

## **AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT JOINING THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION**

To all players, parents and those interested in joining the AAU,

This message is designed to help all athletes and parents when making a decision to join an AAU club. This will hopefully answer questions that are frequently asked. It will also give parents questions they should be asking when they go to join an AAU club.

First as the Connecticut AAU, the executive committee will post all active AAU clubs once they renew their membership for the new year which begins each September 1<sup>st</sup>. Only clubs listed are registered clubs and therefore are member clubs of the AAU. There are many groups that call themselves AAU or were previously AAU clubs. Each club has a club code and they should be able to present that to you. Please ask the club director for this.

**Please be advised, that although you may join a club, you are not an AAU member until you receive your membership card. Ask your club director for your number as soon as you register. This is important for insurance coverage.**

In addition to making sure that your club is an active AAU member for the current year, we ask all to do their homework when choosing an AAU club. Club rules are not covered by AAU and this mainly deals with finances and playing time. The AAU has no rules that oversee either item, however please watch for these red flags:

- **Avoid clubs that ask for immediate payment at tryout or your child will lose their spot on the team.**
- **Avoid clubs that promise your child a college scholarship.**
- **Make sure that clubs communicate with adults and not only your child via email, text etc.**
- **Ask club what am I paying for. Am I paying for the AAU card, uniforms, tournaments, etc or am I paying other fees outside of those that would deal with the sport.**
- **Ask what rules do I need to follow. Am I guaranteed playing time, do I need to attend practices, what are the rules of the club.**

We hope this helps when selecting a club and deciding if you would like to register with an AAU club or become member. In addition, the Connecticut AAU does run a number of programs that help and recognize our athletes such as our Award Banquet and Scholarship Program which since its inception has confirmed more than \$100,000 in scholarships since it was established.

Thank you and good luck.

The Executive Committee of the Connecticut AAU