



AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

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As the newly elected President/CEO of the Amateur Athletic Union of the USA Inc. (AAU), I welcome the input of Kobe Bryant regarding the AAU basketball program in the United States. The AAU National Leadership Team, elected in October, is committed to working collaboratively with USA Basketball, the National High School Federation, the NCAA, and the NBA to provide the best programs for the youth of our country in the sport of basketball.

One of these commitments upon which the AAU has already acted is mandatory Coaches' Education administered by the Positive Coaching Alliance. We have also implemented mandatory background checks for all coaches affiliated with our AAU youth sport programs.

The AAU basketball program was the beginning for many current professional players. This year, eighteen of the thirty first-round draft picks played AAU basketball at some point during their careers. Holding high respect for Kobe Bryant, I would welcome his, as well as other current or former NBA players', support of the AAU program as we continue to improve and grow AAU basketball. Our AAU leadership welcomes all of the above to contact me at roger@ausports.org to discuss ways that we can improve upon our product. We have already had such notables as Pat Summit, Flip Saunders and Gino Auriemma coach their son's teams in AAU, and David West coached a team out of North Carolina in AAU events. In addition to this we have multiple highly qualified college and school age coaches working with AAU athletes from around the country. I challenge Kobe and others to take us up on this offer to provide feedback to us.

As you know the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) is one of the largest, non-profit, volunteer, sports organizations in the United States. A multi-sport organization, the AAU is dedicated exclusively to the promotion and development of amateur sports and physical fitness programs. The AAU currently has over 200,000 participants in the boy's basketball program alone. In addition we have close to 700,000 athletes in our total youth sports program. The AAU is proud to be a leader in the youth sports market and looks forward to being the trendsetter in coaching education and skill development in youth sports for years to come.

Dr. Roger J. Goudy

President/CEO of The Amateur Athletic Union of the USA (AAU)