



## Upward Basketball FAQ's

**1. When do I register my child for Upward Basketball/Cheerleading?**

Upward registration begins October 1st and will continue until each division is full, or midnight on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Register EARLY—divisions fill quickly! As divisions become full, we will close out registrations for that division and we will not have any waiting lists this year.

**2. How do I register my child for Upward Basketball/Cheerleading?**

Online registration is highly recommended and will be available throughout the entire open registration period. Online registration can be accessed at:

<https://registration.upward.org/UPW63016>

The above link is also available on the HCLC website at <http://www.hcl.org/upward>

**3. What forms of payment can I use?**

Registration is only available online using a credit or debit card as payment. We are not accepting paper copies.

**4. How much is the registration fee and what is it used for?**

Registration for the 2016-2017 season of Upward Sports is \$120 for all applicants. There are no late registration fees this year. The registration fee covers the operating expenses of running the league, uniforms, and the end-of-season closing ceremony.

**5. Once I have registered my child, what is the next step?**

Your child will need to attend one of the following evaluation/orientation sessions based on your player's age group.

**Girls, 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>-grade and Boys, 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>-grade, and all Cheerleaders:**

Evaluations are held "open-house" style and you are welcome to attend at any time, allowing approximately one hour for orientation, uniform sizing, and skills evaluation.

- Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm – 6:00pm
- Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm – 4:00pm

**Girls, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>-grade and Boys, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>-grade:**

Evaluations for the oldest divisions require attendance at one of the following times. Coaches conduct a player 'draft' following the evaluations to balance the teams.

- Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm – 4:30pm 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>-grade girls
- Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm – 6:30pm 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>-grade boys

**6. What if my child cannot attend an evaluation?**

If you do not attend an evaluation, you will not be guaranteed a spot and will be placed on a waiting list. Every participant MUST attend an evaluation date.

**7. What happens at the evaluation sessions?**

All participants and their parents or guardians will attend a short orientation which will provide important information for the season. In addition, participants will be fitted for uniforms. Finally, participants will complete a few short drills (shooting, dribbling, and shuttle run) along with having their height recorded.

**8. What happens in the evaluation drafts for the older divisions?**

It is our goal to provide a competitive environment where every participant can succeed. Within the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade girls divisions, the traditional Upward evaluation method has not produced balanced teams. Because of this, we conduct player evaluations for these divisions differently.

These groups will participate in drills or scrimmages run by coaches from their respective divisions. After this evaluation period, the coaches will select participants for individual teams. These are evaluations, not tryouts, so all registered players are selected. Coaches will still be required to follow the normal Upward rules for player substitutions and playing time during games.

**9. What happens following the evaluations?**

We assign coaches and begin creating teams based on the evaluation scores. Team rosters and coach assignments are not received until after the coaches meetings in mid-December. Please be patient as we take the time to create teams that are well-balanced based on all team members skills. There 64 teams with up to 640 players across all divisions, so this process can take considerable time.

**10. Where can I sign up to be a coach?**

If you would like to be an Upward coach, please complete the application available on our website at <http://hcl.org/upward>

**11. What if I need to cancel my registration?**

Prior to December 1<sup>st</sup> you can cancel your registration and receive a full refund. After that, \$50 will be refunded (the balance of the fee covers the non-refundable player costs billed directly to the league by Upward Sports).

**12. When will I receive team assignments?**

Team assignments will be provided to coaches prior to the first practice. The coaches will contact you to introduce themselves, confirm your team, and inform you of your first practice date and time.

**13. Can I request that my child plays on the same team with friends?**

We cannot honor requests to play on the same team with friends or requests for specific coaches. The Upward registration system automatically creates teams based on a combination of evaluation scores and experience in order to create an equal playing field for the participants. With over 600 players, it is not possible to accommodate multiple friend requests or rearrange the teams without disrupting this balance or complicating the process of building team rosters. We ask for your understanding and hope that you see the value in how this system works. It is a great opportunity for all of us to make new friends.

You can make a request based on the need for **carpooling only**. Each player in the carpool must request the other player when registering. For example, John requests Mike on his registration and Mike requests John on his registration. **We cannot link more than two players in a carpool and multiple requests will not be honored.**

**14. Where are the practices held?**

1st - 2nd grade practice is held at HCLES Grange Campus (5425 S 111<sup>th</sup> St, Hales Corners, WI 53130).

3rd - 8th grade practice is held at HCLC Janesville Campus Community Center (12300 W Janesville Rd, Hales Corners, WI 53130).

**15. When is practice held?**

1st - 2nd grade practice is held for 1 hour/week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.  
3rd - 8th grade practice is held for 1 hour/week on Sunday, Monday, Thursday, or Friday.  
Your coach will provide you with your practice schedule once it has been determined.

**16. What if other activities prevent us from practicing on a particular day?**

With so many activities available, this is not uncommon. During registration you can choose **one** night that you are unavailable to practice, which the computer will take into account when forming teams. Because of limited practice time availability we are unable to accommodate requests for multiple exclusions of practice days.

**17. When and where are the games played?**

All games are played on Saturdays at the same campus where your practice is held (either Grange or Janesville).

1st - 2nd grade games are played between 9:30am and 4:30pm at the Grange Campus.  
3rd - 8th grade games are played between 10am and 8pm at the Janesville Campus.

**18. Will the games always be played at the same time?**

No. Games are played at various times of the day and change on a weekly basis depending scheduling and coaches' availability.

**19. When is the full season schedule available?**

We do our best to get the schedules to you as soon as possible after the teams are formed, and you will have them before the first Saturday of games on January 21, 2017.

**20. Are the players required to wear uniforms?**

Yes. Uniforms are included in your registration fee. Each child will be given a practice t-shirt, reversible jersey, and shorts. They will be required to provide their own shoes. The children will be sized for uniforms at the evaluation session in November and will receive them by their first practice.

**21. What are the uniform colors?**

The colors for the 2017 season are Carolina blue and white. Numbers and logos are dark blue.

**22. What are "Team Parents"?**

In order to provide your team's coaches with the time that they need to focus on your children more effectively, each team will be required to have a "Team Parent." This person will serve as a team coordinator in which they will handle communication, snack schedule, picture coordination, etc. We ask that each team has a volunteer to be Team Parent in order to ensure accurate team communication throughout the season. You will be able to volunteer by reaching out to your coach after team assignments are made.

**23. Why are parents required to volunteer, and how much time is mandatory?**

Upward Basketball and Cheerleading is completely run and organized by volunteers. Without volunteers, your children would not be given this opportunity. There is a large group of people that work behind the scenes year-round to coordinate all of the details and help keep the program running smoothly. Due to the volume of participants and games played throughout the season, each family is **required** to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours per child throughout the season.

**24. Who do I contact with questions about cheerleading?**

Your questions about Upward Cheerleading can be directed to the Cheerleading Commissioner, Cretia Heinz, by email at [david-heinz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:david-heinz@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 414-698-8135.