



# Shepherd Sports

## Youth Basketball Club & Travel Team Overview

- **Mission Statement:** Our mission is to teach young athletes to play basketball at a highly competitive level. We are committed to giving every player a firm foundation in the many individual skills required to be an elite player. Equally important, our coaches teach their players to use these skills effectively as a team. We support our coaches and parents in the development of important lifelong core values of teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, personal discipline, time management, honesty, respect and most importantly, pursuing excellence with a moral base directing each player to be closer to Jesus.
- **Shepherd Sports Basketball Club:** Shepherd Sports Elite Basketball Clubs are made up of teams that will train and compete in the highest AAU competitive level. Shepherd Basketball supports up to two girls' and boys' teams in each age group 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U and 14U. *For official AAU definitions please see [www.aagirlsbasketball.org](http://www.aagirlsbasketball.org) or [www.aaboysbasketball.org](http://www.aaboysbasketball.org).*
- **Club Teams/Travel Teams:** Club teams are generally teams that play locally in various competitive basketball leagues (ARC, Impact, Tournaments, etc.) and train once to twice a week. **Travel Teams** compete in local, highly competitive basketball leagues as well as AAU tournaments.
- **Try-outs:** Players will need to go through a tryout session in order to be placed on a **Shepherd Sports** Basketball Club Team. Teams are formed or assessed two times a year – Tryouts happen in early September for the Fall-Winter season and in early March for the Spring-Summer season. After a mandatory second tryout, a player is selected to a Club/Travel team where he/she will then be eligible to participate in **Shepherd Club** activities. Coaches reserve the right to stage individual player tryouts at any time during the session with the boards permission.
- **Documentation:** All required documents must be complete and turned into our administrative office before any player will be eligible for practice and games. *Waivers, birth certificate, registration, bank draft information, uniform fees, etc.*
- **Training Facility:** The majority of our training/practice sessions will be held at the Shepherd Church Gym. Our Gymnasium is a state of the art facility used by High Schools, Division 1 college players as well as several NBA players train here during the summer months.
- **Practice/Commitment:** Club players will be required to practice as a team a minimum of one day per week. Participation on a Shepherd AAU club team demands a big time commitment from coaches, players and their families. Our AAU program is an elite, higher level, “travel” team program and parents and athletes must really be careful not to be overcommitted to multiple teams, leagues, etc. We expect for each athlete to understand that family, Church, and school-related events will get the priority, and we request that such events be communicated to the coaches in advance.

## Basketball Club Overview Continued



- **Club Games:** Selected Shepherd Club teams will be scheduled for various AAU tournaments throughout the year. Tournaments will be scheduled on varying weekends. Most games will be in the greater Los Angeles area. When teams advance in state or national tournaments, games can be scheduled out of our region or state.
- **Playing time:** Club policy states that tuition goes towards practice facility, coaching, administration and training. NOT GAME PLAYING TIME. Club motto: “We pay to practice and work hard to play”
- **AAU Certified:** Shepherd Sports Basketball Club and Basketball Academy is a member of the Amateur Athletic Union. By joining the AAU through the Shepherd Basketball Club, individual players and teams are provided with insurance coverage for practices and games, and are eligible to play in the Regional and National tournaments.
- **Parent Involvement:** Parents have a significant role to play in the Shepherd Basketball organization. We encourage open communication between parents and coaches to help ensure that concerns about their child are appropriately addressed. Parents make a vital contribution to maintaining and improving our organization.
- **Parent Expectations:** Encourage, enjoy, connect, and allow growth.
- **Coaches:** Shepherd Sports trainers and coaching staff are former professional basketball players, D1 players and certified trainers. We are proud to have some of the best coaches in the Los Angeles area. All of our coaches adhere to our “More than A Coach” philosophy. Challenging them to honor and respect God first and to develop our club players in the same way.
- **Grades/Homework:** All Shepherd Basketball Club players must maintain a C average and put all homework or class project before basketball. Homework can be done in gym during practice if necessary. Shepherd Sports supports and promotes high academic achievement.
- **Church Involvement:** Church activity is highly recommended – All players are encouraged to participate in Shepherd Youth activities as a team or individually.
- **What Shepherd Club Basketball Can Do For Young Athletes:** Girls and boys who play basketball at this elite level will improve their own skill level through coaching, practices and competition. Players who develop their ability through the Shepherd Basketball Club aim to become the leading players on their middle school, high school teams and beyond. Through our program, we intend to develop basketball skills, but also individual character, morals, and physical and mental fitness.

## Basketball Club Financial Responsibility



- **Financial Responsibility:** We understand that the financial obligations of a Club program can be very challenging. Our club is blessed to have our own facility making the annual cost competitive or less than most other club teams. Cost can differ from age, team, and how many tournaments teams compete in. For a breakdown of club team expenses please contact the Club Director.
- **Club Tuition:** Tuition is divided into 2 seasons: **March-Aug | Sept-Feb**  
With a commitment of 6 months (1 season) the cost is \$130 per month. Any player leaving before the 6-month season concludes will be charged one month's fee (\$130).
- **First Payment:** The \$130 for the first payment is due along with any uniform fee with the deadline given after a player makes a team. After this first online payment, all subsequent payment will be set up as an automated payment.
- **Tuition and Payment Schedule:** First month's tuition is due before the deadline given and must be paid online through the link given, or your player will lose their spot on the team. Starting the second month, the automated payments will be generated sometime during the first week of the month. Every player/family must be current on their monthly fees and tournament dues in order to play in the games or participate in practice. We highly encourage dialogue and all financial issues must be communicated to club office. Without payment or communication with club officials it will result in a players' removal from club team activities.
- **Uniform Cost:** Purchasing all current uniforms is mandatory for every player/family. Uniforms are \$85 *per uniform (one time cost)*. Purchasing both the away and home uniforms (two sets) together is a cost \$160. If uniform becomes too small, lost, stolen or doesn't meet club standards, *(not taken care of)* a player/family will be required to replace it at an additional cost.
- **Tournament Fees:** Tournament fee's range around \$75. *(per tournament)* Fees can vary depending on tournament entrance fees and location. Once teams reach the \*travel team level they generally play in one tournament a month, occasionally skipping a month. Tournament fees are due a week prior to the tournament.
- **Payment Method:** All player/families are required to have an auto payment set up for their monthly dues. To receive the \$130 cost per month, you are committing to fulfill all 6 months of payment. All monthly dues will be taken out on a monthly basis. Uniform and tournament fees can be made online or by check. A charge of \$130 (a month's fee) will be assessed if any player/family is going to leave the club before the end of that current season.

**Website:** [www.ShepherdSports.org](http://www.ShepherdSports.org)

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