



## Treasure Valley AAU Basketball Association

### Frequently Asked Questions



#### What is AAU?

AAU stands for Amateur Athletic Union. It is a national organization in existence for over a hundred years. The organization runs tournaments throughout the nation in a variety of sports. It promotes youth athletics through local AAU Clubs which organize tournaments and leagues. The Ada County AAU Basketball Association was organized in 1992 and has grown to provide basketball leagues for thousands of boys and girls throughout the Treasure Valley. Reflecting the overall growth of the association, the name was recently changed to Treasure Valley AAU Basketball Association, which includes all of Ada, Canyon, Gem & Payette Counties. This change will also increase program awareness and increase financial assistance to all those who participate.

#### What is the difference between AAU and other basketball leagues?

- AAU basketball is based on the use of modified AFHS high school rules & guidelines.
- No developmental limitations are placed on the game.
- All games take place at either Junior High Schools or Homecourt YMCA. Ten-foot baskets and standard full-size courts are used; with the exception of some school auxiliary gymnasiums where exact court size will vary.
- The league promotes competitive play and the broadest exposure to fundamental and advanced techniques of the game.
- AAU encourages athletes to participate in all types of athletic programs. We strive to support and accommodate all school based athletic programs as a first priority. The AAU seasons are purposely scheduled to take place before or after regular school district basketball seasons.

#### How do I tryout for AAU Basketball?

All players who wish to play in the Treasure Valley AAU league must tryout with their current grade and/or age level on one of the official tryout dates. Participating in the tryouts is easy; there's no need to pre-register and there's no cost to try-out. All AAU tryouts will take place at the Homecourt YMCA in Meridian which is located at 936 W. Taylor Street. Click here for a detailed map. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the time listed below.

#### When & Where are the tryouts?

Tryouts will be held at Homecourt YMCA and specific dates will be posted on the YMCA website.

#### What should I expect at tryouts?

When you arrive, each athlete will sign-in, receive a jersey with a number on it and

warm up. Participants will then be divided into groups by grade. Coaches will run athletes through various drills such as shooting, passing, dribbling, defense & scrimmage game play.

Assessors will watch the athletes and grade them on their skill level. Tryouts usually take 1-1½ hours, parents are invited to stay & watch the tryouts after they attend a brief Parent Meeting. Athletes should wear athletic shoes, shorts & a T-shirt.

#### **What if I cannot attend tryouts?**

All players should make every effort to attend their scheduled tryout time, however, if it's not possible to attend on this date, players may attend the Make-Up Tryouts. Players are not permitted to attend both tryout dates or tryout out for multiple teams. Coaches will not decide on their final rosters until after the make-up tryout date and viewing all tryout participants.

#### **What happens after tryouts?**

All players are contacted by a coach or AAU staff within 7 days after the Make-Up tryout date. If a player does not make a Varsity team and has scored high enough at the tryouts, they may be placed on a Junior Varsity team.

#### **Am I guaranteed playing time?**

- All players on a team roster are required to play in each game unless injured, ill, absent or during tournament games. However, individual play time is not equal & will vary.
- While coaches are encouraged to have each player on their roster play at least one quarter of a game, the amount of playing time is a decision left to the team coaches.
- Coaches are not required to play everyone equally, but a good coach will strive to develop all players throughout the season practices & games.
- Factors which influence playing time are ability, game situations, sportsmanship and attitude.

#### **How are coaches selected?**

- Volunteer coaches are a key component to the success of the AAU program. All interested coaches must submit an application at least 3 weeks prior to tryouts, regardless of past season participation.
- All applicants are screened & considered prior to final coach selection each season. It is the intent of the Treasure Valley AAU to find the most qualified coaches available. Coaches are selected based on previous experience, game philosophy, Treasure Valley AAU standards & parental feedback.
- All coaches will receive equal preparation & training; therefore teaching correct fundamentals and preparing all players for competitive high school basketball, regardless of which high school they attend.
- If an applicant's child does not make a Varsity team, the applicant may have an

opportunity to coach a JV or Stampede team.

### How much does it cost?

- **Player Fees:** League Registration is \$145 and includes a full uniform & AAU Souvenir T-Shirt.
- All players are also required to purchase an Individual AAU Athlete Membership for \$12 per year.
- All coaches are required to purchase an AAU Non-Athlete Membership for \$14 per year.
- AAU Memberships are easily purchased through the National AAU office either online or by mail.
- All coaches & players must show proof (AAU card) of AAU membership prior to the first regular season game.
- Coaches, players & families may purchase optional T-shirts, Sweatshirts & AAU Gear Bags on the AAU website.

### Who Officiates and Oversees Weekly AAU Games?

- The Treasure Valley AAU sub-contracts NFHS Certified Officials. These referees are experienced professionals who are unbiased in their judgment and complete their jobs to the best of their ability.
- The Treasure Valley AAU provides experienced YMCA Gym Monitors at all game facilities. Their goal is to provide a safe atmosphere and encourage positive sportsmanship & YMCA standards.
- Both Referees and Gym Monitors have the authority to manage the facility and crowd. Any spectator, parent or fan who is causing disruptions through negative behavior will be removed from the facility. Failure to do so will result in their team forfeiting the game.

### Parental Involvement & Expectations:

- Parents are encouraged to be active participants in the Treasure Valley AAU program. There are several opportunities to volunteer;
- Each game requires both teams to provide a scoreboard operator or written scorekeeper. No experience is required; Gym Monitors will give you instruction.
- All coaches appreciate 'team parents' who are willing to step up & help organize drinks, relay information to other parents or handle team photo updates.
- All teams need fans! Cheer loud, Cheer often, Cheer positive! Parents must read & sign the 'Parental Expectations' form, which explains each parents' responsibility & accountability.
- If parents have questions or concerns, the YMCA & AAU recommends they be addressed directly to the coach in a respectful manner. We encourage open dialogue between coaches & parents. Usually the best time to talk to a coach is before or after a practice time, rather than on game days.
- If problems or issues persist, it's best if it's written down. Simply fill out a feedback

form or send an email to the AAU Coordinator through the AAU website link, which are found on the Send Us Your Feedback link.

- All parents are encouraged to attend a Sport Parent Seminars which are held seasonally during the AAU tryouts.

#### What about regional tournament?

[www.aausports.org](http://www.aausports.org)

[www.ymcatvidaho.org](http://www.ymcatvidaho.org)

[www.bryandunnmemorial.org](http://www.bryandunnmemorial.org)

[www.idahoflash.com](http://www.idahoflash.com)

[www.crashtheboardsbasketball.com](http://www.crashtheboardsbasketball.com)

[www.hoopsdreamsbasketball](http://www.hoopsdreamsbasketball)

[www.boiseflight.com](http://www.boiseflight.com)

[www.idahoselect.org](http://www.idahoselect.org)

[www.utahaau.com](http://www.utahaau.com)

[www.ieaau.org](http://www.ieaau.org)

[www.oregonaau](http://www.oregonaau)

#### Who can play AAU Basketball?

- Leagues are organized by grade levels, not age.

- Boys and Girls leagues are organized for 5th through 9th grade.

- Players must play at grade level. Players are not allowed to play up or down a grade level.

#### How are teams selected?

- It is the intent of these tryouts to produce the most competitive teams possible.

- Teams are formed through a competitive tryout process which is free of charge. All players must attend AAU authorized tryouts in order to play in the AAU program. All teams participating in the Treasure Valley AAU League may only form through an AAU authorized tryout format.

- Exact dates and times of tryouts will be posted 2 months prior to tryout dates.

- Assessments are taken on each participating youth based on a series of drills & scrimmage play. Skill levels are graded in the following areas: shooting, rebounding, passing, dribbling, offense, defense and general athletic ability. All assessments are graded by unrelated assessors and team coaches. The coaches then take all assessments into consideration and create a competitive team with the top 10 athletes. Ultimately, it is the coach and assistant coach's decision of who makes their team.

- Athletes will be divided in two leagues:

- Varsity Teams: consist of the top 8-10 players from each area high school.

- Junior Varsity Teams: consist of the next best 8-10 players, depending upon the number of kids attending tryouts & their skill level. Some schools that have a large

number of attendees with the necessary skill level may form two JV teams. Some Varsity teams from smaller area schools may also choose to compete in the JV league.

- Athletes are notified regarding team selection within 2-4 days after the make-up tryout date.

- Athletes who do not make a Varsity or Junior Varsity team are given the opportunity to increase their skill level by participating in the Stampede League (5th, 6th & 7th Grade), Nampa Parks & Recreational Leagues or the Vallivue Rec. League. These leagues run simultaneously during the AAU seasons and offer a great opportunity for players to develop their skills & have fun.

### Which team can I tryout for (eligibility and location guidelines)?

- Teams are organized by High School feeder areas. For example, if you live in or attend a school in the Capital High School area (Riverglen or Fairmont); you must try-out for the Capital team.

- All players must tryout during their High School feeder area scheduled time. Make up tryouts are provided for those unable to attend the regular scheduled tryouts; players are not permitted to attend both.

- Players are only allowed to tryout one time for one given team.

- If you are trying out for an OPEN ENROLLMENT school, you must abide by one of the following three guidelines:

- 1.Attend the proper feeder school (i.e. St. Marks if you want to tryout for BK)

- 2.Have a sibling currently attending the desired high school in which you would like to tryout for.

- 3.If you attend a private school, you may tryout for either the private feeder school or the public school in which you live.

- Players may not be recruited from other teams/schools or switch teams after the tryouts have taken place.

- If in the case a smaller school has low numbers of skilled players, two schools may be combined by the AAU administration to create a full team.

- If you have questions or concerns regarding which school to tryout for, please contact the AAU prior to tryout dates.

### Feedback Forms

We encourage all AAU parents and coaches to provide written feedback regarding their AAU experience. All feedback, whether positive or negative, is strictly confidential and may be sent in anonymously. This feedback is crucial to coach selection, referee training and maintaining the integrity of the AAU basketball program. Have a great coach? We'd love to hear about them! Have a concern about next year? We want to know!

To email your feedback directly to AAU league operations, please email [aau@ymcatvidaho.org](mailto:aau@ymcatvidaho.org)