



FUSION ELITE BASKETBALL PROGRAM HANDBOOK

At Fusion Elite Basketball we strive to challenge and offer each student athlete the opportunity to improve their basketball skills at a higher level of competitiveness. We take pride in developing well-rounded athletes while stressing: academics, responsibility, accountability, teamwork, leadership, commitment, work ethic, respect and fair play that can apply both on and off the court. We welcome all serious basketball players who are committed and looking to get better both individually and in a team setting.

Commitment: AAU requires a great deal of commitment. The spring season runs from March through mid June. It is **crucial** that players and parents commit to their teams for workouts, practices and games. **Players lacking commitment leads to the whole team suffering.** In the event that a player misses practice without notifying a coach, the first time, it will be up to the coach to determine punishment. **Missing two (2) practices or workouts without notifying the coach will result in immediate dismissal from the team.** Injured/Sick players, within reason, are expected to still attend and sit in on practices. We are understanding of life's surprises, communication (text, call, email) is necessary. Any planned events or possible scheduling conflicts (vacations, weddings, family celebrations) should be relayed to your head coach as soon as possible.

The main goal of the spring season is to expose our athletes to the top competition in their respective age groups by traveling to top local and regional tournaments. All of our coaches are former serious basketball players who went on to compete at the collegiate level or higher. We strive to get the most out of each gym opportunity we get with your athlete so commitment for the spring season is crucial.

Playing Time: **Every player must earn his playing time.** Playing time is not paid for through registration nor is it guaranteed. Playing time is based on commitment, skill level, specific needs of the competition, work ethic in practice, positive attitude, willingness to apply and accept coaching, and combinations that may be working well on the floor. Everyone in the program works hard – that is the expectation! **Everyone will get an opportunity to play but playing time may not be equal.**

Coaching: At Fusion Elite Basketball we take pride in providing quality coaching. All of our coaches are former collegiate athletes that share the same passion, dedication, commitment and knowledge for the game. Each coach is committed to providing the necessary training; including fundamental skill development that lays the groundwork to excel and succeed at the next level.

By committing to Fusion Elite Basketball for the spring season you are not able to participate with any other AAU organization for the full length of the season. Any player suspected of or caught doing so will be dismissed immediately with no refund.



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Travel: Travel is a part of AAU. Our organization attracts kids from all over Monmouth and Middlesex counties. Practices and workouts for our teams are held mainly out of our Red Bank and Rumson locations. We do our best to stick to the practice schedule once it's set however changes do happen at times out of our control where we may have to resort to another facility. **Tournament travel** varies as we participate in local, state and regional tournaments. Tournament travel time can be anywhere from 20 mins to 6 hours away. Tournament games are held on weekends.

Team Practice Commitment and attendance to team practices is required, lack of commitment or 2 unexcused absences will lead to immediate dismissal from the team. Jersey Fusion Elite practices are designed to challenge each player. Practice is essential to improving and we believe this is where player and team development and improvement occurs.

Locations

Team practice, workouts and training sessions will be held at local facilities and schools in Monmouth county. **We do not own any of these facilities.** We ask that you all respect the practice times and not enter ANY of the facilities prior to a coach being present. We want to make sure we use the proper entrance and exit doors at each facility and respect the facilities by not bringing outside food and drinks and cleaning up any trash or water bottles.

CJB Central Jersey Basketball 165 Amboy Rd., Morganville (small team workouts, Small group training and personal training held at this facility)

CBI Congregation B'nai Israel 171 Ridge Rd., Rumson (the gym entrance is located to the rear of the facility – security should always be present to open the door)

RBMS Red Bank Middle School 101 Harding Rd., Red Bank (use the entrance located directly on Harding Rd. All of the doors are labeled, Enter door #4)

Salvation Army 180 Newman Springs Rd, Red Bank (gym entrance is located in the back of the building)



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Parents: We take coaching very serious, we ask that parents allow the coaches to do ALL of the coaching while ONLY offering positive feedback. Please give us the opportunity to provide a safe, fun environment that will best help in your athlete's development.

Conduct during games from parents is expected to remain respectful, positive and supportive at all times to all athletes, coaches, refs, fans & facilities operators. Please keep in mind you are representing way more than yourself and your family at these events. **We have a zero-tolerance policy for negative disruptive parents. You will be removed and asked not to return.**

If an issue arises regarding playing time or coaching decisions, we ask that you do not approach our coaches directly following any practice or game. We are absolutely open for discussion and encourage you to request a meeting. This request should not come within 24 hours of the contest as emotions can be high. We will do our best to honor that meeting request within 72 hours.

At no point is a parent, family member, family friend or fan approach a coach during, before or after a game for any reason regarding their athlete unless there is an injury or health concern that the coach should be made aware of.

Injuries/Sickness – We do not accept parent diagnosis. If you suspect your athlete is sick or injured, please make the coach aware and take them to the Dr. Your athlete will need a Dr's note to return to participation. Athletes' should still attend practice even if they cannot participate (within reasonable measures)

Every parent should only worry about their athlete. Our policies and guidelines are very clear and strictly enforced across the board – if an athlete is part of our organization they are in complete compliance and within my guidelines.



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Tournaments

Our organization will provide a platform for student-athletes to showcase their basketball skills at local and regional tournaments throughout the region.

Tentative Tournament Schedule Boys Grades 4 & 5 – Spring 2020

March 28, 29 – Spring Jam TuneUp @ Newark Academy

April 4, 5 – Zero Gravity Jamfest @ Sportika

April 25, 26 - FCP Hoops Early Nationals @ Sportika (Manalapan)

May 9, 10 – Spring Fling (Monroe/Marlboro)

June 6, 7 – Tri State Challenge @ Kean Univ

June 13, 14 – East Coast Summer Slam @ CES (King of Prussia, PA)

Coaches will confirm final tournament schedules once the rosters are set

Tournament games are typically played on Saturday and/or Sundays. Tournament games are possible on the tournament dates listed above, if only one date is listed it is a one-day event. If a Friday is included, chances are Friday night games are a possibility so please plan accordingly. Athletes are not required to stay overnight at tournaments however for certain locations it is recommended. Hotel arrangements are the individual responsibility of parent's. We may pass on hotel recommendations from the tournament BUT we are not responsible for holding or booking your athlete's reservation. Team members are not required to stay at the same hotel.

SPRING SEASON COST BREAKDOWN

Spring AAU season fee for 4 & 5th grade is \$800 new / \$750 returning and includes:

- 6 tournaments ****travel/hotel stay required and not included****
- pickup games/scrimmages
- 2 team practices each week & any additional req'd team workouts
- Unlimited SPT Workouts
- AAU Registration and Player Insurance
- Fusion Elite Shooting Shirt
- Coach's Fee

****additional \$50 if a uniform is needed****

Payment for the season is due by the first team practice and can be paid by cash, check or sent via venmo to: info@fusionschoolofbasketball.com

No refunds are given beyond the first week of practice, **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Please consider any and all conflicts carefully before committing for the season. Please understand that once you accept the invite and submit payment you are confirming and accepting a spot on our roster. We accept a maximum of 12 athletes/team. Voluntarily removing your athlete results in no refund. Coaches removing an athlete for any reason results in no refund.