

How do I form a team?

Some important considerations in forming a team are developing a philosophy for your team, finding committed players, finding a coach and finding a practice facility. The first step must be developing a philosophy. What is the motivation behind forming this team? Will it be a participation team where everyone gets equal playing time or a performance team where playing time must be earned? The answers to these questions must be decided before attempting to find a coach and players. If the coach and the players don't buy into the philosophy of the team it will eventually lead to problems and hard feelings.

The philosophy of the team can help to determine how you will go about finding players. Will you run area wide or local tryouts? Will they be open tryouts or by invitation only? Are tryouts necessary or do we just want to keep the school team together for an additional season? Will you charge a fee for participation in tryouts to cover the cost of AAU membership, facility rental, etc.? If you have adopted a performance philosophy you will probably want to go with open tryouts. On the other hand, a participation philosophy can lend itself to either local tryouts or just keeping the school team together and no tryouts. You will also need to decide how many players you will have on your teams' roster. Cost, which is addressed in the next section, may have some impact on that decision.

The next thing you should do is purchase AAU Club Membership. Go to www.minnesotaaau.org and click on "JOIN AAU" to pay w/ a credit card.

The Club Membership provides you with practice insurance coverage. The prices for club membership are **Club Level 1-\$30, Club Level 2-\$60, and Club Level 3-\$300**. If you need a copy of an insurance binder call the MN AAU office.

After you choose and pay for the type of club membership that fits your teams needs, then you can start assembling your team. Each athlete and non-athlete (coach, bench personnel, etc.) on your team is required to have an individual AAU membership. Go to www.minnesotaaau.org and click on "JOIN AAU" to pay w/ a credit card.

The prices for regular individual membership are **\$12 for athletes and \$14 for non-athletes**. Regular membership provides you with sports accident insurance and \$10 million in liability at practices and AAU sanctioned events. We also offer Added Benefit membership, which costs **\$14 for athletes and \$16 for non-athletes**. Added Benefit membership provides you with the same coverage, but includes non-AAU sanctioned events.

You will also be able to get information on upcoming local events by clicking on "**BASKETBALL-BOYS**" or "**BASKETBALL-GIRLS**" and then clicking on "**EVENT CALENDAR**" or "**EVENT REGISTRATION FORMS**".

I've formed my team, what's next?

Once you have developed a philosophy, found enough committed players, a coach willing to abide by your philosophy, and a practice facility, there are some administrative details that need to be worked out. You will need to visit www.minnesotaaau.org to obtain a Boys' or Girls' Basketball Handbook. This will help you with age/eligibility questions and make you knowledgeable of AAU rules and regulations.

If there are still questions after reading through the Handbook, the AAU staff is always available to help coaches, administrators and parents to understand the process.

McCain Rosonke
MN AAU Regional Representative
612-290-6240
mccain@aausports.org

Willie Braziel
Boys' Basketball
612-719-4886
wbraziel@aol.com

Dave Preller
Director Girls' Basketball Director
612-865-9781
davidpreller@comcast.net

PLEASE REMEMBER THE AAU IS AN EVENT OPERATOR AND DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM. IT'S THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PLAYERS AND FIND OR START TEAM'S. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE ARE GENERAL AT YOUR DISCRETION. THE AAU DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY PARTICULAR ORGANIZATIONAL TO HAVE EXACT KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO START OR FIND A TEAM.