



ABA Supreme Basketball Club ***Parent Handbook***

Agape Hoops and ABA Basketball have partnered with Walking Beside. Walking Beside is a movement of vested people, mentors, and leaders that work with sports teams and walks **beside** the coaches, parents, and athletes as we hope to transform the culture of people through sports by loving on them and being the hands and feet of their community.

It is our Mission To:

- To walk beside coaches as we help train them to have not only a knowledge of the game but to help teach and nurture the participants in all aspects of life.
- To walk beside the parents as we not only educate them on growth areas through sport, but also to help them realize their **sandlot**.
- To walk beside the players as we not only hope to teach fundamentals of the game but teach integrity, teamwork, excellence, and service.

How can we Facilitate this:

Coaches

1. Help coaches establish a mission statement of why they coach and how to accomplish that.
2. Create coaching weekly or bi-weekly life groups for coaches across KC to attend
3. Run multiple large seminars for coaches. The focus of these, are to help energize the masses and generate new interest.

Parents

1. Create seminars that discuss ways and methods on how to parent an athlete
2. Work to establish life groups that will exist while the athletes are practicing as a way for them to become more involved in community with each other
3. Help educate parents on signs with kid struggles such as mental illnesses, obesity, bullying, etc.
4. Develop a support system for single parents or struggling parents

Team

1. Service opportunities for teams to volunteer
2. Monthly activities where teams attend events for team building and unity
3. Educational pieces for kids to attend on making decisions and the decision making process.
4. Prayer and Bible Study
5. Tutoring program for the athlete that needs help prior to practice or during practice (work with local churches to get volunteer tutors)
6. Adopt a team program to partner with a brother or sister team to provide support and valuable instruction. This will be done in with one suburban area team with an urban KC team

Communication and Instruction

1. Mass Media Communication: Facebook, Websites with information and resources, Radio and Mass Media outlets (Les Norman Radio Show, et. al)
2. Direct Communication:
 - a. Weekly Newsletter - continued communication keeps the coaches/parents/players connected and reinforced.
 - b. Emails/Posts directed entries to the specific groups to continue to support and enhance.
3. Seminars hosted at events and tournaments.



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ABA Supreme and Walking Beside Short Term / Long Term Goals and Converting this Idea into Action

Short Term Goals and Approach (April - July)

Coaches

- Develop a Mentoring Program for Coaches
- Establish a Coaching/Teaching Curriculum
- Lay the foundation for Small Group Sessions

Parents

- Parent Meeting
- Bill Severns - Keepers of the Sandlot
- Like the Walking Beside Facebook Page to receive notices and updates

Players

- Service Opportunities - One service opportunity per session but not limited to one. Encouraged to do as many as your team can fit in.
 - Team Handbook will be developed by May 1 with choices and opportunities.
- ABA Supreme Night - Total Club outing to generate a sense of community

Long Term Goals (Beyond July)

Long-term and vision for Walking Beside is still evolving, but some of the plans include movement in the following directions:

- Academic Support
 - Tutoring
 - ACT Prep
- Mission Trips
- Small Group Meetings for Coaches and then Parents
- Adopt-a-Team program
- Community Support team (helping our fellow club members in time of need)
- Increased presence with service projects



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Our Mission

To Walk Beside the players, coaches, and parents as we teach on-court skills and attributes and the life skills that can be learned through the game of basketball.

Being a part of a competitive basketball team is extremely demanding and time consuming for players, coaches and parents. ABA Supreme will emphasize the importance of family, friends, faith, schoolwork, and improvement of players.

ABA Supreme believes family is the foundation and number one priority of our teams. We will strive for strong relationships between our players and their families, as well as their extended ABA Supreme family. It is critical that everyone involved players, coaches and parents are 110% dedicated to ABA Supreme and our purpose. Coaches will be more than willing to accommodate players and parents as much as possible and are willing to work out any situation at hand.

ABA Supreme players will be expected to demonstrate good character in all areas of life, athletics, academics, socially and personally. Good grades are expected by all ABA Supreme players and will be checked regularly throughout the season. If a player receives a poor grade, an assisted, creative measure will take place to improve the grade. One of our many goals at ABA Supreme is for our players to one day, receive athletic scholarships and possess a solid GPA throughout their careers.

ABA Supreme coaches will spend ample time making personal relationships with players and mentoring them. We will speak consistently about good life skills, decision-making and other peer influences.

Our final goal at ABA Supreme is to dramatically improve each player each season. Our focuses will increase player's skill levels, confidence, competitive drive and desire to win. It is expected of each player to transfer that knowledge into his/her will to improve.

Our Philosophy

ABA Supreme will teach its players to be competitive, hardworking athletes! They will play with an immense passion and love for the game of basketball. Our players will be expected to hustle after each loose ball, play tough defense, play as a team, and compete every single time on the court. ABA Supreme basketball is not all about winning. We take great pride in teaching our players how to play the game the right way.

Our players will be expected to practice consistently. Our players will want to improve, work hard, and win basketball games. Coaches will create individual outlines specific for each player. These outlines focus on a player's fundamental improvement and overall development.

ABA Supreme searches for hardworking players, who want to improve, play aggressively and compete against high-quality competition. We emphasize individual player improvement, team play, strength and conditioning, long-term friendships and sportsmanship.



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Our Commitment

ABA Supreme will be a 5 to 6 month commitment to basketball. There will be two opportunities to participate on an ABA Supreme basketball team:

"Winter" The winter season will run from October through March.

"Spring/Summer" The spring/summer season will run from April through August.

Our Players

ABA Supreme players will be expected to behave morally and ethically on and off the basketball court. Players shall understand they are representing not only themselves, but also their family and their ABA Supreme family.

1. Players shall always value character over winning.
2. Players shall always consider the personal safety of all players.
3. Players shall display the utmost respect for opposing players and coaches.
4. Players shall demonstrate the highest respect for opposing fans.
5. Players shall exhibit the highest respect for game officials.
6. Players shall maintain a "C" average or above throughout the academic school year and shall always place academic success over athletic success.
7. Players shall refrain from the use of any alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs.
8. Players shall be exemplary models on and off the court and remain aware that they are representatives of ABA Supreme at all times. While traveling to and from athletic facilities, players should project a positive image in their appearance and conduct. They shall also respect transportation resources, hotel rooms, and gym facilities. They shall be personally responsible for any damage.
9. Players shall respectfully adhere to any assigned curfew prior to tournament games.

Our Coaches

ABA Supreme coaches understand that he/she could have a positive or negative influence on a player and his or her development. In all contacts with parents, athletes, officials, the media and the public, coaches must set a positive example of the highest ethical and moral standards. In keeping with that goal all ABA Supreme coaches shall adhere to the following guidelines:

Coaches shall always value character above winning.

1. Coaches shall always consider the personal safety of all players.
2. Coaches shall be thoroughly knowledgeable of the rules and regulations of competition, and shall never seek an advantage by circumventing the spirit or letter of the rules.
3. Coaches shall display the utmost respect for game officials.
4. Coaches shall demonstrate the highest respect opposing coaches and players. Specifically, before and after contest, our coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings as a model for our players.
5. Coaches shall influence and enhance sportsmanship by spectators.
6. Coaches will take active roles in the prevention of tobacco, alcohol and drug use within ABA Supreme.
7. Coaches shall whole-heartedly emphasize the importance of the player's academic endeavors and shall always place academic success over athletic success.
8. Coaches shall attend mandatory coaching clinics and/or proper training throughout the year.
9. Coaches shall encourage each player to pursue his or her Basketball Dreams with passion.



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Our Parents

We will be thrilled to work with a great group of parents and hope that you will also be excited to be involved in ABA Supreme.

1. ABA Supreme will be the epitome of class, emphasizing good sportsmanship before, during and after games by ALL parties. If parents show poor sportsmanship, their children will "copy" their behavior no matter what the coach may stress. Mixed signals are unacceptable and actions speak louder than words. Any words spoken by parents should only be positive and encouraging.
2. ABA Supreme parents and fans must respect officials, opposing coaches, and opposing players. Our coaches will happily address any concerns, including those pertaining to officials or opposing coaches.
3. ABA Supreme teams will be coached by knowledgeable and experienced coaches. We will not tolerate any shouting of directions from parents and/or fans. Hearing multiple sets of instructions confuses players in a game. Children are easily distracted and usually do not perform as well when parents/fans scream directions from the stands.

Our Structure

ABA Supreme will form teams at 3 different levels:

ABA Supreme Red - For experienced players that are serious about taking their game to the next level. Our Red teams will play at the highest level possible which will include tournaments on a local, regional and national level. The ultimate goal for ABA Supreme Red teams will be to help our athletes further their playing career by providing them exposure to college coaches.

ABA Supreme Black - For experienced players that need to develop their skills in a competitive and structured environment. Our ABA Supreme Black teams will focus on developing players in order to take them to the next level. Our ABA Supreme Black teams will play in the Agape Hoops Competitive Youth Basketball Leagues as well as tournaments on a local and regional level. Some of our ABA Black teams may qualify for national tournaments at their skill level.

ABA Supreme White - For players that have limited experience at the competitive level and are looking to improve their skills by playing at a higher level. Our ABA Supreme White teams will focus on developing our athletes through commitment, dedication and hard work while exposing them to basketball at the competitive level. Our ABA White teams will participate in the Agape Hoops Competitive Youth Basketball Leagues as well as select Agape Hoops tournaments.

Other Sports

ABA Supreme recognizes that many athletes play multiple sports. We support and encourage our youngsters to enjoy the positive experience of playing different sports. We will accommodate our players and their schedules as much as possible.



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Financial Commitment

ABA Supreme Red Teams:

Player Fees: (Winter) \$750.00 up front or \$130 per month (6 Months) + \$95 Uniform Fee
(Spring/Summer) \$625.00 up front or \$130 per month (5 Months) + \$95 Uniform Fee

Fees include the following:

- Highly Experienced Paid Coach
- Team Uniform
- Two (2) 1 hour and 30 minute practice sessions each week
- Team insurance
- Two (2) Tournaments/Jamborees per month

ABA Supreme Black Teams:

Player Fees: (Winter) \$600.00 up front or \$105 per month (6 Months) + \$95 Uniform Fee
(Spring/Summer) \$500.00 up front or \$105 per month (5 Months) + \$95 Uniform Fee

Fees include the following:

- Highly Experienced Paid Coach
- Team Uniform
- Two (2) 1 hour and 15 minute practice sessions each week
- Team insurance
- Competitive League fees (Two Sessions * 16 Games)
- One (1) Tournament/Jamboree per month (Agape Hoops Event)

ABA Supreme White Teams:

Player Fees: (Winter) \$600.00 up front or \$105 per month (6 Months) + \$95 Uniform Fee
(Spring/Summer) \$500.00 up front or \$105 per month (5 Months) + \$95 Uniform Fee

Fees include the following:

- Experienced Paid Coach
- Team Uniform
- Two (2) 1 hour and 15 minute practice sessions each week
- Team insurance
- Competitive League fees (Two Sessions * 16 Games)
- One (1) Tournament/Jamboree per month (Supreme Sports Event)

ABA Supreme Additional Tournament Fees:

These fees are only applicable if there is participation in additional tournaments beyond the one Agape Hoops event covered in the Player Fees each month. Additional fees will be added to monthly invoices and will be due along with the next installment.



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Financial Responsibility

ABA Supreme monthly player fees are due by the 5th of each month. If no payment is made by the 15th of each month there will be a \$25 late fee assessed and added to the players invoice. There is no refund or credit for missed practice sessions, league games or tournaments. FAQ's regarding payment procedures

Q. How can I pay the monthly fees?

A. Invoices will be sent to parents each month via email on or around the 25th of the month. Fees can be paid by setting up a pre-authorized "auto-pay" option where the monthly fees are automatically charged to a debit/credit card on file with Agape Hoops or payments can be mailed in with a check made payable to Agape Hoops at the following address:

Agape Hoops East Office
19310 E. 50th Terrace, Suite D
Independence, MO 64055

Please include the player's first and last name and the invoice # in the memo section of the check. Please note that it could take approximately 3 to 5 business days to update your account with payments received by check. Please DO NOT hand deliver checks to coaches/instructors.

Checks can also be dropped in our drop box at the SAC facility during team practices. Again Please include the player's first and last name and the invoice # in the memo section of the check.

Q. My child played for ABA Supreme in the previous season and we were setup on the "auto-pay" option. Do I need to make payment arrangements for the next season?

A. Yes. The "auto-pay" option that covered the previous season only covered that season. These payments ended with the final monthly payment of the previous season.

Q. I did not receive an invoice through email. What do I do?

A. Please make sure to check your spam filter and add services@mail.ezfacility.com to your safe senders list if possible. You can also send an email to Jeff Bass at jeff@agapehoops.com with a request to resend your invoice. Please include the player's first and last name in the communication also confirm the email address you would like current and future invoices to be sent.

Q. I have additional questions regarding payment and/or fees. Who do I contact?

A. All invoicing and payment questions should be sent to Jeff Bass at jeff@agapehoops.com

Communication Procedures

- 1) Communication procedures you should expect from your child's coach
 - Weekly email reminders with that week's schedule (practices, league/tournament games)
 - Email notifications of any changes in schedules, updates to schedules, etc
 - Possible recaps of the past weeks/months practices, league games, tournament games
 - Any concerns, positive feedback or suggestions for improvement regarding your child
- 2) Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches
 - The treatment of your child, mentally or physically
 - Ways to help your child improve their basketball skills
 - Concerns about your child's behavior



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- How your child can help the team be competitive
- 3) Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches
- Playing time (rationale for playing time may be requested)
 - Team strategy
 - Play calling
 - Other players on the team
- NOTE: There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.
- 4) If you have a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedures should be followed:
- First, the player must bring the issue to the coach's attention.
 - If the issue needs further attention, contact the coach to get a clarification or to setup a meeting.
 - Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a game or practice.
- 5) What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?
- Contact Rodney Gilyard at rodney@agapehoops.com to setup a meeting to discuss concerns.

Practices and Games

Our program strongly believes that PRACTICE builds players, not games. Our players are offered skill development opportunities through practices in order to maximize their abilities.

Each player will have practice sessions with their team for 1 hour and 15 minutes two times per week. Our staff will set the specific days and times for practice sessions. Please be advised that the practice session times are subject to change. We will try to give parents/players as much notice as possible when/if this occurs. All changes or updates will be communicated via email or updated on the organization website.

All players will receive playing time, however, some players might receive more playing time than others. The amount of time a player receives is determined by several factors such as having a "hot hand", match-ups, foul trouble, attitude, attendance at practice sessions and work ethic. Although during any one game an individual may feel that they didn't receive appropriate court time, over the course of a season each player is provided adequate opportunities to display their talents.

Court time at major competitions may be geared toward the best possible lineup. League play and local tournament play may be more evenly distributed. **PLAYING TIME IS NOT GUARANTEED!!!** Parents are always welcome and encouraged to watch practice sessions, however, we ask that they leave the training/development to the coaches/instructors and keep from sideline coaching.

Sponsors/Fundraisers

ABA Supreme is working to develop sponsors/fundraisers, both to reduce the costs to each player and to enhance the quality of our program.

ABA Supreme staff will coordinate organizational fundraisers that teams will take part in to help ABA continue to offer the same quality programs at the same reasonable price.



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Volunteer Opportunities

We consider ABA Supreme a family organization or a community that we are all a part of. There are many opportunities that you can begin to be a part of the team and help to strengthen and enhance what ABA Supreme is about and can become. Here are some opportunities that are currently looking to fill:

1. Club Outing Coordinator (1 position)
 - a. Determine outings designed for the entire Club to attend
 - b. Coordinate with activity sites to schedule activities and dates
 - c. Help compile team-building activities and information for individual teams to participate in.
 - d. Communicate with Club officials as well as Coach and Parents regarding activities.
2. Team Service Coordinator (1 position)
 - a. Assist in the creation of our Team Service Handbook (target completion date of May 1, 2013)
 - b. Disseminate the Team Service Handbook to each team and communicate details of projects as needed.
 - c. Serve as the contact person for each ABA team and communicate with service locations and organizations.
 - d. Assist coaches in securing opportunities and finalizing details for communication with parents and team members.
3. Parent Newsletter Coordinator (1 position)
 - a. Have experience with publication design or layout.
 - b. Gather information from individual teams and club officials for publication. (Honor Roll, Player Spotlight, Walking Beside Articles, etc.)
 - c. Create newsletter and distribute through email and/or websites.
4. Social Media Coordinator (1 position)
 - a. Maintain postings for Social Media outlets regarding club information, news, and pertinent info
5. Team Information Director (1 position per team)
 - a. Collect all information for newsletters, social media updates and communicate with appropriate coordinator
 - b. Update their team page on the ABASupreme with bios, service project info, photos, etc.
 - c. Assist coach with team communication regarding games and practices
 - d. Communicate with the Team Service Coordinator and help schedule activities and communicate with the team.

Contact Jeff Bass at jeff@agapehoops.com or Jeremy McDowell at jeremy@agapehoops.com



ABA Supreme Basketball Club Parent Handbook

Agape Hoops and ABA Supreme believe in the idea of Walking Beside. The following is information regarding this movement and how it can impact our teachings as parents, coaches, and as a basketball club as a whole.



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