

# YEDA Travel Basketball Team Handbook

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# **1. Welcome to YEDA's Travel Team**

## **The YEDA Experience**

Welcome to YEDA's Travel Basketball Team! We are thrilled to have your family join us for a year of excitement, growth, and competition. Our program is designed to create opportunities for young athletes to thrive both on and off the court. At YEDA, we focus on developing basketball skills, promoting teamwork, and fostering character development through mentorship and positive role modeling. The lessons learned here will last a lifetime, shaping not just great athletes but great individuals.

Our travel basketball team brings players from different communities together to compete in tournaments beyond their immediate area. These teams face off against regional opponents matched by grade and skill level, challenging players to excel. The season includes rigorous training sessions, practices, and team-building activities during road trips, all aimed at strengthening basketball skills and fostering unity among teammates.

## **A Lifelong Opportunity**

Being part of a travel team is more than just competing on the court. It's about creating lasting memories, building friendships, and expanding horizons. Your child will have the chance to connect with teammates, learn valuable life lessons from coaches, and explore new places beyond their everyday surroundings. This experience builds character, promotes resilience, and gives young athletes an unforgettable opportunity to grow into their best selves.

## **The Commitment**

Participation in YEDA's Travel Team is a significant commitment for both players and their families. Travel basketball demands resources, time, and energy. Many tournaments require out-of-state trips, involving hotel stays, meals, and travel expenses. It's essential to thoroughly review this handbook to ensure that you and your family are ready to make this commitment.

Schedules can and often do change. While we do our best to communicate updates as early as possible, there are times when changes are announced with short notice. We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and understanding in these situations. If you are ready to embark on this exciting and rewarding journey, let's dig in and make this season one to remember!

For questions, please contact us at [contact@youtheducationdevelopment.com](mailto:contact@youtheducationdevelopment.com), or subscribe to be notified of our upcoming programs.

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## 2. Expectations from Parents

As a parent of a YEDA athlete, your involvement is vital to the success of your child and the team. We encourage you to be just as committed to the program as the coaches are to your child. Your role includes serving as an example of integrity, dedication, and teamwork.

### Parent Responsibilities:

**Timely Transportation:** Ensure your child arrives promptly to practices and games.

**Uniform Care:** Maintain uniforms in excellent condition and return them at the season's end.

**Coach Collaboration:** Work with coaches to achieve shared goals for your child's development.

**Open Communication:** Utilize the open-door policy with coaches for addressing concerns.

**Support Academic Success:** Encourage your child to take advantage of tutoring opportunities offered.

**Fulfill Financial Commitments:** Pay program fees as required. If financial barriers arise, contact us for assistance.

**Engage in Team Activities:** Attend team-building events and interact with other parents to foster community.

**Volunteer:** Assist with scorekeeping, fundraising, or other team needs when requested.

**Model Positive Behavior:** Act with respect, honor, and character, setting a standard for youth.

**Supervision at Away Games:** Monitor your child's behavior at hotels and events, ensuring compliance with rules.

By working together as parents, coaches, and organizers, we can demonstrate to our youth that their growth and success matter to all of us.

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### 3. Player Expectations and Code of Conduct

#### Commitment and Opportunities

- YEDA athletes will once again be required to maintain a certain academic standard (no failing grades) and for those who do not meet requirements, tutoring will be offered. Students will be suspended from playing until they cure the grade.
- YEDA athletes will be required to attend a health and wellness workshop.
- Technology career workshops will be offered to our athletes and the local high school and middle schools to give those students information about the various career options in the field.
- We will conduct a college tour this summer for 30 of our student athletes.
- Each athlete will be required to perform four community service hours when they become a member of the program.
- **Student Athletes will have opportunities to participate in one of our leadership programs:**
  - Basketball Training Assistant (paid position)
  - Development league referee (paid position)
  - Development League Coach (volunteer)
  - Big Brother/Big Sister Peer to Peer Mentor (volunteer)

#### Limiting Distractions

- Players are expected to minimize distractions and maintain focus during:
  - Practices
  - Team Meetings
  - Games

#### Respect and Teamwork

- Support for teammates is essential. Every player, regardless of talent level, must show respect for their fellow team members.

- Disrespectful behavior toward teammates, coaches, or officials will lead to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the team.

### **Accountability and Goal Setting**

- Coaches and players share accountability for player development. Goals will be set at the beginning of the season, with regular progress discussions and end-of-season evaluations.

### **Attendance and Gear**

- Practices begin and end on time unless otherwise communicated by the coach.
- Players must have their practice jersey for practice and a full uniform for games. Replacement gear will be at the parent's expense to instill responsibility in players.

### **Effort and Participation**

- Players unable to attend due to illness or injury are excused but must communicate promptly. Those present at practice are expected to give 100% effort.

### **Academic and Personal Conduct**

- Players must maintain passing grades. Failing grades at any point make the player ineligible until improvement is demonstrated.
- Repeated personal or academic issues may result in suspension or dismissal. Families in need of support are encouraged to reach out to YEDA for resources.

### **Behavior Expectations**

- **Players must:**
  - Refrain from disrespecting coaches, teammates, opposing players, and referees.
  - Avoid drug use; any evidence of such will lead to immediate dismissal.
  - Demonstrate sportsmanship by avoiding arguments with referees and exhibiting good character.
  - Understand that playing time is earned, not guaranteed.

### **Game Day Standards**

- Players must arrive at games a minimum of 45 minutes early to allow proper preparation.
- Failure to participate in warm-ups will result in sitting out the first half of the game.

- Uniformity is critical: appropriate-colored undershirts must be worn, and players should present a polished, professional team appearance.
- Cell phones are not allowed on the bench, and only active team members may occupy the bench.

### **Coachability and Parental Support**

- Players must remain coachable, accepting both praise and constructive feedback.
- Parents are asked to allow coaches to direct the game without external input. Coaches welcome feedback but request it be shared at an appropriate time.

### **Travel Conduct**

- Parents, guardians, or chaperones are responsible for supervising players during travel, getting players to bed at a reasonable time, encouraging healthy meal choices, and supporting them in being their best selves for the game.
  - Team members must uphold proper decorum in hotels and restaurants to avoid issues with management.
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## **4. Example Season Schedule**

### **Schedule Subject to Change – Must Be Flexible & Patient with Us**

A typical YEDA Travel Basketball season includes multiple competitive tournaments across the Midwest, complemented by local games and a highlight trip to a major national event. Specific dates and locations vary each year and are announced prior to the season.

- **January/February:** Proposed schedule announced, tryouts registration released, tryouts held.
- **February/March:** Team announcements made. Mandatory Parent's Meeting held. Practices begin.
- **March-July:** Tournaments locally in towns like Romeoville, Pleasant Prairie and Aurora; regionally across Midwest cities like Cedar Rapids, IA, Indianapolis, IN, and Brighton, MI; and a single tournament nationally at a destination like Orlando, FL or Las Vegas, NV. (Locations are for example only and change every season.)

Specific dates and locations will be finalized closer to the beginning of the season, and provided via email once team assignments are made.

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## 5. Fundraising Information via GiveLively

Fundraising is a valuable opportunity for parents to recoup some of the expenses incurred throughout the travel ball season, such as program fees and travel costs. Fundraising also ensures we can keep our program fees economical for parents while covering the essential costs of operating a travel ball team. Every dollar counts toward maintaining affordability for our players.

- **Support for Parents:** 80% of all funds raised by each player will be reimbursed to parents at the end of the season for costs incurred during the travel ball season, such as lodging and program fees.
- **Support for YEDA:** 20% of all funds raised will go directly to YEDA to help cover the essential costs of operating a travel ball team, keeping program fees affordable.
- **Fundraising Goal:** The suggested goal per player is \$1,000, but there is no limit—raising more means a higher reimbursement at the end of the season.
- **Reimbursements:** Fundraising ends July 15. Reimbursement checks will be issued on Aug 1, with deductions for unpaid fees, unreturned uniforms, and GiveLively platform costs.

**Important Note:** Parents are still responsible for paying all program fees when due and upfront travel costs during the season.

### How to Set Up Your Fundraiser

- **Create Your Page:** Click the link to the main YEDA fundraiser found on the travel team registration page. Click "Set Up a Fundraiser" below the image to create a page for your child. You will create a login and profile for your child.
- **Share the Link:** Share your fundraiser via email, social media, and word of mouth.
- **Encourage Donations:** Stay active by updating supporters and thanking donors.

### Special Incentive

If 50% of players meet their \$1,000 goal, YEDA will host a **free end-of-season party** as a thank-you for your efforts! Your participation helps us provide an affordable, rewarding

program for all players. Let's make this a successful season together!

Link to Fundraiser Set Up will be provided on the registration page after player acceptance.

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## 6. Registration, Payments, and Payment Plans

### Registration and Deposit

#### Total Cost for 2025 Season: \$795

After tryouts, if your child is selected to join the team, you will receive an email containing a link to the Private Travel Team Registration Page. This form requires a **\$350 deposit** to secure your child's spot. It also provides an option to pay in full.

On that Private Travel Team Page, you'll find links to the essential next steps:

1. **Parent Handbook:** A digital copy for you to read and review, both for yourself and your young athlete so everyone is fully aware of the expectations and requirements of the travel season. Final tournament schedule is published in that handbook.
2. **GroupMe Admin Group:** A link to join our league-wide GroupMe chat for important announcements.
3. **Link to Fundraiser:** A link to set up a personal player fundraiser page to raise funds to cover hotel costs and for YEDA as an organization.

Registration and the deposit must be completed within **10 days** of receiving the player acceptance email.

Failure to complete registration and payment on time may result in your child's spot being offered to another player. The registration form will also provide the option to pay the entire fee upfront.

### Payment Plan

If you choose to pay only the \$350 deposit during registration, you are agreeing to our payment plan terms which indicate that the remainder of the program fee of \$445 will be due by April 15<sup>th</sup>.



Invoices for the final payment will be emailed to you April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Failure to make timely payments will result in your child being unable to participate in games until all overdue amounts are paid.

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## 7. Communication

### Primary Communication Tools

All tournament information will be posted on our private travel team website page as well as within the **GroupMe app**. Once teams are established, your team's coach will provide a link to join the GroupMe chat specific to your team.

### GroupMe Registration

On the Private Travel Team page, you will also find a link to the **GroupMe Admin Group**, where league-wide announcements will be made. Please use this opportunity to download the GroupMe app (free) and create an account if you don't already have one.

### Communication Expectations

The GroupMe app is our primary mode of communication. We kindly ask you to:

- Respect the coaches' time as they are volunteers.
- Thoroughly read each announcement before asking questions, as detailed information is often already provided.
- Bookmark the YEDA Private Travel Team webpage for quick access to tournament postings.

It is essential to respond to communication requests promptly, especially regarding tournament attendance confirmations. Timely responses ensure we have enough players for each game and allow for proper planning.

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## 8. Tryouts Information

Tryouts are the first step to becoming part of YEDA's Summer Travel Basketball Team. Our coaches assess players' skills, work ethic, and potential to create balanced, competitive teams.

- **Date/Time:** February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 (11am-5pm depending on Grade. See Tryout Registration Page for details.)
  - **Location:** Roma Sports Club, 9115 Roma CT, Frankfort IL 60451
  - **Eligibility:** Boys grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>
  - **Cost:** \$22 per athlete
  - **What to Bring:** Basketball shoes, appropriate attire, and water.
  - **What's Included:** YEDA T-Shirt
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## 9. Mandatory Parent Meeting

**Date, Time & Location will be provided after registration.**

**At least one parent or guardian must attend as well as the player.** Topics include program expectations, payment plans, fundraising, and communication.

Players will try on uniforms to ensure proper sizing – please have them dress in a way that allows them to slip the uniform on over the clothes (t-shirt and shorts).

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## 10. Uniforms: Try-On and Return Policy

### Accurate Sizing is Essential

- Providing an accurate uniform size is imperative as size exchanges are challenging after purchase. Incorrect sizes may result in additional fees.
- Uniforms will be available for players to try on during the mandatory parent/player meeting to ensure proper fit.

### Care and Maintenance

- Each player will receive two sets of uniforms (home and away) and a practice shirt.
- To preserve the uniforms, they should be laundered after every tournament and hung to dry. Avoid using a dryer to extend their lifespan.

### **Access and Responsibility**

- League fees include access to the uniforms but do not cover their full cost. This approach helps keep overall fees low.
  - Uniforms must be returned at the end of the season in good condition. They should be laundered before return.
  - Failure to return uniforms in good condition will result in a replacement fee of \$125. This fee must be paid to participate in any future YEDA programs.
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## **11. Practice Schedule**

Practice schedules will be determined by coaches once teams are established after tryouts. Players are expected to attend all practices and arrive on time. Practice times and dates will be communicated via the Groupme app.

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## **12. (Alternative League Option) Developmental League Overview**

The **YEDA Developmental League** is designed for players who are not selected for the Travel Team, those who may not be ready for a competitive league, or for those just beginning their basketball journey. This program focuses on skill-building, sportsmanship, and preparing players for future competitive opportunities. It is an excellent opportunity to get your child involved with YEDA while learning fundamental Basketball Skills and team building exercises.

In addition, YEDA also offers Basketball Training sessions throughout the year to help your child develop further. Subscribe to our newsletter to be notified of all upcoming training sessions.

### **Game Rules and Regulations**

- Games begin with a number draw to determine initial possession.
- A minimum of two players is required to start a game, and all players must wear their jerseys to participate.
- Games begin promptly at scheduled times, typically at 7:35 and 8:00 PM.

- Each jump ball after the initial tip goes to the defense.
- For four-man teams, players rotate every five minutes to ensure equal playing time.

### **Gameplay Mechanics**

- Players must check the ball with the defense before beginning play.
- No "Make it-Take it" rule is applied; possession changes hands.
- Any change in possession requires the ball to be taken behind the 3-point line with both feet and the ball. Failure results in a turnover.
- Shots count as 2 points or 3 points depending on distance.
- Games end when a team reaches 20 points or the 20-minute limit, whichever comes first.

### **Fouls and Penalties**

- After five team fouls, shooting fouls award one free throw worth 1 point. A made free throw results in a dead ball; a missed free throw is retained by the shooting team.
- A made basket with a foul does not result in an additional free throw, and the ball goes to the defense.
- Intentional, flagrant, or technical fouls result in a 2-point free throw.

### **Sportsmanship and Conduct**

- Fighting, swearing, or unsportsmanlike behavior by players or spectators is not tolerated. Violations may lead to ejection and suspension.
- Players must maintain positive behavior to foster an enjoyable league environment.

### **Timeout and Overtime Rules**

- Each team is allowed one timeout per game, which cannot be used in the final three minutes.
  - Overtime is decided by the first team to score a basket. A second overtime results in a tie.
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## 13. YEDA is So Much More Than Sports

YEDA is a non-profit organization founded in 2021 with a mission to provide supplemental enrichment programs that go beyond sports. Our aim is to empower youth, strengthen families, and build a resilient community by fostering mental, emotional, and physical health.

We are more than basketball. At YEDA, we create opportunities for youth to thrive through mentorship, educational initiatives, and life skills development. Our holistic approach is designed to equip young participants with the tools they need to succeed in life—whether on the court, in the classroom, or in their communities.

Our mission is grounded in respect, collaboration, and shared values, which include integrity, faith, and character. These principles guide every program and partnership we develop. Together with families, schools, and local organizations, we strive to inspire and uplift the next generation of leaders.

### Highlights from 2024 (View “Our Impact” page on website for most recent highlights)

Every year, YEDA achieves extraordinary milestones that bring our youth, families, and supporters together:

- **Fundraising Events:** From washing cars at the fire station to our lively Pasta & Pour evening, community contributions made a lasting impact.
- **Back-to-School Event:** Equipping kids with tools and confidence to thrive, supported by generous donors.
- **Mentorship Program:** Partnering with Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) to create life-changing mentorship opportunities.
- **Scholarship Success:** Two participants secured scholarships through our collaboration with Providence Catholic High School.
- **Health & Wellness Workshops:** Launching "Equipped Sessions with YEDA Parents" for holistic family support.
- **Support for Returning Citizens:** Partnering with REFORM Alliance and Defy Ventures to assist "returning citizens."
- **Youth Basketball Sponsorship:** Sponsoring leagues in Richton Park and Park Forest to foster local talent.
- **Developmental League Success:** Introducing a Youth Referee Initiative that taught leadership and responsibility.
- **Technology Collaboration:** Teaming up with MYTT to deliver technology workshops for middle and high school students.

- **Community Engagement:** Hosting a "Stone Soup Workshop" with Birth to Five Illinois and BBBS to unite stakeholders.
- **Youth Programs:** Offering 6-week basketball and soccer training sessions to develop teamwork and focus.
- **Travel Team Accomplishments:** Competing in national and international tournaments, including a Las Vegas event.

These achievements highlight our commitment to empowering families, creating opportunities, and enriching our community. Thank you for being part of our journey.

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## 14. Acknowledgement and Agreement

This form will be emailed alongside the registration and payment link if your child has been accepted into the league. At that time, you and your child are both expected to sign and return it within 7 days.

Please print a copy for yourself and retain it for future reference. You and your child are expected to know and understand all the guidelines contained herein. If you are unsure about anything whatsoever, immediately reach out to us at:

[contact@youtheducationdevelopment.com](mailto:contact@youtheducationdevelopment.com)

Thank you and welcome!