

A. Sportsmanship

It is the obligation of coaches, players, administrators, volunteers, and other representatives of the AAU to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and to observe the ethics of competition. Good sportsmanship is defined as qualities of behavior, which are characterized by courtesy and genuine concern for others. The display of good sportsmanship is a statement of the individual's understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.

B. High School Athletics

Participation in High School Basketball is important to the social and athletic development of the AAU athlete. The AAU recognizes the influential role played by the athlete's high school coach and team. Accordingly, the AAU pledges its support of high school athletics. In keeping with that support, the following policies are appropriate:

1. The AAU Boys' Basketball Committee will not approve Inter-District competition for athletes 9th grade and older between the dates of August 15th and March 15th.
2. AAU Clubs shall not allow any athlete who is a member of a high school interscholastic basketball team to participate in AAU sanctioned tryouts, practices, or games, from the first day listed for high school basketball practice on the High School Federation calendar until the last game of the regular season has been played.
3. Coaches who are AAU members and school coaches should maintain open communications for the benefit of the athlete.
4. It is inappropriate for an AAU member to solicit or recruit a player to enroll in any particular secondary school.

C. Athletics and Education

Athletic competition is good unto itself, and opportunities for participation need not be restricted to individuals representing academic or scholastic institutions. However, the AAU recognizes that athletics can be a powerful tool for shaping the educational development of young people, and for the enhancement of educational opportunities for its participants. AAU organizations should consider the academic well-being of its athletes, and ensure that participation in AAU activities does not adversely affect their academic progress. The AAU Club should cooperate with the athlete and his parents to strike an appropriate balance among academic, social, and athletic activities.

D. Coaches' Ethics

The coach must be aware that he can be either a positive or a negative influence upon the development of the athlete. In all of his personal contacts with athletes, officials, parents, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. In keeping with that goal, the following ethical guidelines should be observed by all AAU coaches:

1. The coach shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character.
2. The coach must always consider the personal safety of the athlete.
3. The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with the rules and regulations of competition, and shall be responsible for their interpretation to team members. The coach shall not try to seek an advantage by circumventing the spirit or letter of the rules

4. Game officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which will incite the players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of the officials or players is unethical.
5. The coach should respect his opponents, display gracious behavior during competition and require his players to conduct themselves in similar fashion. Before and after the contest, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event
6. Coaches shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators.
7. The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, and shall, under no circumstances authorize their use.
8. The coach must recognize the importance of the athlete's academic development and promote the proper balance between athletic and academic activities.

E. Sport Agents, Agencies and Representatives

Any person who is a registered sports agent or an agent or employee of a sports agent or agency, or any person who received compensation or consideration of any kind directly or indirectly from a sports agent or agency is prohibited from involvement in the AAU throughout the entire fiscal year (September 1 through August 31) during which any such compensation or consideration is received except as specifically set out herein.

Violation of this policy may result in the disqualification of the team and/or athlete (or both), as well as other possible penalties as set out in this Code.

Any such agency, agent, employee or representative may apply in writing to the AAU for an exemption concerning this policy. If, in the sole discretion of the AAU, such person's involvement either with the AAU and/or the sports agency is found to be inconsequential, such exemption may be granted. Such exemption, if any, may only be granted by the National Board of Review or a majority of the National Officers. In order to be valid (such exemption) must be in writing and will be subject to review either annually or at any time based upon a change of circumstance related to such persons' involvement

III. Sports Operations

A. Event Operating Rules

The Official Operating Rules will be the National Federation of State High School rules for the current year as modified by this rule book

1. Facilities/Competition Area

All gym floors must be a minimum of standard High School dimensions (84' X 50')

All gyms must be air-conditioned (unless event is held between October 1st and April 15th when air conditioning is not required)

2. Equipment

- a. Basketball Size - The "undersized" basketball shall be used for all 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade and 6th grade division competitions. Circumference shall be 28.5.

3. Tournament Entry Procedures

- a. National Championship - No team will be entered into a National Championship tournament that fails to meet entry requirements. Teams that qualify for National Championships must acquire a "National Championship Entry Package," and comply with the requirements and deadlines set forth in the instructions contained in that