

Mass Elite Handbook

General Information

Mass Elite began in 2009, offering competitive club basketball teams throughout Eastern and Central Massachusetts. We provide a variety of club team opportunities for both boys and girls teams.

Spring: The largest of all seasons, Mass Elite will have more than 40+ teams at all grade levels. The spring season consists of college exposure "showcase", gold "accelerated" and silver "developmental" teams. All teams will compete in weekend tournaments and two weekly team practices.

Fall: The fall season will comprise of a two-month period of time beginning in September and ending in October. We offer five weekend tournaments, one weekly practice and unlimited weekly skills/drills sessions.

Summer: Many of our accelerated teams will continue to play into June and July. All showcase teams will compete during the NCAA July live period.

Commitment

Club basketball is not a recreational league: it is intense, competitive play. By joining a Mass Elite team for the spring season, athletes make a four to five-month commitment to become a better basketball player and are expected to devote themselves to their team. Teams will practice up to two times per week and play a competitive weekend tournament schedule. By accepting a roster spot, athletes are pledging to commit themselves for the duration of the season.

Team Descriptions

College exposure "SHOWCASE" teams are for girls & boys elite level teams from the ages of 15 – 17 (rising 10th-12th grade players). At this level of play, Mass Elite is looking for players who are able to compete at the highest level and put forth the time commitment required for the college showcase tournament schedule. Over the past nine years Mass Elite girls and boys showcase teams have competed from all throughout the country. In those years we have helped numerous student-athletes meet their collegiate goals. The national showcase opportunity gives players a platform to be recruited and the potential to play at the collegiate level. Showcase teams play in front of college coaches from the division I, II and III levels at exposure events. The competitive tournament schedule of these selected teams includes tournaments that annually host 200+ college coaches. Mass Elite's goal through the showcase program is to ensure that each player is guided on the skill development and necessary tips to reach their individual potential. Mass Elite has a tradition of developing players and helping them improve in the necessary areas to earn a college placement that fits them best. The "live" period is where teams will participate in the college exposure events. Players who are placed on the national showcase rosters will be expected to attend these events (teams also compete in other high-level tournaments throughout the spring and summer season that are not during the live DI recruiting periods). All student athletes on these rosters will be assigned a college adviser who will work directly with them throughout every step of the recruiting process.

Gold level "ACCELERATED" teams are classified as "A" level AAU teams that can compete in "A" level brackets. Gold level is the highest level a team can be classified under the 5th – 8th grade age groups. Younger teams who are at the Gold level are often composed of future National Showcase AAU players. Gold level teams from 9th–11th grade can be made up of players who are competitive at the high school level and still may have interest in playing at the collegiate level. These players will also have access to our recruiting assistance and successful college showcase programs.

Silver level "DEVELOPMENTAL" teams are classified a mostly "B" level teams that can compete in more local to regional AAU tournaments. Silver level teams have an emphasis on competition and developing to get ready for the upcoming school seasons. Teams are offered locally at all of our training locations.

All levels of silver, gold and national showcase teams will have a common focus of skill development while using their competition before them to prepare for the upcoming season and reaching their potential.

Tryouts and Player Selection

Tryouts are open to all interested players (boys and girls) grades 3-11 and will provide for a 60 to 90-minute training workout evaluation. There is a \$25 fee to participate in tryouts during both the spring and fall seasons. Should an athlete be awarded with a roster spot, there is no obligation to join the club. During the tryout process, Mass Elite strives to provide an open, organized, objective and fair environment in which the coaching staff can evaluate all participants. Each tryout will consist of a specific workout curriculum, which assesses athletes in fundamental skills, strength, speed, acceleration, and competitive game play. All athletes are evaluated using the same criteria and given the same opportunity to make a team. Not all players will be selected for team placements.

After tryouts, we will personally email each individual their results. Once an athlete is named to a roster, they are not required to attend subsequent tryout sessions. For any athletes that attended tryouts and were not named to a team, they are invited to attend any and all subsequent tryout sessions for further evaluation. As we strive to provide the most competitive teams across all divisions, Mass Elite reserves the right to move a player to another Mass Elite roster prior to the start of the season. Though this is rare, the ultimate objective for all athletes is that they enjoy a tremendous growth and developmental experience. If a unique situation such as this would occur, the athlete and parent would be notified of any changes to their roster status before the season begins. Once an athlete is named to a roster spot, they are given the opportunity to hold their spot by paying the initial fee and partake in the annual signing/media night. The athletes who do not pay the deposit will be removed from the rosters and evaluated again at the next tryout session. Should there be any available roster spots remaining following the final tryout session, we will contact other athletes who performed well in tryouts but were not originally selected to a team and offer them an opportunity to join a team.

Tryouts for spring teams are held in January and February, while tryouts for fall teams are held later in August. College exposure teams are not selected through our standard tryout procedure, but instead through an offer system.

Practices

All teams during the spring season will participate in two weekly team practices. Teams during the fall season will participate in one weekly team practice and OPTIONAL but highly recommended skills/drills sessions. All practices are considered mandatory. If there is a conflict, athletes are expected to notify their coaches a minimum of 24 hours prior to practice. Each individual coach will express how he or she prefers to be contacted, whether via telephone, email or text. Each practice session is very important to the development of our athletes and teams. Mass Elite expects athletes to make every effort to attend each practice as absence could affect the team performance at tournaments. Our coaches spend valuable time preparing their practice plans and need to know if and when an athlete will not be present. Mass Elite understands our athletes are students, however part of being a student athlete is learning to allocate time properly. Mass Elite athletes are expected to schedule their time so they can complete studying and homework, as well as participate in practices. It is customary for teachers to provide ample advance notification of any scheduled tests and school projects. As such, we expect all our athletes to manage their time efficiently to ensure they are able to meet all expectations. Each athlete is responsible for arriving to practice, as Mass Elite does not provide transportation. Some practice locations may be more convenient for our individual families than others. We understand this, and in some situations, carpooling may be an option for teammates. If you choose to carpool, please make sure your coach knows all pertinent details. Our coaches and staff will utilize every minute during a practice session; thus, players are required to be ready to begin practice at the designated start time. Please arrive early to allow yourself adequate time to prepare for practice. Most facilities have water fountains or beverages for purchase, but athletes are still required to bring their own water bottles to practice. Players must also always bring a basketball with their name clearly labeled on it to all practices and skills sessions. Finally, it is imperative that athletes be picked up on time by parents when practice concludes.

Tournaments

During the season, each team will participate in weekend tournaments. Each coach and the administration of Mass Elite will determine the team's tournament schedule and this schedule is not announced prior to the season. Mass Elite has no control over outside tournaments, their game schedules or opponents. Two-day events cover both Saturday and Sunday, and some large tournaments stretch out across Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday. Each tournament makes their own schedule, has their own tournament rules and determines which age groups comprise their tournament. Most tournaments begin a tournament with pool play, consisting of round-robin games. Following the round-robin games, the teams then receive seeds and start bracket play for the top finishers. This may vary across tournaments, but this is the most common format. Since seeds will need to be established, teams will begin a tournament only

knowing the actual game times of one or two of their games. Following the completion of those games, the coach will know when the team will play again. Depending on the tournament format, teams may only have one game per day, or could have up to three a day. It is not uncommon for there to be several hours between game times, especially during large tournaments. All tournament directors want the tournament to run on time, however games can be unpredictable, and with various tournament formats and management styles it is often very difficult to predict when a tournament will end. Furthermore, the exact tournament schedule is often not available until just before the tournament begins (sometimes even the day before the first games). This is due to team withdrawals, changes, late entries, as well as unforeseen issues; all of which impact the number of games, schedule, and matchups. Every spectator will be required to pay for entry, and the amounts range from \$5-15, depending on the day and even the age of the spectator. Most tournaments only accept cash, so parents should plan accordingly. As with practices, Mass Elite will not provide transportation to tournaments. As mentioned earlier, there may be multiple games on one day spread across several hours. Not all tournaments have concessions, thus parents should make sure their athlete has snacks or meals available to them. Tournaments, like practices are required for all team members.

Playing Time

Playing time will vary according to team and is not guaranteed. Playing time is earned through performance both at practice and in previous games. The most important factor in determining playing time is most often attitude. Players decide independently in a daily basis how they will to react to a situation, and if a player is negatively affecting the team through attitude or play, the coach will substitute them for a player who can positively affect the team, regardless of how long they may have been in the game. All playing time is determined by the coach and is nonnegotiable. Every team wants to win, and in a competitive AAU tournament, the coach will play the players required to help the team perform best. No parent or player should discuss playing time with a coach during or after a game. The coach has the right to play whichever players or combination of players they believe helps develop the team most appropriately. If a player has a question about playing time, the player (not the parent) should ask the coach outside of practice. Our coaches will provide honest feedback on what players need to improve upon to see more game minutes. Once that protocol has occurred, it is appropriate for a parent to request a meeting with the coach (not administrators) to discuss candidly their child's opportunity to gain additional playing time.

Parent Expectations

Mass Elite expects a commitment out of our parents to be good role models to all athletes. Parents who set poor examples and display undesirable traits or language send the wrong messages to our athletes. Parents are expected to refrain from criticizing coaches, officials, teammates or other parents. Leave the coaching to our coaches! Often during the excitement of a game or practice parents can unintentionally give a player advice or instructions that are contrary to those of the coach, which leaves the player confused. The easiest way to disrupt a team's progress is to undermine the authority of the coach. Parents should enter the season

understanding that you will not agree or like every coaching decision or tactic, but this does not warrant or deserve criticism. All coaches have the best interests of your child at the core of their heart. Officials are a part of every game, and like every other person they can and do make mistakes. Parents are expected to focus on the team and the game, not berating officials. Mass Elite believes strongly in leading by example, and if any parent is ejected from a tournament or game, their athlete is automatically suspended for the rest of the tournament. Officials have no preference to any team winning any game: allow them to do their job as best as they can.

Conflict Resolution

Mass Elite and our coaches strive for excellence on and off the court and believe that open communication between coach and player solves nearly all issues and concerns. However, if a parent has an issue they wish to discuss with the coach, there is a conflict resolution procedure that must be followed. Parents are NOT permitted to confront the coaches during tournaments to discuss playing time, tactics, individual or team performance. Should a parent confront a coach during a tournament, Mass Elite coaches have been instructed to walk away and refuse to discuss any controversial matter. This is a policy of our club and should not be reflective of the coach. The ONLY time a parent or player should discuss any problems with a coach is at an arranged meeting. It is important for our athletes to learn the appropriate steps for problem conflict resolution. Thus, if an athlete has a concern about/with their coach, they should follow these steps:

1. The player should discuss any and all concerns with the coach openly and arrive at a mutual solution. This should be done outside of practice, and never at games or tournaments. Our coaches want each and every player to succeed and will work with the athlete to find a solution. The player should be open, honest and willing to listen to the coach's explanation and rationalization. Players should remember that oftentimes if they don't voice a concern for a perceived problem, the coach might not know it exists!
2. If after time the concern has not been resolved, the player and parents may make an appointment to speak with the coach about the ongoing issue. This must be done outside of practice, and never at a game or tournament.
3. If after time a solution still has not been reached, a parent may contact the club to set up a meeting with a club administrator. All decisions by the club leader will be final, and no refunds or other concessions will be awarded if a parent disagrees with the club leader. It is important for these steps to be followed, as a club leader will not meet or discuss any issues with a parent if the player, and then the player and parent have not formally met with the coach.

Fees and Penalties

Mass Elite fees cover court rental fees, coaches fees, administrative costs, tournament costs and equipment costs. Tuition must be paid IN FULL prior to the start of the season for a player to participate. In the opinion of our business department, if an athlete is overly delinquent in tuition, he or she will be removed from our rosters. All checks must have the

athlete's name in the memo line and be made out to MASS ELITE BASKETBALL. Tuition payments are non-refundable. Late fees will apply for families who do not pay tuition by the appropriate dates.

Coaches

Mass Elite prides itself on the quality of our staff and coaches. Our head coaches and specialized trainers have been thoroughly reviewed and approved by our staff and have previous coaching/playing experience at the scholastic, collegiate, or professional level. Many of our coaches have been with us for several years. Coaches for individual teams will be listed on our website, and in some cases will be posted with final tryout results prior to the season.