



UFBA PARENT AND PLAYER HANDBOOK



2005-2026

Celebrating 20+ years of UFBA Family and Legacy

WELCOME TO THE 2026 UFBA BALLERS!

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

Name	Phone Number	Email	Role
Erin Ashbaugh	585-362-2126	eashbaugh@upstatefranchisebasketball.com	Executive Director
Collier Drayton	585-435-9609	collierdrayton@gmail.com	Athletic Commissioner
JJ Strother	585-540-6663	jjstrother3@gmail.com	Athletic Director, 16U Girls Coach
Da'Shawn Blocker	585-360-6142	dashawn.blocker13@gmail.com	Coaching Director, 16U Boys Coach
Jamel Young	585-434-9916	jamel@goodlifeweed.com	Director of Development, 16U Boys Coach
Will (Kobe) Turner	718-970-0648	williamturner2126@yahoo.com	16U Girls Coach
James Floyd	585-284-8960	karahj3@gmail.com	16U Girls Coach

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES



FRANCHISE BALLERS
2026 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
YBOA NY CIRCUIT
16U BOYS TEAM

**25TH ANNUAL BUFFALO STORM
INVITATIONAL**

March 28-29
Buffalo, NY

**YBOA NY 21ST ANNUAL RAP SHOWDOWN
IN B-TOWN**

April 11-12
Rochester, NY

**YBOA NY UFBA JJ/JP MEMORIAL
KING/QUEEN OF THE ROC**

April 18-19
Rochester, NY

**YBOA NY 26TH ANNUAL RAP ROCHESTER
RUMBLE**

April 25-26
Rochester, NY

BUFFALO TITANS SHOWCASE

May 2-3
Buffalo, NY

YBOA NY UFBA MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC

May 9
Rochester, NY

YBOA CT MEMORIAL DAY CLASSIC

May 23-24
Hartford, CT

YBOA NY UFBA NY MAY MADNESS

May 30-31
Rochester, NY

YBOA NY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 6-7
Rochester, NY

**YBOA NY UFBA NY FATHER'S DAY
HOOPFEST**

June 13
Rochester, NY



**FRANCHISE LADY BALLERS
2026 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

**YBOA NY CIRCUIT
16U GIRLS TEAM**

**YBOA NY 21ST ANNUAL RAP SHOWDOWN
IN B-TOWN**

April 11-12
Rochester, NY

**YBOA NY UFBA JJ/JP MEMORIAL
KING/QUEEN OF THE ROC**

April 18-19
Rochester, NY

**YBOA NY 26TH ANNUAL RAP ROCHESTER
RUMBLE**

April 25-26
Rochester, NY

BUFFALO TITANS SHOWCASE

May 2-3
Buffalo, NY

YBOA NY UFBA MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC

May 9
Rochester, NY

WNY SHOCK HOOPS CLASH

May 16-17
Victor, NY

YBOA NY UFBA NY MAY MADNESS

May 30-31
Rochester, NY

YBOA NY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 6-7
Rochester, NY

**YBOA NY UFBA NY FATHER'S DAY
HOOPFEST**

June 13
Rochester, NY

FINANCIALS:

**COST, PAYMENT PLANS, FUNDRAISERS, SCHOLARSHIPS,
AND REFUND POLICY**



UFBA BALLERS SPRING 2026

Mid-March-Mid-June

REGISTRATION FEES

GRADES 2-3 DEVELOPMENTAL TEAM \$150

GRADES 4-10 LOCAL DEVELOPMENTAL TEAM \$500

GRADES 4-10 TRAVEL TEAM \$600

GRADES 7-12 COURT OF LEADERS \$450



INCLUDED

3 Hours of Weekly Team Practice

1.5 Hours of Mental Health & Basketball Skills Training with 4D Academy

Weekly Life Skills Enrichment & Vocational Training with Community Partners

Weekly Academic Support with Volunteer Tutors

Weekly Open Gym or Scrimmage

Background-Checked, Compensated, Dedicated Coaches

Training Equipment

Uniform, Shooting Shirt & Bag (uniform to be returned at the end of the season)

6-10 Tournaments with 2-4 games each

Additional costs may include tournament admission, travel, lodging, transportation, and food. YBOA National Championship Tournaments will require additional fundraising if teams place.

Non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due at the time of registration, with the registration balance due by April 10th. Payment plans are available. Limited scholarships are available based on demonstrated need.

NO PLAYER LEFT BEHIND.

Questions? Please email ufbaballers@gmail.com.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay in full or with the payment plans below:

LOCAL TEAM \$500

\$150 Deposit due with registration
1st installment of \$175 due on **March 27th**
2nd installment of \$175 due on **April 10th**

TRAVEL TEAM \$600

\$150 Deposit due with registration
1st installment of \$225 due on **March 27th**
2nd installment of \$225 due on **April 10th**

Please note: A late fee of \$25 will be assessed for missed payments. Contact Erin with any questions.

FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENT

Fundraising is part of UFBA's community-centered model. It supports facility use, coaches support, training partnerships, operational expenses, and scholarships — ensuring no player is left behind and a comprehensive developmental experience for our youth.

All players and program participants — including scholarship recipients and coaches players — **must participate in fundraising in some form.**

At the time of registration, or by April 1, families may elect a Fundraising Buyout Option by paying the applicable fundraising amount in full.

If the buyout option is not selected, families may complete the fundraising requirement, paying any remaining balance on May 1. A variety of fundraising options will be provided for families to choose from. Participation in fundraising is considered part of the overall program commitment and participation agreement.

Parents will keep track of all fundraising and submit one complete record - along with payment - by May 1 to the director. **A record keeping sheet can be found [here](#).** Please download a copy of this and track all sales and sponsorships received. It is the responsibility of the player/family to collect and submit all sponsorships before May 1, unless a donation is made online (still note these). All online sales should be noted, although the company will handle payments to UFBA. *Thank you for your help with this!*

If fundraising requirements are not met, funds will be automatically withdrawn from the account on file on May 1 as the final payment toward the fundraising obligation unless otherwise approved in writing and players will be suspended until this is complete.

All funds raised — unless explicitly stated otherwise — will support UFBA Ballers teams and/or organizational costs in general, not specific to one individual team, as determined by UFBA leadership. Additional, team-specific fundraisers may be offered.

Fundraising requirement: \$250. Prizes for the top three fundraising players will be awarded.

FUNDRAISING OPTIONS

- Community BBQ
 - Good Life Collective has generously donated catering for this event - players and the organization will sell entry tickets for \$15 each. Players will get credit for each ticket they sell.
- Foul-a-Thon and Pop-a-shot Shooting Challenges
 - Players are sponsored for baskets made during shooting contests.
- Product sales
 - Players sell products such as flower bulbs, candles, gourmet food items, and discount cards, and receive credit for the profit from each campaign. These will be set up by April 1. There will be opportunities at UFBA-hosted tournaments for players to sell these products.
- Direct Donations after 4/10 (see below)
 - Players can be sponsored directly by donating [online](#) or using the sponsor form found [here](#) (print and bring to local businesses).
- Bake Sale
 - Local baker has offered to donate baked goods - players will sell outside local business, all proceeds will be split equally between the teams.

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](#), [March Madness](#), 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 an easy 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 free foursomes 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!!!***

FUNDRAISING OPTIONS TO HELP OFFSET REGISTRATION FEES

The options below will be credited directly to the player's registration fees.

- [Upstate Bottle Return Fundraiser](#)
 - o Until 4/10, players can collect bottles and cans from family, neighbors, etc. and bring them to any Upstate Bottle Return Center, listed [here](#). After that date, funds will go toward the organization.
 - Skip the line! Simply let an employee know that you want to donate your returns to UFBA - they will count and credit UFBA for you.
 - If you prefer to process the returns, bring your receipt to the counter and let an employee know you want your return donated to UFBA.
 - Send a photo of your return receipt to ufballers@gmail.com (include your player's name)
- Direct Donations until 4/10
 - o Players can be sponsored directly by donating [online](#) or using the sponsor form found [here](#) (print and bring to local businesses).

SCHOLARSHIPS

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 require recipients to exemplify strong leadership qualities, complete the season, and volunteer as explained below.

APPLICATIONS

- Available upon request; contact the director for an application: ufballers@gmail.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 and are not guaranteed.

REQUIREMENTS

- The player and parent(s)/guardian(s) are expected to exemplify leadership qualities such as responsibility, accountability, punctuality, and encouragement, show commitment to the team, and have a willingness to learn and grow. Disrespect, poor attitudes and behaviors, disregard for coaching suggestions, and tardiness on a regular basis will not be tolerated and go against the UFBA Four Pillars of Development. With limited funding, it is critical that players - and parents - are committed to the season and show this commitment through their actions. This will be a factor in determining scholarship recipients.
- The player and parent(s)/guardian(s) agree to complete the season, abiding by all attendance requirements. No more than three (3) unexcused absences will be allowed (illness, academic load, and family emergencies will be excused with communication in advance). If more than three (3) unexcused absences occur, or if a player does not complete the season, the parent will be held accountable for repaying the received scholarship.

- Both the player and parent(s)/guardian(s) agree to support UFBA through volunteer service and fundraising participation in exchange for the financial assistance provided. UFBA hosts five (5) tournaments throughout the season in addition to fundraising events. Volunteer duties may include tournament check-in, admissions, snack bar operations, score clock, security, or other event support roles.
 - All volunteer requirements must be completed by June 1 or the parent will be held accountable for repaying the received scholarship.
 - Volunteer requirements are based on the level of scholarship awarded. One volunteer shift is approximately three (3) hours.
 - 25% scholarship – 3 shifts
 - 50% scholarship – 5 shifts
 - 75% scholarship – 8 shifts
 - Full scholarship – 10 shifts

REFUND POLICY

- Up to 10 days prior to program start: Full refund minus the non-refundable deposit and all processing fees.
- Within 10 days of program start: No refund. Registration may be transferred or credited within one year (less deposit and fees).
- After program start: No refunds will be granted after the program begins. In documented extenuating circumstances, a partial refund of up to 50% (less deposit and fees) may be granted at the sole discretion of the Executive Director, in consultation with program leadership.
- Season-ending injury: Up to 80% prorated refund based on the portion of the season completed, less deposit and fees. Medical documentation required.
- If a team cannot be formed due to insufficient enrollment (fewer than eight registered players), a full refund including deposit will be issued within seven to ten business days.

**TEAM INFO,
POLICIES &
EXPECTATIONS**

PLAYING TIME GUIDELINES

Playing time will depend on numerous factors. UFBA Ballers does not guarantee equal playing time like recreational basketball. UFBA Ballers enforces competition at higher levels than recreational basketball for our travel teams, however our development teams may have equal playing time, at the discretion of the coaches and based on multiple factors as described below.

Teams compete for trophies, awards, sponsorships, rankings, and qualifications for more elite tournaments. Travel 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 easy 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 in better positions than parents to evaluate and determine appropriate playing time. They have more criteria to utilize such as workouts, practices, film breakdown, 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 and can utilize UFBA Ballers services. 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.

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 in a respectful and constructive manner.

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.*

TEAM EXPERIENCE

UFBA exists to create opportunities for youth by focusing on **holistic development**, not just athletic performance.

Through mentorship, structured programming, and community partnerships, we help youth develop:

- Confidence and resilience
- Leadership and teamwork
- Mental and physical wellness
- Life and career skills
- A strong sense of community responsibility

Our goal is simple: **prepare youth not just for the next game, but for the game of life.**

UFBA has a compelling initiative to change the game by providing a macro perspective on the bigger takeaways that sports offer, and how those concepts can be maximized to transfer into applicable life skills for players of all ages.

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

TEAM 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 teams please email ufbaballers@gmail.com.

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), 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.

Practices will occur at least twice a week. Practice days will be determined by the team's coach. It will range between 60-90 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 basketball 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.

EVALUATIONS

All players will be offered a place on a team. We will hold an evaluation for grades 7-10 to ensure players are placed on the team based on their experience and skill level. These will last 60-90 minutes. During the evaluation, participants will be assessed on skills like passing, dribbling, rebounding, shooting, and defense. The cost is \$5 and sign-up is available under our registration tab. If we meet our roster capacity, we reserve the right to 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 evaluations have concluded, families will be notified which roster their child is selected for.

PRACTICES

UFBA Ballers wants to see its participants succeed. We will offer practices and training sessions at state-of-the-art facilities, schools, and churches. 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 and are punctual. This will influence 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 practices 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's 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's 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 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.

If a player must miss a practice due to illness, academic obligations, or other unavoidable circumstances, parents or guardians should notify the coach as soon as possible and, whenever reasonably feasible, no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of practice.

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 finalized. 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 work with the coaches to select tournaments they feel are best for their team.

Attendance at tournaments and scheduled games is required. Because tournament participation relies on the availability of the full roster, players are expected to be present for all scheduled competitions. One (1) excused absence from tournament participation may be permitted with advance notice. Additional absences may result in suspension or removal from the team without refund.

Parents and guardians are responsible for communicating any known scheduling conflicts with coaches as early as possible so that appropriate roster and participation planning can occur. Playing time, tournament participation, and roster decisions are determined solely at the discretion of the coaching staff and UFBA leadership. Absences from practices, team activities, or competitions may impact playing time or game participation.

Parents/guardians are solely responsible for all travel arrangements, including transportation, lodging, supervision, and associated costs.

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 all together.

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 a 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.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Parents play pivotal roles during the journey of any child participating in athletics. 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 child 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 partner with coaches who have 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 coaches that demonstrate passion and align with our goal of utilizing basketball as a tool and that will aid each participant in growth with values like faith, family, and community through our Four Pillars of Development: ATHLETICS, WELLNESS, LEADERSHIP, and ENRICHMENT.

CODE OF CONDUCT

UFBA Ballers provides a fun, safe, and enjoyable experience for *all*. **We are a community of LEADERS on every level:** players and program participants, parents, coaches, the leadership team, and volunteers. In turn, *we hold our family to a high standard and expect that we will all lead by example no matter what it is that we are doing, on and off the court and field.* Participation in UFBA is a privilege and we treat it as such. Therefore, we have a "No Tolerance Policy" when it comes to the following prohibited behaviors:

- Use or possession of illegal drugs
- Consumption of alcohol during practices, games, and tournaments
- Profanity directed at players, officials, coaches, volunteers, or families
- Aggressive, abusive, or threatening behavior directed at players, officials, coaches, volunteers, or families
- Harassment or intimidation directed at players, officials, coaches, volunteers, or families
- Conduct undermining leadership and character development
- Social media activity damaging to the Organization's reputation

Violations may result in immediate removal, suspension, or permanent dismissal without refund. The Organization's disciplinary decisions shall be made in good faith and in furtherance of player safety and program integrity.

Please report any behavior deemed inappropriate from any of our coaches or staff members to 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 a 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

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 at all times. Below are some guidelines to ensure a positive and enjoyable experience for our athletes, parents, and communities we visit.

When staying at a 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 10 minutes before start 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 during the athletic season. UFBA believes student-athlete success begins in the classroom with support at home therefore both grades and attendance are important to our program.

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

All student-athletes will be required to attend school more than 90% of the time with a minimum GPA of 2.3.

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 with a GPA below a 2.75 are required to provide monthly progress reports or report cards from school to show academic gains or maintenance of 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, they will provide an initial GPA score at the time of registration.

Academic probation will occur if student-athletes do not meet attendance and GPA requirements. Academic probation means the student will not participate in practices, games, or tournaments unless a plan has been set up between the director, coach, 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 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 director). If students and parents decide not to attend tutoring, then they may be deemed ineligible to play in a game or tournament. Students will receive tutoring/homework help from volunteers that include local high school and college students with a GPA of 3.5+, parent volunteers, or certified teachers.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

Text messages and email are the primary source of communication within UFBA. In the event a practice or event is canceled unexpectedly, your coach will communicate this ASAP thru text. Any questions can be directed to the Athletic Commissioner, Collier Drayton, or your coach.

There is a lot of information regarding UFBA and we know 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, please email ufbaballers@gmail.com.

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 it works 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 who 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 email. The concern will be forwarded to the UFBA 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 (*see our code of conduct*).
- 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
- Assist coaches with team communication: cancellations/changes in practice times/sites and tournament details
- 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 as directed by coach
- Be an additional point of contact for the parents

Scorekeepers

We will need someone to do the scorebooks for each game at UFBA-hosted tournaments.

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. Sign-up sheets will be sent beforehand.

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!