



HCYP Basketball!

Howard County Youth Program, Inc.



Frequently Asked Questions

Listed below are answers to questions which are frequently asked about the HCYP Basketball Program. If your question is not answered here, please let us know what your question is and we will answer it as best as we can.

1. What basketball programs does HCYP offer?

HCYP offers clinic and recreation basketball for boys and girls in grades 1-12; travel basketball opportunities for boys and girls in grades 4-8; and middle school leagues for boys and girls in grades 6-8. .

2. When can I register? How can I register? Who must register?

Basketball registration is available on-line at www.hcypbasketball.org starting in April for all recreation leagues. Registrants simply click on the "Register Now!" link on the basketball page then follow the instructions. The registration deadlines are listed on the HCYP Basketball registration home page and in the registration materials. The deadline for recreation leagues is generally the first of November; boys and girls clinic and high school registration generally closes around the middle of November. There will be no exceptions for late registrants, except by permission of the league commissioner and only if there an empty slot is available on a team. Registration is now only available online. It is secure and provides immediate registration confirmation. No registrations will be accepted after the registration deadline.

Travel and middle school players must register separately though their teams once selected. A player is not required to register to try-out for a travel team. All travel and middle school players must register before they can play or before their team can be issued practice times. Additional travel and middle school team fees are separate from the HCYP Basketball registration fees and must be paid separately.

3. Can my child be placed in a later or earlier grade group than the grade he/she is currently in?

Yes. HCYP Basketball makes exceptions for players who may be in a grade older or later than the standard age parameters allow. Generally, when you register, you may have a choice of which grade to place your child. If this is not available, and you would like to change to a grade in which your child is better to join, you may follow up directly with the recreation league commissioner and the suitable age group commissioners to ensure that the player is appropriately placed.

Travel and middle school basketball requirements are slightly different. The head coach will make a final decision on the age and grade requirements for his/her team based on whether or not they will play in leagues that are age based, grade based or age based with grade level exceptions. The coaches, however, must stay within the parameters of the age/grade group to which he/she is assigned.

Middle School teams allow any middle school player to play on the varsity team as selected by the team's head coach. Only players in grades 6-7 may play on the junior varsity team.

4. What if my child just wants to play up in grade?

Players may play up in grade with approval from the league commissioner and the recreation league commissioner. The general rule is, players can play up but not down. HCYP will work with the parents to determine if the player would benefit from playing up. Placement also would be contingent on available openings in the older league.

5. My child is five years old and in kindergarten. Can she/he play in the clinic leagues?

Yes, with the league commissioner's permission. HCYP begins teaching basketball skills for youth starting at the first grade level; however, a five-year old may be registered for clinic basketball if the parent feels he/she is ready and if the league commissioner concurs.

6. What is the difference between clinic basketball, regular recreation basketball, middle school basketball and travel basketball?

The clinic leagues teach beginning basketball skills for 1st grade boys and girls. Their teams will meet once each Saturday for a 90-minute session where these skills are taught. During each session, skills are taught through different activities including drills, conditioning exercises and games. In addition, each session includes scrimmaging with another clinic team where the skills they learn are put to work and further developed. These games are not officiated, but are coached by the coaching staffs.

Recreation basketball teams play regular officiated games on the weekends. Scores are kept and playoffs are played. These age groups include 2nd – 12th grade boys and girls. In addition to these games, teams in the 2nd – 8th grade groups will practice one night each week for one hour. The senior leagues (9th-12th grades) do not practice, but they play games on the weekends.

Middle school teams are selected largely from students who attend the represented middle school. Students from middle schools not represented may play on a combined team, like Howard United, which is made up of players from various middle schools. Travel and Middle School basketball teams are selected from players who try-out for them. Travel teams carry the name of **HCYP Elite** and the **Force**; Middle School teams are called by the middle school they represent.

Travel and Middle School Teams play at a higher and more intense level and practice accordingly. These teams generally hold two, 90-minute practices each week (after 5:00 PM)

and will generally play one or two games on the weekends, plus holiday tournaments, depending on what the head coach sets up. These teams are managed directly by each team's head coach, who determines who is chosen for these teams. These teams also are responsible for their own expenses beyond what the registration fees cover. Travel and Middle School team expenses generally include, but are not limited to: uniform purchase, league entry fees, travel costs, team equipment, gym costs, etc. Limited insurance and practice gym usage is covered through the HCYP Basketball registration fee.

7. Are the Middle School teams affiliated with the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS)?

No. All middle school teams are affiliated with HCYP Basketball, a division of Howard county Youth Program, Inc. (HCYP). Middle school teams allow more players to play in a travel basketball environment before entering high school. Players also get an opportunity to play with their classmates as they would do during high School.

8. Does HCYP provide financial assistance for players/families?

Yes. HCYP offers scholarships for players whose families may need financial assistance. The scholarships may include a waiver of a portion or the entire registration fee for the player, based on need. A parent or legal guardian interested in this program should contact the Basketball Program Director or the travel-middle school team's head coach who can make the arrangements. This program is available for all HCYP Basketball programs including recreation and travel teams.

9. If I coach a team, can my child's registration fee be waived?

Not at this time. HCYP is an all-volunteer organization, and coaches as well as all commissioners and officers of the organization volunteer their time for reasons other than compensation. The coach may, however, request a scholarship for his child should there be a financial need.

10. My child was registered but has decided not to play HCYP Basketball this year. Can I get a refund?

No refunds can be provided after registration has closed for the age group the child was registered in. If the parent or legal guardian requests a refund in writing to HCYP Basketball (Attn: Refund Request, P.O. Box 1662, Ellicott City, MD 21043) which is received prior to the expiration of registration, then the refund request may be honored minus a \$50.00 administrative, processing and handling fee. After registration closes and before teams are chosen, if you move from the area or your child is unable to play to due medical conditions as diagnosed by a physician, you may request a refund in writing, accompanied by details for the reason for the request. Absolutely no refunds will be issued for any reason after the basketball teams have been chosen and practices begin.

11. How are teams selected for both travel and recreation?

First of all, travel team and middle school try-outs are generally held in September/early-October for the upcoming season. The schedule for these try-outs is posted on the HCYP Basketball website and in the local newspapers. Emails are also sent out to players in the HCYP Basketball database. The head coach of the travel team will contact the players who tried out for their team to let them know if they made the team or not. Once the travel teams are selected and all players have been registered, the head coach establishes the practice and game schedule for the remainder of the season.

Next, the 2nd-8th grade recreation teams are selected. Divided by gender and age groups, the list of registered players goes to the individual league commissioners who schedule evaluations for everyone on that list. These evaluations are scheduled by league and are held in October and early November in the presence of all coaches within that league. All players must be evaluated. If a player cannot make a scheduled evaluation, the league commissioner will arrange an alternative evaluation for him or her. Each player will be contacted by a coach with the league's evaluation schedule. These schedules will also be posted on the HCYP website. Once all player evaluations are complete, all the coaches and the league commissioner meet to select the teams for their league in a balanced draft. The draft is designed to help ensure that all teams are evenly and fairly competitive. Once the draft is complete and the league commissioner approves the teams, players will be contacted by their coach and will be given their practice times. Practices generally start in early-mid November, and games will start in December.

CLINIC players are divided into gender and age groups and are assembled into clinic teams by the league commissioner with help from the coaches. No evaluations are held for clinic players, but the league attempts to place players together who are from the same areas of the county. Requests to have certain players be on the same team may also be accommodated by the league commissioner. These teams are assembled in November and each player will be contacted by their team's coach prior to the end of November with their clinic schedule. Clinic sessions begin in January and end in late February-early March. Clinics are held in 90-minute sessions each weekend.

HIGH SCHOOL players are evaluated on the first Sunday of December and are selected to a team the following week with games generally scheduled to start in December after the teams are selected. There are no practices for the high school leagues. High school players will be contacted by a league coach or other official prior to the evaluations.

12. Can I have my child placed on the same team with his/her friend or with a specific coach?

This is very possible in the clinic leagues; however, since the older leagues are bound by the draft, the fulfillment of this request cannot be guaranteed. If the request can be worked out by the league commissioner in agreement with other coaches in the league without creating an

imbalance (one way or another) on any given team, then it is permissible but still not guaranteed. This request must be made directly to the league commissioner who directly oversees this area.

13. I cannot make the practice times that have been assigned to my child's team. Can I get a refund?

The HCYP Basketball refund policy applies to this instance. As in the case with all other sports, players and families sign up for the sport with the understanding schedules are not guaranteed. Families should have some flexibilities to be able accommodate the schedules when they are released. If there is a conflict, however, the league commissioner will try to help find a resolution for the conflict if it can be accommodated; however, refunds are not issued for this conflict.

14. I have twins (triplets, etc.) who need to be placed on the same team. Can they be assured placement on the same team?

Only for the clinics. In the older leagues, if the siblings are equal in talent and would be first round picks in the draft, for example, they could not fairly be placed on the same team. However, if the talent levels of the siblings are variable enough to allow them to be placed on the same team without affecting league parity, then the commissioner and coaches may be able to accommodate the request but even that is still not guaranteed. This request must be made directly to and approved by the league commissioner.

15. I would like to coach a recreation team. Can my child be automatically assigned to my team?

Yes. Only the head coach's child may be automatically assigned to that head coach's team. The children of assistant coaches cannot be automatically assigned to any team and are subject to the same rules of the draft as all other players, except the head coach's child. The head coach's child must be assigned in the draft in the round which most accurately reflects his/her skill level (i.e., first round, second round, etc.) and he/she may not draft a player for his team during that round.

16. I have issues with the team on which my child was placed (coach, other players, practice schedules, etc.)? Can I move my child to another team? How should I address these issues?

All team issues should first be addressed with the coach and then the league commissioner. The league commissioner is there to help resolve all issues within his/her league, including practice schedules, relationships, etc. It is the goal of HCYP Basketball to help ensure that all players and families have a fun and rewarding experience during the season, and the coaches and commissioners are there to help make this happen.

17. My child plays for a travel team in another organization. Can he/she play on an HCYP recreation or HCYP Basketball travel or Middle School team?

No. Any player who plays on any travel team, even if he/she plays on an HCYP Basketball travel or middle school team, may not play for an HCYP Basketball recreation team. In addition, due to conflicts that are certain to arise, players who play for another travel team may not play on an HCYP travel or middle school team. Some exceptions may be made if the player is playing for a religious-based team as long as it is approved by the team's head coach and the Travel-Middle School Basketball Commissioner and there are no conflicts that would affect the function of the HCYP Basketball team.

18. When are practices and games scheduled for the recreation leagues? Can I know what they will be before I register my child?

As with most other sports programs, the practice times and game schedules cannot be assigned until the teams are chosen, your child is placed on a team and the gym permits are in place. This will all take place in November. Practice times for the 2nd-8th grade recreation teams are generally assigned between the hours of 6:00 and 9:00 PM, Mondays – Fridays, one-hour each week.

Practices will be held at the same time and location each week, unless there is an exception issued by the school where the gym is located. Practices start in November. Boys games are generally played on Saturdays starting in December at 9:00 AM and running through 7:00 PM or later, depending on the size of the league.

Girls' games are generally played on Sundays starting in December at 1:00 PM running through 7:00 PM or later, depending on the size of the league. Boys and girls high school leagues generally play their games on Sundays.

Clinic leagues play on Saturdays or Sundays, depending on the size of the leagues; however, generally boys leagues will be scheduled on Saturdays and girls on Sundays. This can change in any season. The league commissioners establish his/her league's schedules.

19. How are your leagues governed? Are there rules and policies available to the public for review?

Yes. Each year, the HCYP Basketball approves the rules and any policy changes for the upcoming year. These rules and policies are posted on the HCYP website at www.hcyp.org.

20. Does HCYP offer spring and fall basketball? Does it include the "Friday Night" Leagues?

HCYP Basketball provides winter basketball leagues and spring/summer travel team opportunities. Travel basketball teams may continue to play AAU, YBOA or local league basketball into the spring, summer and fall at the discretion of the team's head coach and support of HCYP Basketball. A related organization, HYBA (Howard Youth Basketball Association), manages and provides the Friday night basketball leagues. HCYP Basketball is not affiliated with the HYBA Friday night games. The HYBA contact number is 410-461-7694.

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