



2026-27 KBA Structure

(Registration links at the bottom. Please read before registering your player.)

Each year KBA has approximately 250-300 athletes participating in the club. We are developing and structuring KBA as the premier basketball club in the Kearney area. Our primary goal is to keep competitive basketball accessible to all youth athletes in Kearney and elevate their love for the game of basketball. We believe, in doing so, we can develop and stretch our athletes to be able to compete not only at the highest levels across Nebraska but also at the regional and national levels. We will constantly be evaluating our program to make the necessary adjustments to provide the best possible experience and development we can offer for the youth in our program.

We have developed great relationships with several top clubs, high schools and colleges in the Midwest and we are using their guidance to help make our decisions on how to best serve our players and community. These connections are incredibly important to allow additional pathways for our athletes' continued development and success.

KHS Boys Coach Beranek states, "We are starting to see the work of KBA show on the boys side. Last year, one of the first groups to join KBA had the highest number of freshmen tryout since I've been coaching. Not only was there a high number of players but there was also a good depth of skilled athletes that understand how to play. I'm excited to see how this group and KBA will continue to improve our basketball program."

KHS Girls Coach Danielson adds, "My staff and I are excited to get to work with the KBA this season as we continue to provide opportunities to our youth girls basketball players. We are proud to support the KBA and will look to create more opportunities for engagement with our high school program this season."

KBA currently has multiple age groups that are competing in the highest levels of play across the region, and we will continue to build on our success and stretch our athletes to be the very best that they can be!

KBA offers two programs during the season:

- 1. KBA Academy (grades 3-8, Oct-Feb)**
- 2. KBA Jr. Academy (grades 1-2, Nov-Dec)**

****KBA Trailblazers is a special needs based program for all ages and is offered March-April.***



KBA Academy

- New gym space options open up KBA's ability to adjust the number of players in a gym space and coach to player ratios.
 - The KBA Board will work with Lead Coaches for each grade to tailor team break outs per grade to accommodate academy style competitiveness but with a goal to reduce the number of athletes in the gym to meet the gym size/space as is available to our program.
- Practices will be highly competitive
- Fundamental development will always be a priority
- 5 v 5 team concept development will be emphasized with the intent to build high basketball IQ
- Focus on man-to-man defensive principles
- Players should all be highly motivated to become better basketball players
- Commitment/effort expectations will be high
- Potential player pathways to play with additional age groups and/or additional clubs

KBA Jr. Academy

Last year we had a lot of success with this new program so we will be doing it again! KBA Junior Academy is a 6-week (Nov-Dec) program for 1st-2nd graders with training 2 days a week. (We don't know the days and times yet until after registration closes due to gym scheduling and coaches.) This program will focus on fundamental skill development catered to 1st and 2nd graders, as well as short-sided games that allow these young athletes to develop teamwork and competitiveness. Basketballs and hoop height will be modified to foster appropriate development technique for their strength and ability. Participants will order their own KBA reversible through Mr. B's Tees. (Registration info at the end.)

Additional benefits of participating in the KBA program:

- **All** KBA registered players will be assigned to play in the KBA program (i.e., there are not "cuts")
- **All** KBA players will receive free admission to select Kearney High Basketball home games when wearing their KBA gear
- Access to practices with experienced USA Gold basketball certified youth coaches
- Opportunity for players to make new friendships with players all over the Kearney area!
- For KBA Academy there will be training opportunities and camps by professional basketball trainers offered before and throughout the season



Parent Testimonial:

"Thank you for creating this program! KBA allowed our son to get to know kids all around Kearney. It also eased the transition in middle school to have so many new friends. We were so impressed by the improvement we saw in our son and his teammates. He has been spending more time shooting in the driveway and is excited for the next season!"

KBA Pre-Season Camp

Coach Kevin Lofton will be leading our Pre-Season Camps! We will offer these camps for each grade/gender. This is a great tune-up to prepare for the season. Dates are expected to be early to mid-October. Coach Lofton will lead the camp with assistants from the KHS Basketball teams and Kearney community.

During this Pre-Season Camp if a team for a grade level has 16 or more registered an assessment will be performed by the grade level coaches and a basketball assessment team without intrusion to the camp experience.

What is being assessed?

- Effort and Attention
- Coachability
- Skill
- Basketball IQ
- Knowledge of team basketball concepts
- Competitiveness

Following the Camp, the KBA board will work with the grade level coaches (in consideration of the number of registered athletes, coach availability, and coach/player ratio) and create up to 3 academy style teams. Ultimately, the goal will be to provide a positive coach to player ratio in a reasonable gym space where competitive play and development can occur for each player.

Coach Development

KBA wants to support coaches' development. Teaching youth in a constructive and positive environment while holding them accountable and developing the proper frame of mind for a young athlete can be challenging. Furthermore, athletes start at younger ages and while we aim to develop the players, we must maintain a positive environment where the players in our program grow in their love for the game of basketball regardless of whether they will play at the high school or college level. We want these athletes to love the game and KBA encourages all our coaches to keep in mind that kids will develop at different ages. We don't want to lose players before their athletic development has occurred. KBA aims to provide training and resources for our coaches. KBA will provide coaches clinics, opportunities to observe and participate in training with professional basketball trainers, a coaching handbook to fully understand KBA's intent and mission for our program, practice templates for coaches use and development plans for player progression. Additionally, all active lead coaches will be required to complete the USA Basketball Gold licensure (paid for by KBA).

KBA will offer a coach's clinic in September. Coach Beranek and Coach Danielson will provide content at this clinic. Similar to last year, other KBA Board members with years of experience in competitive



youth basketball will also be providing tips and hints for managing your team such as tournament availability and sign-up, team finance management, and structuring your season and practice for a successful season.

Professional Basketball Trainer

Coach Kevin Lofton spent more than 30 years coaching at the collegiate level. His real love has always been with the development of players and he is excited to offer professional training sessions to youth in our area. Coach Lofton will be providing training sessions for grades 3rd-8th in a preseason camp. KBA will also provide more information for youth to sign up for individual sessions with Coach Lofton.

Similar to last season we will have other professional basketball trainers come in to work with our athletes and allow our coaches to learn from the experience as well. KBA is excited to invite these trainers in to work with our program and expose our athletes to these unique opportunities.

Expectations for KBA Academy Athletes

While KBA strives to include any youth (3rd-8th), who desire to play competitive basketball, KBA wants to emphasize the competitive intent of the program. If your athlete is not ready to actively listen, engage and compete in 1.5 hour practices and take on the responsibility of advancing their development through athlete coachability and increased dedication beyond a recreational program please allow your athlete time to grow in a recreational program until they are ready to commit at a more competitive level.

General Information

1. Player registration for **KBA Academy** is \$170/player per season. This helps cover the increased cost of gym rental space, insurance, USA Basketball Gold Certification for coaches, and other fees.

Multiple children registering for a KBA program this year? If you register 2 kids, it's \$160/player; registering 3 kids, it's \$150/player; registering 4 kids, it's \$140/player.

Additional fees include:

- a. **Approximately \$75 uniform fee** if the player does not already have one. Players will order their custom KBA uniform anticipating that it can last for multiple seasons. **Also, all players will order their own \$25 KBA practice jersey if they do not already have one.** (This was implemented first during the 25-26 season) The link to order will be provided after registration closes for the upcoming season so **please do NOT pay this uniform/reversible fee with your registration as it is paid to a separate vendor, not KBA.****
- b. **Tournament registrations:** These are handled within each individual team and are decided by coaches with parent input. Typically a player may pay \$75-\$125 total toward their tournament registrations but this fee is truly dependent on the number of leagues and tournaments a player participates in.**



- c. Fan gear: KBA will offer an opportunity to order fan gear and warm up shirts for the players but purchase of these items is not required. These can be purchased at the same time as the uniform.
 - d. ****Scholarships:** KBA strives to include all young athletes interested in competitive basketball. For those athletes needing financial assistance please fill out the [2026 KBA Scholarship Form](#).
2. **KBA Jr. Academy** (1st-2nd graders): Player registration is \$55/player for the 6-week season. An additional \$25 fee includes the purchase of a KBA reversible. (A link will be provided to registrants to order from the vendor.)
3. Coaches/Players will be covered under a comprehensive insurance policy.
4. As representatives of KBA, team unity and recognition is important. Therefore, all teams will be called KBA but likely will have a further designation to identify level of play such as "KBA Blue", "KBA Black", "KBA White", and "KBA Gold".
5. A typical KBA season runs from mid-October - February. Coaches and parents can work together to determine the actual length of season, number of tournaments, distance of travel, and practices per week. Parents can truly control the number of tournaments their child participates in by providing the Coach with availability information.
6. KBA manages all gym reservations for the KBA teams:
 - KBA aims to provide all registrants (1st-8th grade) 2 x 1.5 hour practices per week during their respective season with the exception of 7th-8th grade middle school seasons (see below).
 - 7th & 8th grade will have 1 1.5-hour practice during their respective KPS Middle School season (girls Nov-Dec, boys Jan-Feb)
 - Any additional practices while in middle school basketball season will be optional and requests must be made by the team coach to our KBA scheduler.
 - In some instances of multiple special events being held in Kearney Public School gyms and a special event at the Kearney SportsPlex, KBA may not be able to provide the practice space as intended. In these rare instances the coach will be notified directly and they will inform their team.
7. Please visit "Kearneybasketball.org" for information, registration links, and any future updates. All registration links are listed below! Follow us on Facebook "Kearney Basketball Association - KBA"



Registration Links

Coaches' Registration Form

Coaches' registration starts now! If you or someone you know would be interested in **assistant** coaching within the KBA program, please fill out the [Assistant Coaches Registration form](#) for 2026-27. KBA remains reliant on parents with basketball knowledge to come forward and help with our program!

RECAP: Season Registration with Summary Requirements below

KBA Player Registration for the 26-27 Season

- Registration- \$170 to KBA at the time of registration *MANDATORY*
- Reversible- \$25 (store link emailed after registration closes) *IF DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE*
- Uniform- \$75 (store link emailed after registration closes) *IF DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE*
- Ball- ~\$65 *IF DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE*
- Tournament Fees- ~\$100 (sent from team manager during season) *MANDATORY*

KBA Jr. Academy for Nov-Dec 2026

- Registration- \$55 to KBA at the time of registration *MANDATORY*
- Reversible- \$25 (store link emailed after registration closes) *IF DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE*
- Size 6 Ball- FREE, provided to all registrants

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://forms.gle/JY5i74vb9dXTUUEd8>

NEW THIS YEAR: KBA Website: <https://kearneybasketball.org/>

KBA Board Members:

*Drake Beranek, Drew Danielson, Julie Thomsen, Melissa Scott-Pandorf,
Jon Garner, Scott Phye, Nick Erdman, Sarah Larsen, Aric Blender, Kyle Means*