AAU BATON TWIRLING
GETTING STARTED

#WeAreAAU

www.aaubaton.org
AAU is...

Boys and Girls, Men and Women. AAU is local and global. AAU is laughter, challenges, and opportunities. AAU is the place where you learn discipline, team work and persistence. AAU is an organization where problem solving and cooperation are taught through the medium of sports.

AAU is the oldest not-for-profit organization in the world dedicated exclusively to the development of sports. AAU is 35 different sports programs. AAU is grassroots, local, national and global events.

AAU is athletic programs where striving to be your best is far more important than being the best. AAU is educational programs taught in both the written form and through example.

AAU is alumni from Shaquille O’Neal and Carmelo Anthony, through Swin Cash and Sheryl Swoopes, to Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner Karsee, and Muhammad Ali.

AAU is the AAU Junior Olympic Games. AAU is National Championships, and the local and global competition leading up to them.

AAU is the AAU Sullivan Award, honoring the top amateur athlete. AAU Cares is our AAU Cares and Proud Programs, giving back to local AAU communities.

AAU is impacting communities today and tomorrow. AAU is building America’s future one athlete at a time.
WHERE YOU BEGIN HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH WHERE YOU FINISH.

We’ve been raising champions for more than a century. Since 1888, the AAU has set the standard for amateur sports in the United States. ‘Sports For All, Forever’ has been our focus and drive for 126 years and counting. It is more than a motto – it is our vision for sports in the United States and throughout the world. And today we are proud to host more sporting events for more age divisions in more cities than any other organization in the world.

However, the AAU is not just about sports. For every athlete who attains professional sports status after the AAU, there are hundreds more who apply their AAU experience elsewhere. What our participants gain is much more valuable than athletic glory, much more important than any athletic achievement. Through participation in AAU sports programs athletes acquire the mental acuity, emotional maturity, and social tools necessary to succeed in the classroom and in the world beyond.

We are raising tomorrow’s leaders on today’s playgrounds. No matter your sport, age, or experience level, there is a place for you in the AAU. Congratulations on becoming a part of this tradition. And remember, where you begin has everything to do with where you finish!
WHY SHOULD I JOIN AAU?

Our Membership is good for all of our 35 sports

- For only $14 for youth athletes, and $16 for non-athletes, you can participate in any or all of our offered sports.

Places to Play

- The AAU believes that our events should be hosted at the best facilities. That is why we are partnered with the ESPN Wide World of Sports the premier multi-sport facility in the USA.
- Our National Championships take place in fun locations including but not limited to Orlando, FL; Virginia Beach, VA; Philadelphia, PA; Los Angeles, CA; Las Vegas, NV; Cocoa Beach, FL; and New Orleans, LA.

High Level of Competition

- The AAU is proud to have some of the best young athletes in the country competing in all of our 30+ sports.
- Former AAU athletes are now in the NBA, WNBA, MLB, as well as many Olympians.

Events

- The AAU has many types of events to offer: Local Invitational Tournaments, Leagues, Sports Festivals, District Championships, Super Regionals, Showcase Events, and National Championships.
  - Whether you want to play close to home, or play across the country, the AAU can make it happen.
- AAU Junior Olympic Games
  - The largest youth multi-sport event in America with over 20 sports.
  - Current cities hosting: Des Moines, IA; Greensboro, NC; Virginia Beach, VA; and Houston, TX.

Insurance

- Participant Insurance
  - Your AAU Membership comes with the benefit of secondary sports accident insurance in the event you are injured while competing or participating
- Practice and Event Insurance
  - Coverage Limit: $10,000,000 of general liability
Hosting an AAU Event

Review the AAU Sport Handbooks - Review the AAU Sport Handbooks for guidelines and rules. A current copy of the Handbooks can be downloaded from the webpage at www.aausports.org by using the sport menu located at the top of the homepage and selecting your sport.

Contact the AAU Sports Manager or AAU National Chair - Please visit www.aausports.org for a detailed listing of AAU Sports Managers and AAU Sport National Chairs.

You can also contact the AAU National Headquarters at (407) 934-7200 for further information.

Purchase your AAU Individual Non Athlete membership - All Athletes and Non Athletes (coaches, volunteers, officials) must be individual members of the AAU. Background screens are conducted for all adult members of the AAU. You must have an active Non Athlete or Adult Athlete Membership to purchase a club membership. Applied status or pending memberships are not acceptable.

AAU Club Membership - Register on-line at www.aausports.org and click on JOIN AAU.

Club Membership is necessary to apply to license an AAU Event. Other benefits of joining as a club include receiving AAU mailings, event notifications, membership certificate, voting rights in AAU elections and club practice insurance.

Individual Membership - To participate in an AAU Licensed event, each athlete and coach must be members of the AAU. AAU membership is $14 per youth athlete and $16 per non-athlete (club representative, coach, official). As a member of the AAU, you can participate in any of the 30+ sports offered by the AAU.

The membership year is from September 1st through August 31st. Membership must be renewed each year to be valid.

AAU membership provides each member with sports accident insurance for all properly licensed AAU events and supervised practices. Please refer to the current insurance brochure on our web site.

AAU License Application Form - A license is written approval by the AAU to authorize registered athletes to participate in a specific competition or exhibition. No event is an official AAU event unless the host has obtained an AAU license prior to the start of the event. Instructions for completing and submitting a license application and fees are located on our homepage www.aausports.org. All participants in AAU Licensed events must be individual members of the AAU.
Hosting an AAU Event

The AAU brand and benefits are the perfect tools for event directors to use to ensure a successful event. Planning and advertising are the keys to your events’ success. Plan ahead; submit your license application in a timely manner to enable participants to schedule and make travel plans to attend.

To Submit a Licensed Event Application
After obtaining a club level 2 or 3 and an individual non-athlete membership for the contact listed on the club, go to www.aausports.org. On the right you will find a box with yellow lettering; click on Licensed Event Application. You may choose a logo or provide your own. Choose a flyer template or upload your own flyer. All approved licensed events are posted on our find an event site where more than 10 million viewers have access to your event information.

Order AAU Medals and Awards
As a benefit of licensing your tournament through the AAU, you can order AAU medals and ribbons. To order awards, you must submit to the AAU National Headquarters: (1) Awards Application (2) Tournament Flyer (3) Signed Copy of the Approved Licensed Event (4) Appropriate Fees.

Championship Medals are available for District and Regional championships (includes 1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal). Sports for All Medals are available for invitational, league, open, or preliminary events. Ribbons are available for first through eighth place, plus merit. The price for ribbons is forty (40) cents each. Orders must be received at the AAU National Headquarters at least 15 days prior to the event. Orders received less than 15 days prior to the event will be assessed an expedite fee. A shipping and handling fee of 10% of the total will be charged to each order over $250.00. In addition, if the order requires next day shipping or 2-day shipping, you must pay the shipping cost via credit card. For complete information on AAU Awards, please refer to the Awards Application Form.

Claim Forms
In case of any incidents during your event, make sure you have copies of the AAU Claim Forms at the tournament. These forms should be completed and submitted to the address on the instruction page immediately after an incident. This holds true whether the person involved is a participant or spectator, or whether or not you feel the incident will result in a claim. Please follow all the directions on the form. Claim forms are available at www.aausports.org.
Getting Started in AAU Sports

Go to www.aausports.org and click on JOIN AAU and Create a User Account

Purchase your AAU Individual Non Athlete membership - All Athletes and Non Athletes (coaches, volunteers, officials) must be individual members of the AAU. Background screens are conducted for all adult members of the AAU. You must have an active Non Athlete or Adult Athlete Membership to purchase a club membership. Applied status or pending memberships are not acceptable. For more information, visit the news story for more information. Non-Athlete memberships are $16. For an additional $2, participants can purchase an extended benefit (AB) membership which extends coverage when participating in non-AAU events. For complete information on insurance, visit www.aausports.org and click on the Find Insurance Info in the Gray Quick Links Box.

AAU Club Membership - Each organization must be a registered AAU Club. You can have more than one team within the same club. Club membership can be completed instantly online at www.aausports.org click on Member Login. Login to your account, on the dashboard page click on Club Application; then you will see a description and benefits for each club level. Youth club membership fees are $30 (Club Level 1), $60 (Level 2), or $300 (Level 3). Club membership is valid September 1 to August 31.

Sign up your club/team/organization’s members! Youth athlete membership is $14 per athlete. Non-athlete (coach, volunteer, official) membership is $16. A benefit of AAU membership is sports accident and general liability coverage. For an additional $2, participants can purchase an extended benefit (AB) membership which extends coverage when participating in non-AAU events. For complete information on insurance, visit www.aausports.org and click on the Find Insurance Info in the Gray Quick Links Box.

All AAU Non-Athletes will also be required to obtain PCA Double-Goal Coach® training and certification. The AAU National Office is happy to announce to its members, that this Coaches’ Education is FREE for all AAU Non-Athletes. This exciting program is MANDATORY for all AAU Non-Athletes and will be administered by Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). Please visit www.aausports.org and click on the Positive Coaching Alliance Text under the Resources tab drop down menu to start the MANDATORY AAU/PCA coaches’ educational course. Membership may be revoked from non-athletes who do not complete course prior to competition.

Know Your Insurance Benefits! Your club and individual members are covered by both Sports Accident and General Liability. There must be a club membership for the organization and EVERYONE participating must have an individual AAU Athlete or Non Athlete membership. Please visit www.aausports.org and click on “FIND INSURANCE INFO” in the gray quick links box for a comprehensive explanation of the entire insurance program as well as information on the AAU insurance certificate program.
1. Hosting AAU Tournaments and Leagues – Licensed Event (Event Sanction)
As an AAU Club Level 2 or 3, you can apply for a licensed event to host your own tournaments or leagues. Licensed event fees are $50 for a youth event per day maxing out at $350 (Fees Cap after a maximum of 7 days). Visit our website www.aausports.org, click on Licensed event text (right side of screen, dark grey box with yellow letters) to submit a licensed event application or for more information on licensing an event with the AAU.

Licensing your event with AAU has many benefits.

- The resources of a multi-million dollar organization while maintaining administrative control of your event
- The AAU nationally recognized brand and logo
- Multi-million dollar insurance program
- Marketing opportunities with AAU members
- AAU ribbons, medals and banners
- Established and recognized sport rules
- Local and national websites to promote your event
- Convenient online services

While submitting your licensed event you can also request Event Third Party Certificates for your facilities if they require them (fees apply).

2. Local District Directors
Your local District Director can provide you with additional information regarding other teams and tournaments in your area. If there is not a Director in your area and you are interested in developing a program in your District, please contact the AAU National Office at 407-934-7200. Also, visit the sport specific website for your sport by going to www.aausports.org and clicking your sport from the drop-down menu.

3. Insurance and Insurance Certificate Program
As an AAU registered Club you have access to our insurance certificate program. This program offers a verification of insurance for the club, third party practice, event, extended benefit and sponsor certificates. Please visit www.aausports.org and click on FIND INSURANCE INFO in the gray quick links box for comprehensive explanation of the entire insurance program as well as information on the AAU insurance certificate program.
EXTENDED COVERAGE PROGRAM (AB)

The Extended Coverage (AB) coverage program was developed to extend coverage for AAU members while participating in events hosted by organizations that are not member clubs of the AAU. Coverage in this program is provided for properly registered athletes or non-athletes for events in the United States of America (including its territories and possessions) Puerto Rico, and Canada.

To have extended coverage (AB), the following criteria applies:

- For team competitions, the entire competing team and coach (non-athlete) must be AAU extended coverage (AB) members.

- For individual competitions, each competing individual must be an AAU extended coverage (AB) member and must be supervised by an AAU extended coverage (AB) registered coach.

- The competition must be formally scheduled, supervised and conducted by a recognized sport association, civic organization or school (and not be a member of the AAU).

- If you are a member of the AAU in the extended coverage (AB) category and conduct an event that is not licensed by the AAU, you forfeit your rights of extended coverage (AB), for that event only.

Benefits of the AB program are:

- Sports Accident
- General Liability
- Certificates of Insurance

Who is insured?

- Athletes
- Non-Athletes
- Member clubs/teams
- Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc.

When does AB coverage take effect?

- Coverage takes effect when AAU registered members in the extended coverage (AB) category are participating in events hosted by organizations that are not member clubs of the AAU.

- Example: All of Jim’s Basketball Team members are registered AAU extended coverage (AB) members. Jim’s Basketball Team is participating in an event hosted by the local Park and Recreation organization. The Park and Recreation organization is not a member club of the AAU nor is the event sanctioned by the AAU. Jim’s Basketball Team has coverage in this situation by being AAU extended coverage (AB) members.
What are the benefits of AAU Membership?

The AAU is a nationally recognized brand, logo with established and recognized sport rules. The AAU is proud to host more sporting events for more age divisions in more cities than any other organization in the world. Your club and members will receive benefits of a multi-million-dollar insurance program with convenient online services. If you license your event with the AAU, you will have marketing opportunities and E-Blast promotions of your event to the 1 million plus current and past members of the AAU as well as listing the event on our local and national websites.

Our membership fees are low and we offer a variety of sports. Your one (1) membership is valid for any of our 30+ sports! We offer two types of individual AAU memberships and three levels of club AAU memberships.

**Individual Memberships** (See AAU Insurance Program Summary of this packet)

1. **Athlete Memberships** with Sport Accidental Insurance Benefits
   - a) $14 Regular membership
   - b) $16 Extended Coverage (AB) membership
     Allows AB members to participate in non-AAU licensed events (*See separate handout)

2. **Non-Athlete Memberships** with Sport Accidental Insurance Benefits
   - a) $16 Regular membership
   - b) $18 Extended Coverage (AB) membership
     Allows AB members to participate in non-AAU licensed events (*See separate handout)

**Club Memberships** (See AAU Insurance Program Summary of this packet) Note: In order to purchase a club membership, you must first purchase individual non-athlete memberships for your club contacts.

1. **Club Level 1** with Liability Insurance Benefits
   - a) Eligible to participate in events
   - b) Eligible to vote at appropriate District meetings
   - c) Eligible to receive license for practice insurance

2. **Club Level 2** with Liability Insurance Benefits
   - a) Eligible to participate in events
   - b) Eligible to vote at appropriate District meetings
   - c) Eligible to receive license for practice insurance
   - d) Eligible to receive license to host an event
   - e) Eligible to use AAU Name & Logo in AAU licensed events

3. **Club Level 3** with Liability Insurance Benefits
   - a) Eligible to participate in events
   - b) Eligible to vote at appropriate District meetings
   - c) Eligible to receive license for practice insurance
   - d) Eligible to receive license to host an event
   - e) Eligible to use AAU Name & Logo in AAU licensed events
   - f) Eligible for tax-exempt status
   - g) Eligible to accept tax-exempt donations
   - h) Eligible to become sales tax exempt in your state
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