Mentor Frequently Asked Questions

How can I participate as a mentor for Her Time To Play?
To serve as a Her Time To Play mentor, you must be invited by a participating youth organization. An email from the organization will be sent with a unique link to register formally under the organization’s dashboard.

What happens after I receive an invitation from a youth organization to become a mentor?
After your registration is completed, you will receive further instructions from the Jr. NBA about how to acquire a USA Basketball Coach License.

What are the mentor responsibilities and expectations?
As a mentor, you will be expected to do the following:
- Make a reasonable attempt to attend all sessions of the program (as determined by the organization)
- Be on time for scheduled sessions
- Maintain a level of professionalism and display acceptable attitude throughout the program
- Notify your youth organization if you are unable to keep your weekly mentoring session
- Adhere to the rules and policies of the individual organization
- Complete a USA Basketball coach licensing certification prior to start of the program
  - *This is only applicable for mentors who have never been USA Basketball Coach Licensed

What do I do if I am not invited by a youth organization to register but still want to become a mentor?
If you do not receive an invitation to serve as a mentor for a Her Time To Play program, please reach out directly to youth organizations within your community, and encourage them to register to run Her Time To Play.

Do I need to have prior experience either playing or coaching basketball to become a mentor?
If you will be assisting with the oncourt sessions, you should have some level of prior basketball experience and exhibit a strong understanding of the fundamentals of the game. However, assisting with the off-court life skills sessions does not require basketball knowledge, but rather the ability to serve as a good role model and provide a safe and positive experience for the girls participating in this program.

I have never volunteered with children. Will I be trained?
Eligible mentors will be able to receive USA Basketball coach license and SafeSport training. Additional training may be provided at the discretion of your participating youth organization.

Will mentors be provided a program curriculum?
Mentors, administrators, and coaches will receive a curriculum co-developed by the Jr. NBA and Women’s Sports Foundation prior to the start of the program. Each chapter will have instructions for the administrator on how to best administer the upcoming session.

Who is eligible for a USA Basketball Coach License?
Any mentor that has been invited to and registered for a Her Time To Play program and has not received a USA Basketball Coach license in the past.

What is a USA Basketball Coach License?
The USA Basketball Coach Licensing Program focuses on educating coaches while ensuring the safety of those with whom the coach may come in contact. Program participants receive a USA Basketball license, and all licensed coaches will be listed in the official USA Basketball coaching database.
What is required to get a USA Basketball Coach License?
The coach license requires three components:

1. **Background Screening**
   USA Basketball Youth Development requires background screening for all potential coaches and administrators. Background screening is one step to help ensure a positive and safe environment.

2. **USA Basketball Youth Development Coaching Course**
   This course provides both experienced coaches, as well as those new to teaching the game, with tools to improve coaching skills and techniques. The course is foundational and tailored to any coach that instructs youth. It is focused on helping coaches teach the game positively, impart playing the right way competitively, and with enjoyment all while making the wellbeing of young athletes a top priority.

3. **SafeSport Course**
   The SafeSport program was created by the United States Olympic Committee to address misconduct in sport and the practices to use to protect athletes. The SafeSport course addresses six types of misconduct and how to affectively deal with each. Learning about the types of misconduct is an important step to recognize, reduce, and respond effectively to inappropriate and harmful behavior.

How long is my USA Basketball coach license valid for?
The USA Basketball Coach License expires on August 31 each year.

As a mentor, am I responsible for paying for the USA Basketball Coach license?
The Jr. NBA will cover all costs to complete the USA Basketball Coach License for female mentors who have not previously registered for a USA Basketball coach license in the past.

How long does it take to complete the USA Basketball Coach License program?
The USA Basketball Coach License online course can take approximately three hours to complete. The background screening can take up to 7-10 business days to process. If the background screening is submitted on the weekend or during the holidays, the processing time will be delayed.

Do I need to get the coach license in order to serve as a Her Time To Play mentor? If so, who follows up to make sure this course was completed by the mentor?
The mentor will be invited to complete a USA Basketball Coach License only after they have received the invitation from a youth organization to register under their Her Time To Play program.

How long is each mentor session?
Each session will last no longer than 90 minutes, and the weekly date/time will vary based on your youth organization's schedule.

If I am invited as a mentor but cannot make one of the sessions, what do I do?
Contact your youth organization's program director as soon as possible prior the session you will miss, with more than 24 hours’ notice when possible.

What should I wear to each mentor session?
- Comfortable athletic attire
- Athletic sneakers/closed-toe shoes (no sandals or flip-flops allowed)

Will I be compensated for my times as a mentor?
Her Time To Play is a free program so you will not be compensated by the Jr. NBA for your time as a mentor. Please discuss expectations with your participating youth organization before committing to serve as a mentor.