

Hawks Travel Basketball Operational Guide

Mission Statement

The Hawks Travel Basketball Program will promote the sport of competitive basketball in the Town of Hermon by providing opportunities for boys and girls from 3rd – 8th grade to play at a higher, more competitive level than offered within the traditional Rec Basketball program. These opportunities will help develop the physical, mental, emotional, and social needs of our boys and girls by participating in the sport of basketball. Our primary focus is to give each player the opportunity to improve his/her skill, development, and knowledge to better prepare them for high school basketball, while also enjoying the competitive spirit of the game.

About the Program

The travel basketball program provides students in grades 3 – 8 an opportunity to participate in a basketball program that has a higher level of skill and competition. The program is open to any student who resides in or attends a school within the Town of Hermon, Carmel, or Levant grades 3 – 8 during the travel basketball season. The program's efforts focus on the development of players for a successful high school program. Based on this objective, we support and work directly with the Hermon High School Basketball Program and its coaches. More emphasis is put on winning in a more competitive atmosphere in the travel program versus any of our other regular programs. Although all players will be given the opportunity to play, equal participation during games will not always be guaranteed. We will follow the playing time guidelines provided by the Eastern Maine Basketball League. All players will contribute to the team's performance and will be treated with respect.

Tryouts/Team Selection

Team tryouts occur each year in September/October. The Recreation Department will advertise tryouts for the several different travel teams it will offer. Players will need to tryout each year; The previous year's play does not automatically qualify you for the current year's team. A standardized system is used to select teams. Players are observed by a team of evaluators and placed on teams depending on their skill level, combined with position considerations. Not every player who tries out for a team will be selected to participate. We will fill teams with 10 players at each combined grade level of 3/4, 5/6, & 7/8 girl's and boy's teams. There will typically be two teams at each level (A & B team) depending on participation numbers. Additional teams may be formed if the following conditions exist: an approved coach is found, practice time is available and the team can be competitive.

Situations of players moving up a grade will be evaluated and determined at the discretion of the Travel Basketball Committee (TBC). The selection process is strictly confidential.

Expectations of Players

All players are expected to attend all practices and games. If, for some reason, a player is going to be late or miss a practice, players should let their coach know with as much advanced notice as possible.

We expect the following out of players:

- Be a great student. All players need to use their time wisely, making sure all school work is complete and turned in on time.
- Be on time. This means being on the floor and ready to start at the designated time for both practices and games.
- Provide coaches with your full attention and respect.
- Treat others with dignity and respect on and off the court.
- A player must always respect the referees and their decisions. It is the coach's role to talk with the referee. A player may never make a negative comment towards a referee.
- Basketball is a long season with many highs and lows. We expect each player to work at being positive and to embrace a positive team culture. If you feel down or confused about your role on the team, let your coach know and he/she will talk to you on an individual basis. Communication is extremely important in fixing any issues there may be.
- Help with potential fundraising.

Expectations of Parents

- Support the players and coaches.
- Respect the referees.
- Represent the Town of Hermon in a positive manner at each league and tournament game.
- NO PROFANITY! The use of profanity will result in ejection from the gym.
- Sign the insurance and participation waiver for your child. Players will not participate if the parent or guardian has not signed the designated forms prior to the beginning of the season.
- Sign the Parent/Player Code of Conduct and abide by those guidelines.
- Pay the annual participation fee for each child participating in the travel program. If a parent has financial difficulty paying the annual participation fee, the parent is encouraged

to confidentially contact the Recreation AD who can set up the fees to be paid in installments or offer a discount. All fees are due prior to the start of practices.

- Parents will bring to the coach's attention any condition or issues that may impact the player's ability during the season.

- Familiarize yourself with the rules and expectations of the EMBBL:

Can be found @ www.embbl.org

Coaches

Quality of basketball coaching is one of the most critical components of a successful basketball program. Head coaches must be able to work with youth players and have an appropriate level of knowledge and expertise for the age and ability level of the team they are coaching. Demonstrated past experience in coaching and playing will be strongly considered. The TBC will assign one head coach to each team. The head coach will select an assistant coach based on approval. Coaches selected the previous year do not automatically qualify to coach the current year. Coaches must re-apply and will be evaluated every year along with any new candidates. All coaches must submit and pass a background check provided by the Town of Hermon.

Leadership Expectations

- Provide a positive learning experience, not necessarily a winning experience.
- Be a positive and mature role model for the players.
- Give ALL players the opportunity to improve.
- Exhibit diligence, enthusiasm, honesty, and a love for the game.
- Practice and teach sportsmanship and ensure that player and fan behavior is sportsmanlike at all times.

Rapport

- Represent Hermon in a positive manner in the basketball community
- Respect the players, parents, referees, and opponents
- Maintain open and timely communication with players, parents, and the TBC.
- Follow all EMBBL rules.

Organization

- Take care of the equipment provided for your team.
- Conduct a parent meeting at the beginning of the season.

- Have open communication with parents. Parent emails will be shared with you at the start of the season.

Coaching Techniques

- Run challenging, well-organized practice sessions.
- *Become current with techniques and strategies recommended by Hermon High School coaching staff.*
- Attend any mandatory coaches' meetings/clinics.

Selecting Coaches

The Travel Basketball Committee will select all coaches for its programs. Coaches will apply by application or express an interest during online registration that they desire to be involved. Coaches must be willing to adhere to the best practice principles as communicated by the policy and the *Hermon Recreation Basketball Coaching Guidelines*. Coaches must sign the *Coaches Code of Conduct* before contact with any team members can occur.

Coaches will submit to a full background check facilitated by the Town of Hermon.

Grievance Procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to resolve disputes between players and coaches and/or parents and coaches. It is a systematic procedure to try to come to an equitable resolution for problems.

The following steps, in order, shall be followed:

1. A player and/or parent shall respectfully contact their coach verbally or in writing with the complaint... Be as specific and objective as possible about the issue(s). *NEVER speak to a coach directly after a game.*
2. The coach will respectfully have a timely response to the parent/player with his or her answer. A copy of the complaint and response shall be forwarded to the Recreation AD.
3. If the player/parent is not satisfied with the coach's response, they may contact the Recreation AD.

The Coach must always be the first contact in any problem except if there is physical abuse of a player. When physical abuse is involved, the Recreation AD should be notified immediately.

Extended Season Tournaments

Hermon Recreation does not offer extended season tournament team opportunities as a program. Coaches must communicate with the Recreation AD if they have an interest in participating in these tournaments. Teams must also come up with their own funds if they wish to compete in these tournaments. Gym time for practices will still be provided by the Recreation Department if the facility allows.

Logistical Support

Hermon Recreation will handle all financial responsibilities for recreational and travel basketball after collecting money from the families involved. The Recreation Department supports travel teams with organization, tournament information, and supporting documents/waivers that parents sign before participation. The Rec Department supplies uniforms, basketballs, equipment, and schedules gym time for all teams in good standing.

The Travel Basketball Committee

The TBC is responsible for establishing the direction, policy, structure, and management of the Hawks Travel Basketball program. At the least, the TBC shall be comprised of the Recreation AD, the Basketball Coordinator, the Hermon boys & girls varsity basketball coaches, and a member of the officials committee. They may add any members they feel necessary. The Recreation AD is in charge of the program and makes final decisions with the Hawks Travel Basketball Program and the children's best interests in mind.

Responsibilities:

- Establish policy for the Hermon Travel Basketball Program
- Manage all financial aspects of the program
- Establish expectations for the coaches and hold the coaches responsible for meeting these expectations.
- Secure tournament play for each of the teams
- Provide equipment and uniforms required for practice and games
- Organize the tournaments each year
- Support the players, coaches, parents, and Hermon High School program

Any of the rules and regulations in this entire document may be changed at any time via the TBS or EMBBL's decision.

*For questions/concerns/comments Regarding the Hawks Travel Basketball Program, please contact
Isaiah Marseille - 848-4075 or marseillei@hermonmaine.gov*