



Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball 2021 Season

Information Booklet

Hicksville PAL

P: 516 342-6056 or 516 987-2468

E: alvaradoncpal@aol.com

<http://hicksvillepal.website.siplay.com>



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Welcome

The Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball Club would like to welcome you to our basketball program. This program will give the youth in our area a venue to develop their skills and play a higher level of competitive basketball.

We envisioned a program that will grow providing our youth at every grade level and gender; more structured and competitive participation; coaches with a better skill set and more training; providing everyone who participates in the Hicksville PAL general basketball programs an outlet to take their game to a higher level.

The Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball Club program will encourage coaches to take time during practice to teach and lecture on such things as: Positive Attitudes, Personal Commitment, Teamwork, Determination, Respect, Honesty, Academics, Citizenship and much more. We hope the program will grow in the years to come.

We are starting with Boys 9-11 Grade age permitting. Our goal is to build a diversified program that supports our youth at every grade and skill for both boys and girls. The Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball Club hopes all the players will walk away from our program, not only better basketball players, but also better citizens within our community.

Additionally, no youth program can be successful without commitment of our parents and those who have the desire to see the youth in our community achieve a higher purpose in everything they do. We thank and welcome you for your participation, support and volunteerism in support of our program! Visit our website for information on coaching and volunteering.

Hicksville Unit PAL

Website: <http://hicksvillepal.website.siplay.com/>

John Bentrewicz	President
Brian Stewart	Vice President
Eleanor Bentrewicz	Treasurer
Ed Leger	Trustee
Nick Alvarado	Police Officer – Director
Bill Cataldo	Lacrosse Coordinator
Fred Dunwoody	Basketball Coordinator



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Acknowledgement

Dear Coaches and Parents,

We would like to express our congratulations to all members of the Hicksville Hornets PAL-AAU teams. We sincerely hope you have a great season. We know our children will represent our community with pride, integrity and sportsmanship. To avoid any confusion at a later date we would also like to present you with a few details about the AAU program run by Hicksville PAL.

PAL insurance policies prohibit unauthorized practices and games, any activities at unauthorized locations, and unauthorized players and coaches and assistants. Coaches are aware of the policy and coordinate all games and practices through the Hicksville Unit PAL office. Do not place the coach in an awkward position by asking them to practice at unauthorized facilities, or with any other players or teams. If you have access to a facility that can be shared among all the teams, please speak to the coordinator so we may apply for the proper insurance and permits.

The fee collected for the AAU league is a non-refundable fee. There will be no refunds for injuries, discontentment or otherwise. All parties have made a commitment to their team and we expect coaches, parents, and children to honor this commitment.

Finally, when your child commits to the Hicksville AAU Program you as the child's parent or guardian commit to the Hicksville AAU Program as well. All children are required to have parent or guardian present at the basketball tournaments. It is not the programs nor coach's responsibility to get your child to the tournaments. The success of the program can only be obtained if everyone does their part.

If there are any questions about policies or procedures, please ask your coach first. If the coach is unable to answer, they will ask the administrators. If you are not satisfied with any answer given to you by the coach, please call the Hicksville Unit PAL office, and set up an appointment to speak to the AAU coordinator.

Again, thank you for your time, and we wish all players the best of luck.



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Program Description

For those players in Grades 9 and up interested in playing more competitive basketball, the Hicksville PAL Unit is creating an AAU Program – Hicksville Hornets. Each AAU Team is a select team. Players must tryout each year to earn a position on the team. Players and Parents need to understand the level of commitment, competition and cost will be far greater than the recreation program. AAU teams are competitive. This does NOT mean we have a win-at-all-costs attitude. However, we expect a commitment from our parent and players to come to all practices and games with the full understanding that practices and games may be scheduled can occur weekdays as well as weekend including Sunday games.

Player Prerequisite

It is required that any player trying out for the AAU program must play at least one year in the Hicksville PAL Units recreation basketball clinics and intramural leagues. During this time the player must show a commitment to the program attending 70% or more of all practices, clinics and games.

Registration:

Registration for Hicksville Hornets AAU is separate from Hicksville PAL recreation basketball, although, players must also pay and register for recreational basketball first. We encourage all players to play both recreational and AAU basketball. The Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball Program is primarily for children living in the town of Hicksville and/or going to school in the town. However, there are some exceptions for kids. These exceptions need to be cleared through the Hicksville PAL Unit Board.

If your child wants to participate, we recommend you register your child early. All registrations must be placed online through the Hicksville PAL website. There is no cost to register. All associated cost for participating in the AAU program are due after tryouts once your child has been selected.

Online Registration Only

Hicksville PAL Website: <http://hicksvillepal.website.siplay.com/>

Exceptions:

- 1) All exceptions need to be communicated to the Hicksville PAL Unit Board of Directors before tryouts start. A vote can be taken, if there are any issues with accepting a child. Also, a team vote can be taken if there are any issues with allowing someone
- 2) The Director of the Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball Program also needs to accept the player so once approved by the Hicksville PAL Unit Board, we will forward to the league.



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- 3) An exception can be granted for a child that started a season playing in the Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball Program but has since moved out of town. That player is allowed to finish that season with the NYBA team.
- 4) An exception can be made for a child that goes to school in Hicksville, but does not live here, i.e. private school or lives in Hicksville and goes to a school outside the town.
- 5) If we are short qualified players/teams, the Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball Program can allow surrounding towns to participate in the current AAU season with the Hicksville PAL Unit Boards approval.
- 6) The exceptions are meant to allow some flexibility for the Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball Program, to encourage participation in Hicksville PAL Units recreational basketball programs, but also to protect children that are subject to external changes not within their control.

Post Tryout Exceptions:

If a player, drops out of the program or gets hurt for the year, the team is allowed to pick up another player. The process to pick up another player will consist of a new tryout during the team's practice time.

- If there is an A and B team then the A team will pick someone from the B team after the tryout.
- For the B or C teams, anyone who originally registered to tryout will be allowed to tryout again.
- Any player who did not register originally or play recreational basketball can tryout, however this exception needs to be approved by the Units Board and AAU Director. The reasons for a child that missed the original tryout can be many and might be out of the child's control so is typically the reason we allow this exception.

Tryout Process and Information

The objective of the AAU Team Tryouts is to give each player as much opportunity as possible at a fair, impartial and open chance to compete equally for a position on a the AAU Team. All players are put through basic basketball drills (shooting, passing, dribbling, rebounding and defense), as well as, compete in competitive Basketball situations (1-on-1, 2-on-2, 5-on-5, etc.) Players will be judged by the coaches AND/OR independent evaluators (including members of the Hicksville PAL Unit Board) to be as fair as possible. Players will be judged on the basics (shooting, dribbling, rebounding, and defense) as well as their understanding of the game, their coach-ability and their overall attitude. There will typically be a minimum of two tryouts per division level.



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There will be at least 2 Evaluators and can be up to 5 Evaluators including coaches. The Hicksville PAL Unit Board will try to have as many independent evaluators that do not have children in the tryout. The Evaluators will evaluate and rank all players according to skill level. The coach will select the first 7 players. The next 3 to 5 players ranked the highest can be selected by the coach. The coach will provide a summary to the AAU Director and Hicksville PAL Board of the selected players. No decision or announcements will be made at or during the tryouts. All players selected will be contacted by Email and the rosters will be posted on the Hicksville PAL website.

Tryout Notes:

All tryouts are closed. Only players, coaches, evaluators and members of the Hicksville PAL are permitted in the gym to view the tryouts. No parents, relatives or friends will be allowed to remain in the facility during tryouts. NYBA Board member(s) will be present at all tryouts. Standardized tryout form to be used.

Medical Exemptions for Tryouts

Players need to declare an injury in writing prior to AAU team tryouts. This confidential letter must be received by the Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball Director no later than 48-hours prior to the first tryout date. The letter should include a note from the player's physician stating his/her inability to participate in a tryout. The player is not required to provide the specific nature of the injury/illness only that a doctor has limited/prohibited his/her participation in the tryout process. This letter should also include, if possible, the players anticipated return to full participation in activities. The Hicksville PAL Unit Board will then review each case individually. The Hicksville PAL Unit Board will then determine the selection criteria for this player after consulting with the AAU Basketball Director and/or coach of the team and reviewing previous evaluations if available.

Number of Teams

The number of teams will be determined by the number of qualified players in each division. Team sizes will vary but will require a minimum of 10 players on each team and no less than 8. The maximum team size will not exceed 12 players. Teams will typically practice one time during the week and/or weekends. Unless an event is hosted by the Hicksville Hornets or the Hicksville PAL it is understood that the Tournaments and Leagues, we participate in can take place during the week or on weekends.

Additional Cost of Participating

Along with the additional time commitment there is also an additional financial commitment to playing AAU basketball. The cost of participating in the Hicksville Hornets AAU Program will vary by team depending on the number of tournaments or leagues in which the team participates.



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Fees:

The average cost for the AAU season ranges from \$300 - \$400 based on the number of tournaments and leagues we participate in.

The following is included in your registrations fee.

- Team uniform / practice jersey
- Registering your child as an AAU Member player (<https://aasports.org/>)
- Tournament & League fees
- Insurance

The Hicksville Hornets AAU Program nor the Hicksville PAL Unit is responsible for any travel related expenses, loss of property or any incidental cost you incur while participate in this program

Playing Time

It is important to realize that playing time is never equal or guaranteed. AAU team players do NOT have guaranteed equal playing time like the recreation leagues. The recommended minimum playing time is “3 minutes per half” for games unless the player misses practices or has other issues at practice or in games such as poor sportsmanship, etc. While these are recommendations the coaches have the discretion to make in-game decisions based on the circumstances of the game.

The Hicksville PAL and the Hicksville Hornets AAU Program promotes the “life lessons” in sports so positive participation, team work, commitment, timeliness, and other factors are important to learn at a young age. These should be rewarded with playing time, especially at the younger ages. These Factors, such as practice attendance, cooperation and attitude at practice, willingness to learn, turn instruction and criticism into positive motivation will all come into play affecting playing time.

We understand that we are developing a team of players at a young age. Players develop at different rates and players change year to year. Your worst player can become your best player. Our best recommendation is for all players to play a good amount of time and not just the minimum. To recognize their deficiencies and train them to become better players.



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Hicksville Hornets AAU Basketball Program FAQs

Who can participate?

Our programs are generally for students who live or attend school within Hicksville. We have our House Intermural League for Girls and Boys Grades K-8. JV-Varsity League Grades 9-12 and our Travel-AAU team.

What is the schedule for House Intermural League?

Our House Intermural League begins practice in late November, takes a break over Christmas, and continues play into early March. Each week consists of 1-2 sessions for practice and games. Days of week vary by team and age group. House league teams' practice will be scheduled in the Hicksville School District or at the TOB Athletic center.

How much traveling is involved with AAU-Travel Basketball?

Most tournaments we attend are regional unless otherwise noted. Typically, tournaments are held over the weekend and some may include Fridays.

What is the schedule for Travel Program?

Our Travel Teams practice up to twice a week. Tryouts are held in September, practices begin in October, and tournaments begin in November. There is a break over Christmas, and play continues into early March.

How many tournaments do Travel Teams play in?

We typically plan for 5 or 6 tournaments. Most tournaments generally guaranteed three games in each tournament, and sometimes get as many as five. Games are usually played over the weekend (SAT-SUN); the larger tournaments sometimes schedule games on Friday evening.

How do I know if my child is ready for Travel Basketball?

The travel program is not for beginners. If you child has played basketball constantly improved their skills, we encourage them to play on a more competitive level. Not every child will make the AAU-Travel team. If your child does not make the cut, we will let you know where there are deficiencies and recommend that the child participates in our House Intermural League and clinics whenever they are happening. They can always tryout again the following year.

What does the evaluation process entail?

The traveling evaluations/tryout occur over the course of two nights for each grade. It is vital that you child attend both sessions to ensure an accurate assessment. Players will be evaluated on individual skills as well as their game play. We encourage players to attend the open gyms that take place in advance of the evaluations; they are good opportunities to better understand what will occur and what is expected from them. Results will be communicated within a few days of the completion of evaluations/tryouts.



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How many players are placed on travel teams?

We allow 8-10 players on each team. This ensures significant playing time for each player. We occasionally make exceptions however; all exceptions are reviewed by the Hicksville PAL Unit Board and Basketball Coordinator.

What is the cost for AAU-Travel Basketball?

The registration fee of \$300 per player. The cost covers gym time, tournament entry fees for the team and uniforms and players AAU membership registration. Tournaments may have an admission fees for spectators which is not covered by the team. Travel and housing expenses are not covered and are at the players expense.

Where are practices held?

Practices are typically held at the TOB Athletic Center or at a Hicksville School District facility when available. Practices may also be held outside or at other facilities during the summer when our normal facilities are not available. All practice schedules will be provided to the players and hosted on our website and/or Facebook page.

What is the refund policy?

Registration fees are only collected once your child has been selected for a team. There is no cost for the evaluation/tryout. There are no refunds once your child has started participating in the AAU-Travel program. For additional information please refer to the AAU Basketball Program Information Booklet.

What does volunteering at the tournament entail?

We have positions for admissions, concessions, gym supervisors, clock operators and scorekeepers. Each family is needed to put in 4 to 6 hours during the weekend for each Travel Program player. We would welcome assistance from our House League families.

Can I coach?

All of our programs and teams rely on volunteer parent coaches. It is a fact, the more involved the parents in the community are the stronger our programs become. To become a coach, fill out our Volunteer form ([click here](#)) and return it to our office. Someone from the Hicksville PAL Unit will follow up with you. Volunteers and coaches are select based on experience and background checks.



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Code of Conduct *(Please sign and return)*

PARENTS & SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

- To place the emotional and physical wellbeing of the players ahead of personal desire to win
- To remember not to engage in unruly behavior, including offensive language
- To lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all the players
- To do my best to encourage a safe playing environment for all players
- To treat each player with respect: always remembering the large range of emotional and physical development of all players
- Not to criticize or question a referee, coach or official on or off the field
- To understand all players will have equal playing time whenever possible
- To read and adhere to the "CODE OF CONDUCT"
- To promote fun and enjoyment within the given activity
- To know and adhere to all rules within this "CODE OF CONDUCT".
- To have children read & understand "THE CHILDREN'S OBLIGATION"

CHILDREN'S OBLIGATION

- Call coach if unable to make any game or practice
- Check web-site before each game for schedule changes
- Sportsmanship to be shown to your team as well as opponents
- Be responsible for your own equipment including uniform
- Treat all coaches and officials with respect
- Play hard and clean
- No foul language to be used at anytime
- You have an obligation to teammates & coaches to be on time for games and practices

Participant Name

Parent/Guardian Name

Participant Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____

Date: _____



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Permission to Leave the County

(Please sign and return prior to event date)

I hereby give my child _____ permission to participate in;

Tournament/Leaguer: _____

On: Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Check the following

- ☐ I will be providing transportation for my child
- ☐ I have room to provide a ride. How many _____
- ☐ My child needs a ride

Parents signature: _____ Date: _____



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