



UFBA PARENT AND PLAYER HANDBOOK

2005-2025

Celebrating 20 years of UFBA Family and Legacy

WELCOME TO THE 2025 UPSTATE FRANCHISE BALLERS' CLUB SEASON!

We're excited to welcome your player - and all of you - to our family. In this packet, you will find information regarding everything from rosters, schedules, and payment plans to policies and expectations. This information is available online as well. If you have any questions at all, please contact your coach or any of the UFBA Leadership below. We look forward to a season like no other!

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES



**FRANCHISE BALLERS
2025 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

ZERO GRAVITY XL CIRCUIT

9th/10th /11th GRADE ELITE TRAVEL TEAMS

**UFBA SPRING KING/QUEEN
OF THE ROC SHOOTOUT**

March 29-30
Rochester, NY

**YBOA NY SHOWDOWN
IN B-TOWN**

April 5-6
Brockport, NY

ZGXL - THE SUMMIT

Spooky Nook
April 12-13
Manheim, PA
Live Period

ZGXL - THE LAUNCH

April 26-27
Atlantic City, NJ

ZGXL - NERR SUPER 16

May 10-11
Westchester, NY

GYM RAT CHALLENGE

May 24-25
Albany, NY

ZG BOYS NATIONALS

June 7-8
Metrowest/South Shore, MA

UFBA FATHER'S DAY HOOPFEST

June 14-15
Rochester, NY

ZGXL - THE SUMMER STAGE LIVE

Spooky Nook
July 11-12
Manheim, PA
Live Period



FRANCHISE BALLERS
2025 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
8th GRADE BOYS ELITE TRAVEL TEAM

**UFBA SPRING KING/QUEEN
OF THE ROC SHOOTOUT**

March 29-30
Rochester, NY

**YBOA NY SHOWDOWN
IN B-TOWN**

April 5-6
Brockport, NY

ZGXL - THE SUMMIT

Spooky Nook
April 12-13
Manheim, PA
Live Period

ZGXL - THE LAUNCH

April 26-27
Atlantic City, NJ

ZGXL - NERR SUPER 16

May 10-11
Westchester, NY

GYM RAT CHALLENGE

May 24-25
Albany, NY

ZG BOYS NATIONALS

June 7-8
Metrowest/South Shore, MA

UFBA FATHER'S DAY HOOPFEST

June 14-15
Rochester, NY

**UFBA SUMMER KING/QUEEN
OF THE ROC**

July 12-13
Rochester, NY



FRANCHISE BALLERS
2025 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
7th GRADE BOYS ELITE TRAVEL TEAM

**UFBA SPRING KING/QUEEN
OF THE ROC SHOOTOUT**

March 29-30
Rochester, NY

**YBOA NY SHOWDOWN
IN B-TOWN**

April 5-6
Brockport, NY

**UFBA JJ/JP MEMORIAL SPRING
KING/QUEEN OF THE ROC SHOOTOUT**

April 12-13
Rochester, NY

JR. EYBL NORTHEAST REGION SESSION

1

April 18-20
Philadelphia, PA

25th ANNUAL RAP ROCHESTER RUMBLE

April 26-27
Rochester/Brockport, NY

**EXPOSURE BASKETBALL
BUFFALO JAMFEST**

May 3-4
Buffalo, NY

JR. EYBL NORTHEAST REGION SESSION

2

May 9-11
Wilmington, DE

1-90 SHOOT-OUT

May 31- June 1
Syracuse, NY

UFBA FATHER'S DAY HOOPFEST

June 14-15
Rochester, NY

**UFBA SUMMER KING/QUEEN
OF THE ROC**

July 12-13
Rochester, NY



**FRANCHISE BALLERS
2025 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
REGIONAL TEAM**

**UFBA SPRING KING/QUEEN
OF THE ROC SHOOTOUT**

March 29-30
Rochester, NY

**YBOA NY SHOWDOWN
IN B-TOWN**

April 5-6
Brockport, NY

**UFBA JJ/JP MEMORIAL SPRING
KING/QUEEN OF THE ROC
SHOOTOUT**

April 12-13
Rochester, NY

**25th ANNUAL RAP ROCHESTER
RUMBLE**

April 26-27
Rochester/Brockport, NY

**EXPOSURE BASKETBALL
BUFFALO JAMFEST**

May 3-4
Buffalo, NY

UFBA MOTHER'S DAY SHOOTOUT

May 10
Rochester, NY

1-90 SHOOT-OUT

May 31- June 1
Syracuse, NY

UFBA FATHER'S DAY HOOPFEST

June 14-15
Rochester, NY

**UFBA SUMMER KING/QUEEN
OF THE ROC**

July 12-13
Rochester, NY

FINANCIALS:

COST, PAYMENT PLANS, AND FUNDRAISERS



UFBA BALLERS' REGISTRATION FEES

ELITE TRAVEL TEAM \$725

REGIONAL TEAM \$600

INCLUDED

- Uniform, shooting shirt, tech suit, and backpack
- Training equipment
- Comprehensive weekly training, open gym, life skills mentoring, and workshops
- Academic support
- 6-10 tournaments, 3-4 games each; U14-U17 Elite Teams play in the ZGXL circuit in the northeast region, Regional Teams play locally
- Individualized assessments throughout the season on a digital platform to monitor growth
- Space rental and practice/open gym 8 hours per week (16-20 weeks)
- Paid Coaching Staff

****NO PLAYER LEFT BEHIND****

Scholarships are available on a sliding scale.

Fundraisers are available to offset the cost of the registration fee.

Contact Erin with questions or to apply for financial assistance:

ufba2005@upstatefranchisebasketball.com

Additional costs may include: tournament travel, hotels, transportation, and food. National tournaments may require additional fundraising.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay in full or with the payment plans below:

ELITE TRAVEL TEAMS

- 1st payment due on February 7th: \$250
- 2nd payment due on February 21st: \$158.33
- 3rd payment due on March 7th: \$158.33
- 4th payment due on March 21st: \$158.34

REGIONAL TEAMS

- 1st payment due on February 7th: \$250
- 2nd payment due on February 21st: \$116.67
- 3rd payment due on March 7th: \$116.67
- 4th payment due on March 21st: \$116.67

Please note: payments will be automatically debited on each due date unless other arrangements are made ahead of time. Contact Erin with any questions: ufba2005@upstatefranchisebasketball.com.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES TO OFFSET THE LAST PAYMENT

Players have the option to either raise \$158.33 (Elite) or \$116.67 (Regional) to offset the 4th payment, or they can make the 4th payment (a fundraising buyout). If a player opts into fundraising and raises less than the required amount, credit will be applied for that amount and a balance will be due. If they raise more, these funds will be applied to the organization to help pay for operational costs. We offer fundraisers in February and March; a player can opt into as many of these as they'd like. Details will be shared at the onset of each fundraiser. **Prizes for the top five fundraisers will be awarded.**

- Foul-a-Thon Shooting Challenge
 - Players are sponsored for baskets made during a shooting contest.
- [March Madness](#)
 - Players sell Brackets, similar to Super Bowl Squares.
- [FRYP](#) Fundraiser
 - Players are provided with a personalized link to sell items like coffee and popcorn, but also to accept donations for UFBA with credit going to the player.

Additional UFBA fundraisers will be planned throughout the year and we hope that you will participate in as many as possible since fundraising efforts directly benefit players. Examples include [Super Bowl Squares](#), raffles, silent auctions, 50/50 raffles, card tournaments, our [annual Suicide Awareness Golf Tournament and Reppin' the ROC Cornhole Tournament](#), and our ongoing [Upstate Bottle Return Fundraiser](#).

*Donations are accepted year round and offer a tax deductible way to support UFBA players. There are various sponsorship packages available with benefits ranging from a company logo on our website and on social media to a free foursome in our annual golf tournament. Please visit [our website](#) to make a financial donation, and [contact the director](#) with questions or to make an in-kind donation for raffles. **We appreciate your support!!!***

**TEAM INFO,
POLICIES &
EXPECTATIONS**

REFUND POLICY

TIMELINE

- Refunds: refunds will be processed on the business day closest to the 15th and 30th of each month.
- Credits: all credits will be processed on the business day closest to the 15th and 30th of each month and will be valid for 24 months (two years) from the date of the original event/program.

REFUND SCENARIOS

- UFBA Teams: With the exception of extenuating circumstances, refunds will only be considered before the first tournament and must be approved by UFBA Leadership. The initial \$250 payment is a non-refundable deposit. Uniform is non-refundable. Registration fees are refundable for a maximum of 80%, pro-rated and based on the amount of the season serviced, less the \$250 non-refundable deposit and uniform fees. Transaction fees will not be refunded.
- Injuries: players can receive a refund for season-ending injuries up to 80%, prorated and based on the amount of the season serviced, less the \$250 non-refundable deposit. Medical documentation is required to receive a refund.

CREDIT SCENARIOS

- Events: event refunds will be issued in the form of full credit for a future event unless the event is canceled due to weather. UFBA will refund or credit families/programs due to weather-related cancellations.

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

UFBA has a No Player Left Behind Policy and will support players in need to the best of our abilities with scholarships awarded on a sliding scale. In exchange, we ask recipients to participate in all fundraisers and to volunteer as explained below.

APPLICATIONS

- Available upon request; contact the director for an application: ufba2005@upstatefranchisebasketball.com. Proof of monthly income must be provided along with a complete application. Please note that scholarships are provided on a first-come, first-serve basis.

REQUIREMENTS

- Both player and parent are required to participate in all fundraisers and volunteer at UFBA events/tournaments (tournament check-in, snack bar, score clock during games, etc.) to help compensate for the assistance provided. Minimum volunteer requirements are as follows: 25% scholarship/15 hours, 50% scholarship/20 hours, 75% scholarship/25 hours, full scholarship/30 hours.
- Pay the \$250 commitment fee to secure your player's spot on a team. Make monthly payments as shown on the UFBA payment plan to pay the remaining basketball

expenses by stated deadline if a full scholarship is not approved. For example, a 25% scholarship for a \$600 registration fee would require a \$250 deposit, and a balance of \$200 would be due by the last payment date shown on the payment schedule. If the commitment fee is an issue, please note this in your application.

PLAYING TIME GUIDELINES

PRINCIPLES

1. **Fairness:** All players deserve an opportunity to contribute to the team's success.
2. **Development:** Player growth and skill improvement are fundamental goals of UFBA.
3. **Team Success:** The team's success is paramount, and playing time is awarded based on both individual abilities and what is best for the team.

GUIDELINES FOR PLAYING TIME

1. **Skill and Effort:** Playing time is influenced by a player's skill level, effort, attitude, and commitment to the team. Coaches will assess these factors to determine a player's playing time.
2. **Practice Attendance:** Regular attendance at practices and commitment to skill development are essential for earning and maintaining playing time. Players who attend practice consistently and show a willingness to improve will be given priority.
3. **Team Dynamics:** Coaches will consider how each player contributes to team dynamics, such as teamwork, sportsmanship, and the ability to positively impact the team's performance.
4. **Opponent and Game Situation:** In some cases, playing time may be adjusted based on the opponent's skill level and the specific game situation. Coaches may allocate more playing time to players who are better suited to the circumstances.
5. **Injuries and Illness:** Players who are injured or ill and unable to participate fully may not receive the minimum playing time during a game. Their playing time will be adjusted as per the discretion of the coach.
6. **Communication:** Coaches will communicate with players and parents regarding playing time expectations and decisions. Parents are encouraged to reach out to the coaching staff for clarification and discussion, but these conversations should be conducted respectfully and constructively.

APPEALS PROCESS

If a player or parent has concerns about playing time decisions, they may request a meeting with the coaching staff to discuss the issue. Such discussions should be carried out respectfully and in a constructive manner. The coaching staff will review the concern and provide feedback and resolution as appropriate. UFBA has a 24 Hour Policy in effect so that all parties are able to calm down and process the situation before meeting.

ELITE EXPERIENCE

UFBA Elite Travel will have an intentional focus on player highlights and coverage to help elevate individual exposure. This will include highlight reels, Player of the Game spotlights, athletic and academic accolades, school season accomplishments, and collegiate offers.

With a deliberate focus on educating, Elite Travel will host in-person and Zoom workshops throughout the season for the college recruiting process. This will target both players and parents on various approaches to be able to succeed while providing adequate support to players. Elite Travel also has a compelling initiative to change the game of basketball by providing a macro perspective on the bigger takeaways that the sport offers, and how those concepts can be maximized to transfer into applicable life skills for players of all ages.

ELITE TRAVEL/REGIONAL EXPECTATIONS

With an elevated level of performance comes an increased expectation of responsibility. It is expected that players are committed to all tournament weekends and practices, except for extenuating circumstances. Players should be ready to have a focused workout with a team-first mentality and a coachable approach. Positivity and effort are non-negotiable factors.

For more information regarding Elite Travel, please email tyson@upsatefranchisebasketball.com.

ELITE TRAVEL/REGIONAL BASKETBALL

GOAL

UFBA Ballers is geared toward preparing and teaching our participants important life values through basketball. We understand that basketball can be a tool that will aid each participant in our core values like faith, family, and fundamentals.

Our goal is to provide a safe space for our participants and focus on building self-confidence, a desirable work ethic, and passion to discover their potential and personal development. We will improve each participant's skill set that he or she can utilize in a team-oriented sport. Our goal is for each participant to meet higher levels in his or her personal development and become better people and leaders on the court and in their communities.

DEDICATION

UFBA Ballers shares the platform along with YBOA (Youth Basketball Organization of America) and Zero Gravity XL which is different from school or recreational ball. The level of competition is often greater, which raises the level of expectations. A participant who is the best player on his school or recreation team may not be the best player on their travel ball team. Participants are expected to be part of a team that will require time and dedication. This, in turn, will be valuable to their team and themselves.

Families that explore grassroots/travel ball, AAU, or YBOA are searching for a good fit. Details such as coaches, tournaments, connections, exposure, and level of competition will play a factor in choosing the right fit.

For participants to improve their personal development, they will need to attend practices and tournaments, along with other team activities. We are looking for a commitment from the start of the season to the end. This will help each participant improve skills and gain confidence, as well as knowledge on how travel ball and AAU operate.

Practices will occur at least twice a week. Practice days will be determined by the team's coach. It will range between 60-120 minutes. Times and days are subject to change based on the coaches' schedule and gym availability. There may be additional days for practices if gym time is available.

We understand that there are a multitude of travel ball and AAU team organizations. We realize families are looking for a good fit for their child and may consider playing with a different organization at the same time. We do not promote players playing with multiple teams. It sends a mixed message to participants who are committed and sacrifice their time. We ask that you effectively communicate your intentions upfront. We provide opportunities for your child to play up with our older teams.

TRYOUTS

We will hold multiple tryout dates for potential UFBA Ballers participants. These tryouts will last 60-90 minutes. During the tryout, participants will be assessed on skills like passing, dribbling, rebounding, shooting, and defense. The tryouts are free and sign-up is available under our registration tab. If we meet our roster capacity, we reserve the right to cancel future tryout dates or add an additional date.

Tryouts will consist of each participant demonstrating individual skills, group drills, and scrimmaging. All participants are assessed with the same criteria and given the same opportunity to make a team. Once the tryouts have concluded, families will be notified if their child was selected for a roster spot.

In the event, after attending a tryout, a participant does not make a roster due to tryout numbers or because a family opts out, they are encouraged and welcome to attend any of our classes, camps, clinics, and leagues, throughout the year. We would like to be part of any participant's journey that walks through our doors.

PRACTICES

UFBA Ballers wants to see its participants succeed. We will offer practices and training sessions at state-of-the-art facilities and High Schools. We will offer multiple practices during the week for our teams. Participants can have peace of mind knowing we have a reliable and dependable location.

It is important that participants attend required practices. This may or may not influence factors like playing time. Practice is crucial in the development of the individual and team. Our coaches need players in attendance to help learn basketball plays, schemes, and strategies. Absence during practice will slow the development of any participant. It is important that families communicate with coaches when they are aware of conflicts that arise and may interfere with attending team activities, practices, and tournaments.

It is critical that participants understand how to manage their time. UFBA Ballers understands school priorities supersede travel ball and YBOA. We ask that you communicate to your team coach when a participant has conflicts and academic obligations like homework, test, projects, and other assignments. In the event of a participant's absence from team

activities, please be aware it may or may not influence their playing time, along with their individual and team development.

Please make it a habit for your child to arrive to practice on time. Coaches value every second as an opportunity for the team to improve. Our coaches will make the most out of their designated practice times to properly prepare each participant for tournament play.

TOURNAMENTS

UFBA Ballers will participate in weekend tournaments hosted by UFBA, as well as other tournaments throughout the season. Coaches evaluate their teams and determine what kind of tournaments they would like to participate in.

A schedule is shared with families once team rosters are made and evaluated. In the event a new team is created due to the uncertainty of roster spots, skills, and experience we will schedule tournaments appropriate for the teams level. We will leave it up to the coach's discretion to select tournaments they feel are best for their team.

Regarding outside tournaments, UFBA Ballers has no control on how outside tournaments facilitate their game rules, schedules, and competition. Some tournaments may request proof of age by a birth certificate. We will utilize National Sports ID. We will have players participating in their age division or older. We will not have a participant playing in tournaments that do not support their age.

- For example, an 11-year-old will not “play down” in a 9 or 10-yr-old tournament that does not meet the cut off date's requirements provided by YBOA. An 11-year-old can “play up” in a 12 or 13-yr-old tournament if they are capable. Participants “playing up” will be at the discretion of the coach and after a conversation with the child's parents.

Tournaments are offered in a variety of one-day, two-day, or three-day events. We do not control how outside tournaments operate. Outside tournaments will determine their own schedule, rules, age groups, and format. Tournaments will share game times and locations as their event approaches. They often will not post their schedules too early in advance in the event of teams dropping out, transportation challenges, or age divisions not having the necessary numbers to fill their pool. There is a chance that a tournament may not have the grade or age level available, so a Triple Threat team can still participate knowing there will be competition against older or younger teams, or they may cancel altogether.

Most tournaments will operate with a similar format. They will offer pool play which will have a round-robin format where each team plays the other team in their pool once. Once all teams have played each other once, the next round will consist of seeding. Some will determine the winners from the round-robin format. Tournaments that offer another playoff do it based on how the teams finished in their pool play. That will determine their seeding for bracket play. At that time, some tournaments will do single or double-game elimination. In a double-elimination tournament, teams that lose twice are eliminated from bracket play. This will vary from tournament to tournament. Teams are often guaranteed a few games before bracket play. For example, teams are guaranteed two to three games. If they play well and seed high, they will get the opportunity to play more games. If they do not play well and finish low or last, their day may be finished. Depending on the tournament format, teams may have as

few as one game to as many as three or more in a day. Be aware that there can be long wait times between games.

All tournaments prefer to stay on schedule. However, with teams canceling at the last minute, games going into overtime, and other unpredictable occurrences, delays may, and typically do, happen. Be prepared for tournaments to go longer than expected. That is often why schedules are not provided until the day before it begins. There are multiple factors that play part in scheduling games such as late entries, withdrawals, and other unplanned instances. Families should attend tournaments with the intent and understanding that the schedule may change.

PLAYING TIME

Playing time is normally the biggest factor for any family. Playing time will depend on numerous factors. UFBA Ballers does not guarantee equal playing time like recreational basketball. UFBA Ballers contest enforces competition at higher levels than recreational basketball. Teams compete for trophies, awards, sponsorships, rankings, and qualifications for more elite tournaments. Coaches will play participants that give their team the best chance to compete, win, and get better.

Participants will earn playing time through their mental attitude, practices, and game performances. Each participant will be challenged in ways he may or may not have experienced before. It is important that they keep a positive mindset as they are pushed and challenged to reach higher levels of their personal development. They will be constantly evaluated, and some things will not come as easily as they did in lower-level leagues or recreation. This in turn will help foster a participant's attitude and how to deal with both good and challenging situations that will arise. Coaches are often in better positions to evaluate and determine appropriate playing time. They often have more criteria to utilize such as workouts, practices, film breakdowns, and games, whereas most parents get an incomplete picture by only attending games.

It is important to understand boundaries regarding playing time. Families should not approach any coach regarding playing time before, during, or after a basketball game. If playing time becomes a concern, please have the participant take the lead and ask questions on how they can improve their playing time. Participants will be introduced to accountability and perseverance when challenges arise. Parents are allowed to attend practices and find out what their child can work on. Parents can utilize UFBA Ballers services, and our staff will assist in developing and improving individual skills and personal development for each child. Coaches will provide feedback to any participant interested in playing time. Parents can request a cordial meeting with their child's coach. It is important that all parties involved communicate upfront what is in the best interest of the participant as well as the team.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Parents play pivotal roles during the journey of any child participating in YBOA and Travel Club basketball. We always expect our parents to set fitting examples for their children. Support is strongly encouraged. Positive words and affirmations, along with constructive critiques, are a great combination for success at home.

Parents should refrain from criticizing other parents, coaches, and players. Do not undermine your child's coach in the car ride home or at the dinner table. Subtle, passive-aggressive comments on coaches' inabilities or lack thereof and playing time will not comfort your child. Instead, it enables them to have a bad attitude and make excuses. As a substitute, please teach your child what they can do in the future to get a different outcome. Use basketball as a vehicle to teach life lessons they will need as they continue to grow.

Coaching your child from the sideline brings conflicts between the coach's instructions and often leaves the participant confused and having to choose sides. Participants will need to receive their instructions from only their coaching staff. Be there to cheer and support, but not coach. The best time to provide insight may be after the game or on the ride home. Parents can shout words of encouragement. Parents should not be coaching their children from the stands by giving instructions and advice.

Coaches are often volunteering their time and experience to teach basketball and life skills. UFBA Ballers does not encourage, nor tolerate, any form of attack on coaches. This will disrupt the team's development. It is completely normal that coaches and parents will not agree on everything. Coaches often are trying to do what is in the best interest of the team, and parents want what is in the best interest of their child. Put your focus on being as supportive and encouraging as possible.

Open communication between coaches and participants will solve most issues and concerns. However, if a parent has an issue or concern to discuss with the coach, please do not approach the coach during a tournament to discuss playing time, strategies, and performances. Coaches are instructed to walk away and avoid controversial concerns. It is important that you follow the necessary steps to avoid conflicts.

1. Have the participant share with their coach any concerns and challenges openly. It is important that participants voice their concerns. This will assist coaches in identifying and taking the necessary steps to seek a solution to any participant's concerns.
2. If, after a participant has voiced their concern, it has not been resolved or identified, the participant's parents can schedule a meeting with the coach. This can be done outside of any game or practice.
3. If a solution to the concern has not been reached, a parent can contact UFBA Ballers Director. A decision by UFBA Ballers will be made. No refunds will be awarded.

Please follow those steps. UFBA Ballers staff will not meet or discuss any issues with a parent if steps "1" and "2" were skipped.

STAFFING

At UFBA Ballers, we utilize coaches with a passion to teach and work with your child. UFBA Ballers has many years of experience in coaching, training, and playing. UFBA Ballers will recruit and utilize coaches that demonstrate passion and align with our goal of utilizing basketball as a tool that will aid each participant in our core values like faith, family, and community.

CODE OF CONDUCT

UFBA Ballers provides a fun, safe, and enjoyable basketball experience. UFBA Ballers will not tolerate, nor participate in, any discrimination based on religion, race, color, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation. All UFBA Ballers staff, participants, coaches, and parents are prohibited from discrimination, using distasteful language or terms deemed to be discriminatory or hurtful. Any UFBA Ballers staff, participant, coach, or parent in violation of this policy will be reviewed accordingly and may be subject to suspension or removal from UFBA Ballers activities with no refund or compensation. Please report any behavior deemed inappropriate from any of our coaches or staff members to the UFBA Ballers Director. All complaints will be investigated in a timely manner, and UFBA Ballers will work persistently to resolve any related issues.

CLOSING

We value your child and appreciate your interest in UFBA Ballers. We hope this journey with us will be a pleasurable and memorable experience that will provide value in your child's personal development. We do not take for granted the trust that you instill in us to be positive influences in your child's personal development. Please let us know if you have any questions.

TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS

Dear Parents and Young Athletes,

As we embark on an exciting season filled with away games and tournaments, we wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of the importance of maintaining exemplary behavior while staying in hotels and participating in away games. Representing our team and community comes with the responsibility of showing respect, discipline, and sportsmanship always. Below are some guidelines to ensure a positive and enjoyable experience for our athletes, parents, and the communities we visit.

At the Hotel:

1. **Respect Hotel Property and Staff:** Treat all hotel furnishings and facilities with care as if they were your own. Be polite and respectful to all hotel staff, acknowledging their efforts to make your stay pleasant.
2. **Noise Levels:** Be mindful of other guests staying at the hotel. Keep noise levels low, especially during the evening and early morning hours. This includes avoiding loud conversations, TV volumes, and any other noise that could disturb others.
3. **Safety First:** Always walk, and don't run, in hallways and public areas to avoid accidents and injuries. Do not play in elevators, stairwells, or hallways. Always be aware of hotel rules regarding pool and gym use and follow them closely for your safety and the safety of others.
4. **Room Sharing:** Respect the privacy and belongings of your roommates. Keep your area tidy and cooperate in maintaining a clean and orderly room. If you are sharing a room, be mindful of the costs - please assist with hotel costs, gas, and food money.
5. **Check-in and Check-out:** Be prompt for check-in and check-out times. Ensure that no hotel property is mistakenly packed with your belongings and that the room is left in good condition.

At Away Games and Tournaments:

1. **Punctuality:** Arrive on time for all games, meetings, and scheduled events. Being late can disrupt team strategies and shows a lack of respect for coaches, teammates, and opponents.
2. **Sportsmanship:** Win with humility, lose with grace. Respect your opponents, coaches, and officials, regardless of the game's outcome. Shake hands post-game and acknowledge good play from both sides.
3. **Team Unity:** Always support your teammates. Encourage each other and stay positive, both on and off the court. Remember, you represent your team, not just yourself.
4. **Follow Team Rules:** Abide by any curfews and team guidelines set by the coaches. These rules are in place to ensure your safety and to keep the team focused on its goals.

5. Representing Our Community: Remember, when you're out of town, you're not just a team; you're ambassadors for UFBA and our community. Your actions and behavior reflect on all of us. Make us proud!

We are confident that by following these guidelines, we will have a successful and enjoyable season. Let's work together to make it a great experience for everyone involved.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The purpose of the educational/tutoring program for UFBA is to provide an opportunity for student-athletes to receive free academic support through tutoring and homework help during the athletic season. UFBA believes that student success begins in the classroom. We want to provide students an opportunity to not only build athletic skills, but an opportunity of obtaining a successful education. Our goal is that student-athletes grow with sports and into a world of opportunities.

REQUIREMENTS

Student-athletes that are struggling to maintain grade level and GPA status must attend tutoring two times a week before attending practice. *All student-athletes are required to provide monthly progress reports or report cards from school to show academic gains or the required GPA of 2.3.* Parents and student-athletes will sign an agreement upon entering the organization that states an understanding of the academic requirement to participate as a UFBA Athlete. In addition, provide an initial GPA score at the time of registration. All student-athletes will be required to attend school more than 90% of the time. Academic probation will occur if student-athletes do not meet GPA requirements. Academic probation means the student will not participate in practices, games, or tournaments unless a plan has been set up between the educational director, parent, and student-athlete.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Students will receive what is needed on a small group or one-on-one basis. The subject focus will be on the core subjects: Reading, Writing, and Math. There will be 30-60 minute sessions provided for those students before basketball practice at least twice a week. Students are required to attend sessions if they are not meeting the GPA requirement. Students may miss one session if a legitimate reason is provided (deemed legitimate by the educational director). If students and parents decide not to attend the program, then they may be deemed ineligible to play in a game or tournament. Students will receive tutoring/homework help from local college students or certified teachers.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There will also be team study halls before or after practice and at the hotel when traveling to tournaments on the weekends. Athletes will read a book and write a book report during the season. In addition to academic support, UFBA will have guest speakers from colleges, high school, army, naval base, etc. and will provide students and parents with literature of the NCAA clearinghouse eligibility.

COMMUNICATING WITHIN UFBA

Playbook will be used for all UFBA communication this season. **Please download the app and sign in using the email address that you registered your player for tryouts with.** Messages will occasionally be sent by text thru Playbook but the majority of information will be communicated thru the app. In the event a practice or event is canceled unexpectedly, your coach or team parent will determine the best way to communicate this. Any questions can be directed to the Athletic Director, Akin Ross, or the Team Parent Coordinator, Sarah Betts.

There is a lot of information out there regarding UFBA, from when to register a player to how UFBA schedules and forms teams. This can lead to a lot of questions. The following is an outline of how best to communicate within UFBA.

GENERAL UFBA QUESTIONS

Most information regarding UFBA can be found on our website. The home page will post important upcoming events and provide links to key areas such as, descriptions to the various programs UFBA offers, practice schedules, helpful information for parents/coaches and policies to name a few. Please explore the website. If you still have a question, there is a contact link on the home page you can use to submit your question. The question will be forwarded to the appropriate person within UFBA.

We will also use Playbook App so that you can communicate through one thread and also see schedule of tournaments, practices etc.

Please Note: if you have a question specific to your child, please include the child's name, grade, team name (if applicable). This will help us in responding to your question.

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

If you have a question regarding registration, please send a note to the director; ufba2005@upstatefranchisebasketball.com.

If the registration question is regarding the registration status of your child, please include your child's name and DOB.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Any concerns/issues a parent may have should follow this process...

Regarding the Coach and Team:

If the question/issue/concern is regarding the team or coach, the parent and/or player should first approach their coach requesting to set up a time to talk to them. Do not send an email. A conversation typically provides more clarity than an email. This should be done in a calm non-confrontational manner. This will be a much easier path to a resolution. This meeting should also be done at a time and location that is beneficial for both the parent and the coach.

Usually, after a practice may work best. We do recommend parents, players, and coaches follow the "24-hour rule" (time to cool off a bit), before you bring an issue/concern up to a coach. Approaching a coach immediately after a game or right before practice is not recommended. As there will be insufficient time to discuss and emotions may not be at the point for constructive discussions.

If the issue/concern cannot be resolved, then document the incident/issue/concern and submit it to the UFBA Commissioner or Athletic Director. UFBA coordinators are UFBA board members to support teams. The coordinators connect to every one of our teams and can act as moderators for parents and coaches. The coordinators can be found on the UFBA website.

The coordinator will investigate and document their findings. They will then offer a solution and meet to discuss with all parties, involved depending on the situation. If there is still no solution, the liaison will bring the issue to the UFBA Board for a final resolution.

Issues/Concerns with a UFBA Program/Practice/Policy:

Document your concern and submit it via the contact link on the home page. The concern will be forwarded to the UFBA CEO and Executive Director. Please do not submit an issue to all board members without contacting leadership first.

Please note anonymous or verbal complaints to the UFBA will not be addressed.

SOCIAL MEDIA USE

If your team will use social media to post information please follow these guidelines:

- Do not post player pictures on social media without parental permission.
- Pictures of players should be of multiple players, not individual players.
- Do not provide the names of the players in the picture.
- Do not use social media to discourage, humiliate, insult, or any other negative comments toward any player, parent, or coach on your team or another team.
- Avoid having negative or argumentative discussions with parents, players, and other coaches.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Team Parent(s)

We are looking for a minimum of one team parent per team to help with the following:

General Support

- First aid kit - bring to every game and practice
- Make sure all kids have water
- Be knowledgeable of Playbook to aid in team communication
- Communicating cancellations or changes in practice times/sites through Playbook or by phone if the cancellation is close to the start time
- Communicating tournament details to players and families including any changes
- Recruiting volunteers to take videos and photos of your team at tournaments/events
- Help coordinate rides for players, as needed
- Help coaches and Team Parent Coordinator as needed

Away Tournaments

- Schedule team meals and/ or team activity
- Sign out and distribute uniforms at the start of each tournament weekend
- Sign in and collect uniforms at the end of each tournament
- Wash uniforms between tournaments - machine or hand wash jerseys and uniforms in warm or cold water and hang them dry. Machine drying causes delamination of the printing. UFBA will not replace uniforms that are damaged due to machine drying and a replacement cost will be charged for damaged uniforms.
- Be an additional point of contact for the parents

Scorekeepers

We will need someone to do the scorebooks for each game.

Tournament Volunteers

We are hosting five UFBA-hosted tournaments this season and will need volunteers to help with admissions, concessions, selling merchandise, and selling 50/50 raffle tickets. Volunteers are asked to sign up here:

[Spring King/Queen of The ROC Shootout](#)

[JJ/JP Memorial King/Queen of The ROC Shootout](#)

[Mothers' Day Classic Shootout](#)

[Fathers' Day Hoopfest](#)

[Summer King/Queen of The ROC Shootout](#)

Once again, we are excited to welcome you to (or back to) the UFBA family, and appreciate you trusting your athlete with us. We look forward to an incredible season, and a lifelong relationship!