



2021-2022 Season Parent Letter

July 2021

Orono Travel Basketball Families,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer! Planning for the 2021-2022 season is fully underway. Coming off a crazy season last year, we are hopeful for a quiet, normal season this year. While we cannot be certain COVID will not affect our season again this year, we are preparing as though it will not. As always, the safety of our players and our community is our top priority, and we will make all decisions accordingly. Communication on changes will be sent via email and posted on our [website](#) and on social media (Instagram). Please read this letter thoroughly as it will address all items relevant for the season to get underway.

Open Board Positions

Volunteers are a critical component to the success of OBBA and we are grateful to our amazing families who commit their time and talents. As our program continues to grow and develop, we are seeking volunteers to join our board.

We currently have several open board positions:

- Facilities Coordinator (Board Position *OR* Volunteer Non-Board Member)
- Assistant Tournament Director (Board Position *OR* Volunteer Non-Board Member)
- Communications Director (Board Position Required)

Additional details for each position can be found on our website. If you are interested in joining the OBBA Board the application is on the website or [here](#). Please reach out to me or any Board member if you would like to receive more information.



Registration

Registration opens **Sunday, August 15th!** Access the link via our [website](#). Registration is set to close October 2nd so please register as soon as possible. See important dates as well as financial impact and uniform considerations below:

August 15th - September 13th	Registration	Regular price + guaranteed size of tryout jersey
September 14th - October 1st	Late Registration	\$100 late fee No guarantee on tryout jersey size No guarantee uniform will arrive prior to first tournament
October 2nd	Registration Closed	

Registrations requested after October 2nd and prior to tryouts will only be approved if grade level numbers support an additional player. Registrations after tryouts will not be accepted in any case.

Scholarships

OBBA provides scholarships to families who qualify. Please complete the application [here](#) or see the link on the OBBA [website](#). **OBBA Families:** please consider contributing to our OBBA Scholarship Fund, which enables our organization to provide opportunities to children in our district. When completing your registration online, please look for the option to donate to the fund or contact the OBBA directly to make your donation. 100% of your donation will be used to cover the costs of scholarships for children in our program. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Thank you for supporting our community and our program. OBBA will recognize family donations on our website and any other advertising opportunities.



Tryouts & Start of Season

Players in grades 5-8 will attend two tryout sessions. 4th graders will attend one session. Tryouts will be held on the following dates: (specific times and location for each grade TBD)

- **GIRLS** - Wednesday, October 6th **AND** Saturday, October 9th
 - 4th Grade will be Saturday, October 9th only
 - Teams posted by the evening of Sunday, October 10th
 - Early Season Workouts (by grade level) start the week of Monday, October 11th
 - Team Practices begin the week of October 18th
- **BOYS** - Wednesday, October 13th **AND** Sunday, October 17th
 - 4th Grade will be Sunday, October 17th only
 - Teams posted by the evening of Sunday, October 17th
 - Early Season Workouts (by grade level) start the week of Monday, October 18th
 - Team Practices begin the week of October 25th

Players are required to attend both sessions (one for 4th graders). If your player cannot attend one or both sessions you must provide notification via email to info@oronobasketball.com at least one week in advance.

Tryout Fee: A \$15 Tryout Fee will be assessed during the registration process. This fee covers the tryout jersey which will be also used for practices throughout the season.

Please refer to the Orono Basketball Policy Handbook for additional details related to tryouts. OBBA will also provide additional information via email to all registered email addresses prior to tryouts.

Parent Meeting

OBBA will endeavor to host a parent meeting during evaluations. Details will be forthcoming.



Fees

OBBA will be making the following changes to the fee structure for this season:

Grade Level	2020-2021 Fee	2021-2022 Fee
4th	\$350	\$425
5th & 6th	\$400	\$500
7th & 8th	\$500	\$600

Reason for Fee Increase

As we have mentioned in our parent letters the last couple of years, some local associations have either considered or have voted to move to an admission-free tournament format. While families will benefit from not having to pay for spectators to attend these tournaments, the shift of these costs falls directly on OBBA. As we register our teams for more than 230 tournaments each season, tournament registration fees are OBBA's largest expense. In order to cover the increasing costs of tournament registration fees, OBBA has raised the fee structure for grades 4-8. Participation in quality tournaments is a critical component to the success of OBBA. While we regret having to increase fees, the driving factors are beyond OBBA's control. Please note, this does not guarantee each tournament in which your child plays will be an admission-free format, however, we do expect the majority of tournaments will be admission free. OBBA's hosted Spartan Classic Tournament will operate on an admission-free model this year.

Refunds

Should COVID negatively impact our plans for the season, OBBA will provide refunds, either full or partial depending upon what the season entails. Should tournament play be limited but OBBA is able to hire trainers to run skills for our players, we will use registration funds to support these costs. OBBA will not offer individualized refunds but rather will make a decision for the entire program with respect to a COVID-related refund.

Refunds for all other reasons, if requested after tryouts, will not be granted.



Volunteer Coaches

Due to practices starting right after tryouts, we will need all coaches applications submitted by:

- **Girls Teams** Coaching Applicants: Tuesday, October 5th
- **Boys Teams** Coaching Applicants: Tuesday, October 12th

Coaching application link [here](#). Background check and safety training are required upon selection as an OBBA coach.

Uniforms

Last season was meant to be a year in which all players were to purchase new uniforms. With the impact of COVID it was decided to push the new uniforms until the 2021-2022 season. As a result, this upcoming season will require a new uniform purchase for all players. Uniform orders will be taken at the time of registration. OBBA will be switching to a new uniform style this year which will allow us to keep the same uniforms for a longer period of time and players will only need to reorder in the event a new size is needed or a uniform is damaged/missing.

Youth Sizes - \$83 / Adult Sizes - \$90

Optional Shooting Shirt and Socks are also available for purchase at the time of registration.

Uniform numbers will remain the same for returning players. New players will be assigned a number based on available numbers and ranked choice. 4th Graders will be asked for ranked choices and priority will be given to players with older siblings if the same number is desired.



Family Volunteer Fee

Families of each OBBA player are required to submit a volunteer deposit check of \$250 per player payable to OBBA (separate checks required for each OBBA player). **Checks will be collected at tryouts.** Upon completion of a shift at the Orono Spartan Classic Home Tournament, the deposit will be waived and checks will be destroyed. In the event the volunteer requirement is not met, the check will be cashed. This is no change from last season. Players will **NOT** be placed on a team until a check is received.

OBBA Home Tournament (Spartan Classic) Dates:

Boys – Saturday, January 22nd, 2022

Girls – Sunday, January 23rd, 2022

Out-of-Town Travel Tournament

OBBA is planning to attend one out-of-town tournament this season with an overnight hotel stay. Our end of season survey has consistently returned overwhelming feedback that our community would like to attend at least one out-of-town tournament. More details will follow as the 2021-2022 Tournament Schedule is finalized.



In Conclusion

Please share this email with others who may not know about OBBA. Our emails are only sent to those currently associated with our program and we would love to see some new faces this season. *If you wish to NOT receive our emails, please reply to this note and we will remove you.*

Visit our [website](#) and our [Instagram](#) page frequently for updates throughout the remainder of the summer and into the season.

Thank you for your support of and commitment to Orono Basketball.

Beth Watkins, President
Orono Basketball Association (OBBA)

2021 OBBA Board Members

Ann O'Reilly
Beth Watkins
Bryan Munsell
Jared Nishida
Jeff Kanwischer
Jessie Henry
Josh Sanderson
Ross Johson
Scott Larson
Theresa Schmidt
Sarah Revering (*outgoing*)