

2025-2026 PROGRAM FLYER

BACKGROUND:

The Pella Hoops Club, established in 2017-18 in cooperation with the Pella Community Schools basketball programs, is opening registration and holding skills evaluations for the 2025-2026 Pella Hoops Club travelling (AAU) basketball teams.

These travelling basketball teams will typically play between 5 and 10 tournaments during the winter months of October/November through early March with the option of playing a limited summer schedule (typically July) funded separately from Pella Hoops Club annual fees. Tournaments are normally located within 60 to 90 miles of Pella, such as Oskaloosa, Knoxville, Grinnell, Indianola, Ames, Grimes, and other Des Moines area locations, but can be further (ie: Cedar Rapids) on occasion.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for a Pella Hoops Club Team, a player must meet the following criteria:

- > Be enrolled in Pella Community Schools for the 2025-2026 school year
OR be home schooled with the intent on enrolling in Pella Community Schools in the future
NOTE: Board may approve exceptions to this rule to help fill rosters.
- > AND be in 3rd through 8th grades

TEAM STRUCTURE:

A summary of the team structure and commitment levels for the 2025-2026 season is summarized below:

PROGRAM	GRADE LEVEL (Entering)	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PLAYERS	PRACTICE TIME PER WEEK	ROSTER SKILL MIX	NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS (MIN-MAX)	REGISTRATION COST ***	UNIFORM COST (LASTS AROUND 2 SEASONS)*	UNIFORMS
	3rd	7-10	1-3 hrs/wk	BALANCED	5-7	\$235	\$49	Top only
	4th	7-10	2-3 hrs/wk	BALANCED	6-9	\$285	\$49	Top only
	5th	7-10	2-4 hrs/wk	STRATIFIED	7-10	\$335	\$98	Top and Shorts
	6th	7-10	2-4 hrs/wk	STRATIFIED	7-10	\$335	\$98	Top and Shorts
	7th	7-10	2-4 hrs/wk	STRATIFIED	5-7	\$235	\$98	Top and Shorts
	8th	7-10	2-4 hrs/wk	STRATIFIED	5-7	\$235	\$98	Top and Shorts

NOTES:

BALANCED teams mean that talent in that grade is distributed across teams relatively equally, based on the Skills Assessment

STRATIFIED teams mean that talent in that grade is distributed across teams by player's relative **skill levels**, based on the Skills Assessment
Coaches may schedule optional tournaments beyond their allocated budgets, if parents approve and pay for it separately.

*Uniform costs are approximate and **include Shipping & Handling**. Uniforms can be expected to last about 2 years before kids outgrow them.

*Late uniform orders beyond the communicated date may incur an additional late fee due to being outside the bulk order

* If Tournaments combine fan entry fees into tournament registration fees, teams will do a separate collection from parents to account for this

PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

For transparency, information about PHC program costs can be found in the Pella Hoops Club Handbook, on our website.

REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

If the season is cancelled prior to any tournaments being played, parents will receive a **full program refund** (no refunds on uniforms)

Once the season starts if a team does not meet it's minimum number of tournaments as listed in the **PROGRAM** table above:

Reimbursement for missed tournaments = \$225/ average of 8 players = **\$28 for each tournament below the minimum.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available. During the payment of annual fees later in August, parents will get:

- >>> **\$100 reduction in fees if the player is eligible for the free or reduced school lunch program at school**
- >>> **\$50 off for each child of theirs that participates in PHC after the first one (2nd, 3rd, etc.)**

NOTE: For families that still find the fees to be cost prohibitive, please contact the PHC Board (see below) and we can explore additional options.

SKILLS EVALUATIONS:

Skills Evaluation sessions will be held in August to evaluate all players who have registered to be part of the Pella Hoops Club program. These evaluations will be one of several factors that will be used to determine team rosters. These factors include but are not limited to: Skill Evaluation, Position, Prior Experience, Attitude, and Exhibited Skill Level (from prior season).

Player Evaluations will be performed by experienced staff including but not limited to coaches from the Pella Community School basketball programs. To maintain impartiality, current travelling team coaches may help administer the evaluations but will not participate in the skill evaluations of players if at all possible. The Evaluation Forms from these sessions will only be available to the Team Building committee who will build the team rosters using the evaluations as one of their inputs.

The Skills Evaluation schedule for 2025-2026 is as follows:

BOYS	GRADE (2025-2026)	EVALUATION DATE & TIME	EVALUATION LOCATION
	3rd-4th	5:00-6:00 Aug 12	Pella Middle School
	5th-6th	6:00-7:15 Aug 12	Pella Middle School
	7th-8th	7:15-8:30 Aug 12	Pella Middle School

GIRLS	GRADE (2025-2026)	EVALUATION DATE & TIME	EVALUATION LOCATION
	3rd-4th	5:00-6:00 Aug 14	Pella Middle School
	5th-6th	6:00-7:15 Aug 14	Pella Middle School
	7th-8th	7:15-8:30 Aug 14	Pella Middle School

Please show up 15 minutes early to get your Evaluation Number and to be ready for the Evaluations to begin. Evaluations will typically involve various "stations" where the players will be asked to perform various athletic (running, jumping) or skill (ball handling, shooting, passing) drills in addition to 1 on 1, 3 on 3 and 5 on 5 competitive play, so they should dress accordingly.

IF YOU HAVE PLAYED WITH PHC BEFORE, PLEASE WEAR YOUR UNIFORM TOP SO WE CAN USE YOUR NUMBER TO IDENTIFY YOU WHILE PLAYING.

To register for the PHC 2025-2026 Skills Evaluation, please use the link in the communication email or go to www.pellahoopsclub.com

TEAM CONSTRUCTION:

After the Skills Evaluations, a committee consisting of (at minimum) a Pella Hoops Club Board Member and a coaching representative for each gender and grade will take the Evaluation Forms and other inputs and build the team rosters.

Starting in 5th grade, if there are 2 or more teams within a Grade, team rosters will be "stratified", meaning that players of a higher skill will be placed together on the same team, rather than creating "balanced" teams as done in 3rd and 4th grade. (Example: If 16 5th grade players register, the top 8 players (could be 7 to 9) would end up on a Black team, and the next 8 players (7-9) would be placed on a Green team.) For grades with 3 teams or more, the Board reserves the option to "Balance" the 2nd and 3rd teams to improve competitive balance but will initially stratify if possible.

This allows coaches to structure practices and schedule tournaments to match their players' current skill levels so that all players in the program are put in the best position to develop more quickly. Rosters are rebuilt each year - this is typical in all developmental programs we've benchmarked.

Once rosters are finalized, a notification will be sent to each player via email indicating the team they were placed with and the team's coach. Players will have 24-48 hours to perform **SEASON REGISTRATION** and make payment, as non-acceptance would affect rosters.

NOTE: An attempt will be made to place every player who registers on to a team, but due to constraints on the number of players per team or the number of teams based on limited gym time this may not be possible in some cases. As an alternative, an Offer Letter may include the option of participating as a Practice Player at a reduced cost. Players who participated on a Pella Hoops Club team from the prior year in almost all cases will find a spot on a roster, although based on evaluations it could be with a different team. We will try our best to find everyone a team.

Once rosters are finalized, coaches will communicate practice schedules and tournaments as they are determined.

COACHING:

Any parents interested in serving as a coach for the Pella Hoops Club can apply for a role via the Coaching Registration link sent in the communication email, and will be considered by the committee during the Team Building phase. The committee may reach out to you at that time to better understand your background and availability.

Pella Hoops Club relies entirely on volunteer coaching, and needs multiple parents to volunteer for each grade in order for teams to be formed and to play. We are willing to help you get started and train you however you need.

If we do not have coaches for a team, that team may not be able to play.

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions concerning Skills Evaluation, Team Construction, Coaching, or other aspects of the Pella Hoops Club program, you may contact a Board member at the following:

BOARD MEMBER		TENURE	CONTACT INFORMATION	
MEMBER	POSITION	BOARD MEMBER SINCE	PHONE	EMAIL
Andy Campbell	President	2021	217-242-8737	coachandycampbell@gmail.com
Tim Te Grootenhuis	At-Large	2021	641-204-1279	tmtgrtnh@yahoo.com
Amber Kelley	At-Large	2023	515-570-2055	avaughn15@gmail.com
Mike Buckley	At-Large	2023	641-204-1379	buckleyma@pella.com
Brad Chamra	At-Large	2024	641-780-3019	chamrabrad@gmail.com
Lizzie Doolie	At-Large	2025	641-275-0445	lizzie.doolie0808@gmail.com
Blaine Forsythe	Advisor	2021	641-780-8391	blaine.forsythe@pellaschools.org
Derek Schulte	Advisor	2017	641-780-4520	derek.schulte@pellaschools.org

*This is not a Pella Community School District publication, nor is it in any way endorsed or sponsored by the district.
This publication is being provided only to inform the viewer of other available community activities and opportunities.*