



WELCOME TO THE 2025-2026 *MORTON HEAT* BASKETBALL SEASON

Congratulations!! Your son or daughter has been selected to be on one of the Morton HEAT basketball teams for the 2025-2026 season. Our goal is to provide your child an opportunity to practice and learn the fundamentals of basketball in a structured setting and experience game play at a competitive level against other teams their age.

We hope that this letter highlights the bulk of what you will need to know for the upcoming season, as well as, how to get started. If you have a question about something not covered in this letter, please email mortonheat@gmail.com and a board member will be happy to help you out.

REGISTRATION FEES - Fees for the 2025-2026 season are \$120 and are due at the time of registration and go towards our season expenses which include referee fees and tournament registration costs. We ask that all players are registered by end of day Thursday September, 25nd.

PLAYER REGISTRATION – Please visit our website at www.mortonheatbasketball.org

1. CREATE AN ACCOUNT for first time users. If you already have an account from past seasons there is no need to start a new one.
2. After you create an account (or log into your existing account) go to REGISTRATION and then click on LEARN MORE. On the right side of the page, you will see HEAT 2025-26 and at the bottom you can select REGISTER.
3. Select who you are registering (returning player) or you can add a new player.
4. Code of Conduct and Acknowledgement. At the bottom drop down please select the team you are registering for.
5. Select Payment method.

UNIFORM FEES – **We will be providing a separate email and document by the end of this week with instructions for ordering and paying for uniforms directly through our vendor.** All new HEAT players are required to purchase a uniform for the season. This uniform is yours to keep at the end of the season and can be worn for future seasons, handed down to siblings,

given to another HEAT family, etc... Uniforms will be \$105 for a full set or \$52.50 for single item (new jersey or shorts for returning player, tax and shipping not included in the amounts noted). All uniforms will be shipped in bulk to Morton HEAT and then distributed to coaches and players.

PRACTICES – Teams practice two times per week at one of the local elementary schools (3rd, 4th, 5th grade) or at Morton Junior High (6th grade). We will not schedule practice during winter break thru New Year's, but practices can resume starting the first week of January. The scheduled days and times for each team are as follows and begin the week of Monday October 28th. Official locations will be announced in the coming weeks.

| TEAM | WEEKLY PRACTICES | TIME |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 3rd Grade Girls | Tuesday & Thursday | 5:30-7:00 PM |
| 4th Grade Girls | Tuesday & Thursday | 5:30-7:00 PM |
| 5th Grade Girls | Tuesday & Thursday | 7:00-8:30 PM |
| 3rd Grade Boys | Monday & Wednesday | 5:30-7:00 PM |
| 4th Grade Boys | Monday & Wednesday | 5:30-7:00 PM |
| 5th Grade Boys | Monday & Wednesday | 7:00-8:30 PM |
| 6th Grade Boys | Monday & Wednesday | 7:00-8:30 PM |

GAMES – Our goal is to schedule each team “around” 25 games. Our season schedule starts on November 15th and runs through the end of February. Games are played on weekends and are a mix of single games, round robins, and tournaments. The bulk of our travel is in the immediate Peoria/Bloomington area, but due to the number of teams we have (two boys teams at each level when most programs have just one) and by trying to get the stated number of games we will travel a little further to participate in multiple game events if needed (Galesburg, Mahomet, Streator, and Lincoln have all been past destinations).

All home games are played at one of the two gyms at Morton Junior High School and start no earlier than 1PM (in the majority of cases) while away games can be at anytime on Saturday or Sunday (we are at the mercy of opponents gym availability).

We will not schedule games Thanksgiving weekend or during Christmas break thru New Year's. Game schedules can resume the first weekend of January (3rd or 4th) this season.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS – Please follow the “Code of Conduct” that was acknowledged during the registration process. Morton HEAT has a reputation for being a very well-ran and respected program in the area and that includes how our parents and coaches conduct themselves at games and tournaments. Yes, we are all competitive and want our teams and kids to perform

well, but at the end of the day we are all part of a youth program that focusses on learning, growth, and having fun, all of which our program prioritizes over winning at these age levels.

- HOME GAME VOLUNTEERS – Coaches for each team are responsible for making sure that we have volunteers for admissions, scoreboard/clock, scorebook, and concessions (new gym games only) for their team's home games. Please be aware that coaches will create a system of filling these needs using parents on each team. Without these positions being filled we are unable to host games for your child's team.

We realize this is A LOT of information, but we hope it serves as not only a resource to get started, but also as a reference for how the season will play out and what is expected. As noted at the beginning of this letter, please reach out to mortonheat@gmail.com should you have any other questions about the upcoming season.

We look forward to a great season of Morton HEAT basketball!!

Thanks,
Morton HEAT Board

