



New Jersey Scholars Elite Youth Basketball Academy
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New Jersey Scholars Elite Basketball Academy Selected for The Prestigious Nike Elite Youth Basketball Circuit

Millburn, New Jersey - **The New Jersey Scholars Elite Basketball Academy ("NJ Scholars" or "NJ Scholars Elite Basketball Club")** is a member of the exclusive **Nike Elite Youth Basketball** circuit ("**Nike EYB**"). Nike EYB is comprised of select amateur basketball programs from across the country. Teams receive Nike sponsorship and participate in Nike's exclusive tournaments. These tournaments collectively represent the most prestigious amateur development and exposure circuit in the country. Players represent the top ranked amateur athletes in the country and currently 147 NBA players are EYB alumni.

The NJ Scholars is a newly established organization as of November 2019 but is the outgrowth of the KSK Basketball Club that was formed in 2007. The organization's legacy includes developing highly competitive young players and teams. The NJ Scholars staff has consistently produced elite talent for the top New Jersey high school programs. The organization has also previously acted as a feeder program for other sponsored grassroots basketball clubs at the high school ages. Numerous alumni have competed or are competing at the collegiate level and several are playing professionally. The partnership with Nike will allow the NJ Scholars to significantly expand the developmental and exposure opportunities for all age groups (middle school and under through high school).

The NJ Scholars will be a service provider to the various high school programs, youth organizations and the greater basketball community to advance the state of basketball within New Jersey. This will be done through an open dialogue and the solicitation of feedback from all stakeholders. In addition, the NJ Scholars will utilize a holistic approach to developing its youth participants including academic success, mental health awareness and civic engagement.

Francis Nicolas, the NJ Scholars Program Director, offered that "The NJ Scholars Elite Basketball Club looks forward to continuing and expanding our work with New Jersey's basketball community. We expect to provide the absolute best experience that is available to elite prospects in our great basketball state or anywhere for that matter. We are grateful to Nike for this rare opportunity."

NJ Scholars Regional Director, **Dajuan Wagner** who is one of the most heralded players in high school basketball history and a New Jersey legend, added "We think that one of the keys to developing elite talent is getting the best players possible in the gym, providing great instruction but also really letting them feed off of each other. Our goal is to create a performance culture like nowhere else."

Nike states that "Nike Elite Youth Basketball is dedicated to developing athlete potential through superior skill instruction, honest evaluation, and unprecedented exposure. EYB programs and events encourage and challenge the nation's youth to be positive community leaders on and off the court."

The EYBL schedule for Nike grassroots teams is listed below. Various high visibility tournaments and other events around the country will be added, as appropriate, to the base Nike EYB schedule.

Nike EYBL 2020 Schedule	June Selective Events
Session 1 - Indianapolis IN April 17-19	1st weekend - USA Basketball
Session 2 - Atlanta GA April 24-26	2nd weekend - Nike Top 100
Session 3 - EYBL Regional Games May 8-10	3rd weekend - NBA Camp
Session 4 - Sacramento CA May 22-24	Other Tournaments and Events
EYBL Finals Peach Jam N Augusta, SC July 8-12	To Be Determined

NJ Scholars Elite Youth Basketball Club tryouts for 15u and 16u will be held on March 7th and 8th, March 14th and 15th, and March 21st and 22nd. The NJ Scholars 17u team will be added during the 2021 season. Please monitor our website, www.scholarsbasketball.org, for schedule and location updates. For experienced coaches and other parties who are interested in joining or supporting the expansion of the NJ Scholars program, please contact the organization as soon as possible and while we are still making key staffing decisions. All interested and qualified parties will be considered.

About New Jersey Scholars Elite Youth Basketball Club

The NJ Scholars Elite Youth Basketball Club is a not-for-profit organization that provides a year-round athletic, academic and mental health program. The organization is a part of the exclusive Nike Elite Youth Basketball program. The NJ Scholars Academy currently serves youth and their families primarily located throughout the state of New Jersey. The predecessor organization was originally founded in 2007 as the KSK Youth Basketball Club and achieved prominence by becoming a mainstay in the NJ community and winning national recognition with many of its middle school and younger programs. The NJ Scholars principals have served hundreds of scholar athletes and families since launching grassroot programs in New Jersey.

For program related questions: Program Director Francis Nicolas fran@scholarsbasketball.org
Regional Director Dajuan Wagner dj@scholarsbasketball.org

About Nike, Inc.

NIKE, Inc., based near Beaverton, Oregon, is the world's leading designer, marketer and distributor of authentic athletic footwear, apparel, equipment and accessories for a wide variety of sports and fitness activities. Nike Elite Youth Basketball (EYB) is dedicated to developing athlete potential through superior skill instruction, honest evaluation, and unprecedented exposure. EYB programs and events encourage and challenge the nation's youth to be positive community leaders on and off the court.

For more information, individuals can also visit <https://nikeeyb.com/> and follow [@Nike](https://twitter.com/Nike).

