or designation as a "practice player" (more below).

If you feel your child's playing time is not "fair", the first question you should be asking them is "*how was your effort in practice*"? If further discussions are needed, they first should be raised to the coach (a day or two after the game) and, if not satisfied, to the applicable league official.

5. What is the cost and how do I register my child? The cost for 2025/25 is to be determined (*see below) but plan on approximately \$295.00 to \$325.00 per player. This includes 1 or 2 practices a week and 10+ regular season and a playoff game(s). A new game uniform & warm-up jersey are also included in the registration fee. Registrations will be done through our website "Sports Engine" <https://hudsonhawkstravelbasketball.sportngin.com>. Please refer to the website for registration dates.

* We are not able to commit to an exact registration fee currently. There are many fixed costs associated with running our program and final registration numbers will help us determine our final cost. Thanks for your patience.
6. Why have I not heard from HTB directly? We are not given any e-mail lists from the Town or any other town sports organization. We rely on previous e-mail lists, Facebook blasts, school fliers / morning announcements, and word of mouth. Please spread the word!
7. Will there be player evaluations as in previous years? It will be determined by the number of registrants. If player evaluations are needed, they will be held on a date, time, and location to be determined. We will reach out to you and give you ample notice.
8. I have a talented 4th grader. Can he or she play on the 5th grade Team? We would ask that you register your child as a 4th grader. He or she may be extended a 5th grade Tryout invitation. Please understand, preference will always be given to a 5th grade player over a 4th grade player; however, a 4th grader may be chosen to round out a team or be used as a practice player.
9. Will there be "A" and "B" Teams, or will the teams be "blended". We reserve the right to form the teams that best serves the players and the program at that age group. In the past, we have formed "RED" and "WHITE" teams based on talent. However, HTB has in the past and reserves the right in the future to move players accordingly to make better "fits".
10. What does the term "Practice Player" mean? HTB and the applicable Coach reserves the right to offer a player the designation "Practice Player". This player will be allowed to practice with the team but will not play in games. If HTB and the Coach agree to offer the child the chance to play under that designation, the fee (yet to be determined by HTB) will be at a reduced rate. The

player will be listed on the roster and receive a uniform and warm-up shirt and will be allowed to warm-up with the team on gamedays.

11. When does the season start and end? We are working to have practice starting in mid-November. The CMYBL game schedule is to be determined. The games are expected to start at the beginning of December and run through February with playoffs in March.
12. Are there COVID Protocols for tryouts, practices, and games? We will be following strictly the COVID Protocols given by CMYBL, and the venues where we hold tryouts, practice and play games. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
13. What night(s) will practice be held? It will depend on the number of teams and coach preferences. 8th Grade Teams will practice on Saturdays due to High School Sports commitments.
14. What if my child's rec. basketball practice interferes with HTB practice? HTB practice takes priority.
15. Is attendance at all practices and games required? There needs to be a "commitment" by the player/family to the team. We feel an open dialogue between Coach and Parent/Guardian goes a long way in resolving scheduling conflicts. Preparation for practices and games is one of the Coach's primary responsibilities. Parents/Guardians must understand and respect that. Effective communication between both parties is essential.
16. How far do you travel? 5 - 6 home games played at Hudson High School, Farley School or possibly the Hudson Boys & Girls Club. 5 - 6 away games in Worcester County and North Middlesex County.
17. Will there be additional tournaments? Will attendance be required or optional? Are the tournament cost(s) included in the HTB registration fee? Tournaments are optional and are determined through a collaboration between Coaches and Parents/Guardians. The cost of the tournament would be covered by that team (out of pocket expense). The tournament(s) costs will not be covered in 2025-25 by HTB. It is our hope to hit fundraising goals this season that will allow us to pay a portion of the tournament costs in 2025 / 25 or offer reduced rates for 2026 Summer Ball.
18. Will fundraising be mandatory? Yes. Every player is expected to help fundraise for HTB. This will most likely entail selling a book of 10 raffle tickets in the January / February timeframe.
19. Where can I find more information and stay informed? Please refer to our website "Sports Engine" <https://hudsonhawkstravelbasketball.sportngin.com>. You can also follow us on Facebook at "Hudson Hawks Travel Basketball". Finally, you can also contact us at hawkstravelbasketball@gmail.com if you have questions.