FOR PLAYERS AND PARENTS

Where talent meets opportunity.

The Youth Academy is the third step on our ladder: the place where students who show desire, talent and commitment train with elite coaches, practice alongside our adult players and compete for New York City Team Handball Club, the most successful handball club in the country. This guide tells you what it is, what it costs, and how to join.



WHAT YOUR CHILD GETS

- **24 weeks of training** a season with coaches who have played and coached at the highest levels of the sport, including Olympic and world champions on our staff.
- **A team, every week.** Teammates from a dozen countries, and a gym that becomes the place the city says welcome.
- **Real competition** for NYCTHC, and practice alongside the club's adult players, 11× U.S. national champions.
- **A pathway** to Team USA youth and junior tournaments, and to the sport's international stage. Handball is on the LA28 Olympic program.

WHO
Ages 12–18
Boys and girls, co-ed. No prior experience required: desire and commitment matter more than a résumé.

WHERE
Harlem, Manhattan
Our home gym at River East Elementary School, 2351 1st Ave, New York, NY 10035.

WHEN
24-week season
Weekly sessions through the school year. Day and time are confirmed with you at registration.

COST
$750 a year
Everything included: training, jerseys and USA Team Handball membership. Scholarships cover it for families who cannot.

Talent opens the door. Scholarships keep it open.

Academy places go to the kids who earn them, whatever their family can afford. Donor-funded scholarships cover fees, gear and travel so cost never closes the door. If $750 is out of reach, say so when you write to us; nobody is turned away for money, and nobody is asked to explain.

THE LADDER YOUR CHILD IS CLIMBING

STEP 1
Every student plays
The 11-week PE unit in school: every kid in the class learns the sport.

STEP 2
School teams & Youth Cup
Committed students make a team and represent their school citywide.

STEP 3
Youth Academy
Players with desire and drive train with elite coaches and compete for NYCTHC.

STEP 4
The club, and Team USA
Train with our adult players and represent the club, on the road to the national team.

"It's hard to bring your kids from Peru to New York and raise them alone. The coaches have given Matias and Luana a place that feels like home. My kids love being part of the Academy."

Calina Guzman, mother of Matias and Luana, Youth Academy

"From my first practice, I felt this could be my second family. I learn something different from everyone here, because they're from all over the world, and I've built my own life and my own views, knowing I have a place where I belong."

Yousef Elkhouly, joined at 14; now at NJIT, plays for the adult team and coaches in the Academy

WHO COACHES THE ACADEMY

Coaches who build players one relationship at a time.



Birane Diouf

Youth Academy Director

Came to New York from Senegal and never stopped coaching. IHF-certified and the club's global ambassador for the sport. Kids who arrive quiet leave his gym loud, confident and asking when the next session is.



Yousef Elkhouly

Assistant Coach, Youth Academy

Came up through the Academy himself after arriving from Egypt at 14; now coaches the next group while studying engineering at NJIT. Makes sure no new player stands alone for long.



Behind them stands the club's coaching staff: Bini Mustafa, 8× U.S. National Champion and former Team USA athlete; Chris Brase, a USA Team Handball board member; Zhana Skubenich, a former professional in Ukraine and the author of a book on coaching young players; and Joel Azumah, a former college volleyball coach. Olympic and world champions Staffan Olsson, Jérôme Fernandez and Andrea Lekić work with our players when they are in New York.

A TYPICAL SESSION

- **Warm-up and movement**: running, jumping, changing direction, ball handling.
- **Technique**: passing, catching, shooting, footwork, goalkeeping, defense, taught properly from day one.
- **Small-sided and full games**, with coaches stopping play to teach.
- **Reflection**: what went well, what we work on next week.

The club has taken teams to London, Montreal, Toronto, Buenos Aires and Belgrade; as players grow, that road opens to them too.

WHAT TO BRING, AND WHAT WE PROVIDE

- **Bring:** indoor (non-marking) sneakers, shorts and a T-shirt, a water bottle.
- **We provide:** balls, goals, training gear, your club jersey, and your USA Team Handball membership, which includes the sport's insurance.
- **Registration:** every person who enters the gym must be a registered member, with signed forms. The school and our insurance require it, and it protects your child.
- **Safety:** every coach is NYC DOE PETS cleared, SafeSport certified and background screened. A parent is welcome to stay and watch any session.

Who the Academy is for

Most Academy players come to us through a school program or the NYC Youth Cup, where they showed the desire or the talent to go further. But the door is open to any kid aged 12–18 who is willing to work. If your child has never touched a handball, that is fine: the coaches have started hundreds of players from zero.

How to join

Email **shkumbin@newyorkcityteamhandball.com** with the subject line **Youth Academy** and three things: your child's name and age, their school, and the best way to reach you. We will reply within 24 hours with the next session you can come to; if you have not heard back by then, text 203.993.7652. Come, watch, play. Then decide.

Ask about a scholarship in the same email; it is a normal question here.

Come to a practice.

Harlem, Manhattan: River East Elementary School, 2351 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10035. Tell us you are coming and a coach will meet you at the door.

shkumbin@newyorkcityteamhandball.com · 203.993.7652