

**Mass Premier Courts AAU Program:
Last Updated January 2017
Frequently asked questions**

Try Outs

Q: Which team should my son try out for?

A: The age cut off date for boys is September 1st. You can go to this [link](#) to get a specific calculation on the division. Always refer to the grade first and then see if your son needs to apply for a grade exception form. 10U-4th Grade, 11U-5th Grade, 12U-6th Grade, 13U-7th Grade, 14U- 8th Grade, 15U-9th Grade, 16U-10th Grade, 17U-11th Grade

Q: Which team should my daughter try out for?

A: The age cut off date for girls is different than the boys as it is grade based, example, if a boy is in the 8th grade he would be U14 and if a 8th grade girl was trying out she would be a U13. You can go to this [link](#) to get a specific calculation on the division. 9U-4th Grade, 10U-5th Grade, 11U-6th Grade, 12U-7th Grade, 13U-8th Grade, 14U-9th Grade, 15U-10th Grade, 16U-11th Grade.

Q: Can I try out for a specific coach's team or a specific level (Gold, Blue)?

A: Yes, players can try out for a specific coach's team. When you register please note which coach you are planning on trying out for. If you are hoping to tryout for the highest qualified team please select Gold Team tryout and do not anticipate that a certain coach will be the coach of the highest qualified team. Coaches frequently move from one team to another (or from one level to another). This does not guarantee you're going to make the team, but does set guidelines for the Gold coach not to select a player that has listed the blue coach's name.

Q: What if my child cannot make all of the try outs?

A: Players should try to attend all tryouts. If a player is only able to make 1 of the tryout dates they should notify the coach prior to so he/she can notify the evaluators. It is recommended that players make as many tryouts as possible to give them the best opportunity to be evaluated. Check the 2017 try out schedule for Mass Premier. If a player is going to miss a tryout please notify sburnison@mpcourts.com. Coaches and evaluators will not be aware of why players are not at a tryout without advanced notification. This does not help potential players' chances of making a team.

Q: How are coaches selected?

A: Coaching is a volunteer position at Mass Premier Courts. If we have multiple candidates for a certain age group interviews will be held. Background checks are done on all coaches including CORI and SORI checks. Gold Team coaches are experienced coaches with a background in coaching and some will receive a stipend. For the youngest age groups our main goal is to obtain positive role models with basketball knowledge, as players get older we look for positive role models that are more intense and will motivate and push the players to be the best they can be.

Q: How do you evaluate players to ensure each player gets a fair try out?

A: Players are put through basic basketball drills to evaluate the skills of shooting, passing, dribbling, rebounding, and defense. All players are put through the same drills to ensure that the tryout process is fair. Each coach will speak with their evaluators to let them know what kind of players they are looking for on their team (i.e. a shooter, a big man, a great defender).

Q: What type of experience should a player have before trying out for a Mass Premier Team?

A: Players can have wide variety of basketball experience. It is important to remember because we are drawing from multiple communities AAU is more competitive than most town travel teams. To learn about some of the anticipated travel plans for each team check the appropriate coach's bio or look at our About Us page to get a rough idea.

Q: My child plays another sport (Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, Football etc.) – would they be able to play AAU Basketball also?

A: Yes they can still play AAU basketball. Practices are held in the evenings between 6-9pm and games are on weekends. Each coach has a different policy on practice and game attendance. Please read each coach's bio to learn more about a specific coach's policy on missing practices and games. It is important to let the coach know beforehand if you are unable to attend a practice or game. It is also important to keep in mind that players who are unable to attend practice will also miss out on understanding what was covered in practice (ex: a particular play). This is important to understand because it could affect playing time.

Q: What is the difference between the Team leagues you run and the AAU Program?

A: The AAU program is much more competitive than the Team League because it involves kids from different communities playing on the same team resulting in a better talent pool. The Team League will consist of teams from one town that register together playing teams from other towns. AAU is also a bigger time commitment with practices during the week and tournaments on the weekends.

Q: How does tryout registration work?

A: We prefer that people register for tryouts online in advance. The fee for registering online at least a day in advance is \$35. You may also mail in a registration or register on site for \$35 dollars if you register at least a day in advance. Walk in registration is \$50.00. All registrations must be completed at least 1 hour before the start of the tryout.

Team Selection

Q: How will the players be selected?

A: Through the tryout process players will be evaluated on their basketball skills, knowledge, athleticism, and attitude. Coaches and evaluators will weigh all these factors in selecting team members.

Q: If my child did not play for a Mass Premier Team last year would they still be able to make a team this year?

A: Yes, they will be given a fair opportunity to make the team. Most players that made a team last year will likely make a team again, however it is important to remember that each year new players and potentially new talent will be trying out. Every player trying out will be given a fair chance.

Q: If I don't make a team do I get my tryout fee back?

A: Refunds will not be given to players who do not make the team. The fee is for the opportunity to try out for the team. All players will be selected for the Developmental League.

Q: Who selects which players make a team?

A: Evaluators are assigned to each court to evaluate all players trying out for the team. Head coach, assistant coaches and evaluators will select teams.

Q: My child was cut and I believe my son or daughter was a better player than players who did make the team.

A: Deciding who makes each team is not an exact science. Each evaluator/coach will do their best to identify the top players. It is important to remember that all teams need different kinds of players to be successful. Also remember that if a player is cut from the Gold Team they are able to try out for our Blue Teams, or elect to go to the Developmental League.

Q: My son or daughter is very upset over not making a team; what should I say to him or her?

A: We understand that getting cut from a team is a heartbreaking experience for any child. It is important that you explain to your child that if they gave their best effort that is what is important. Many good players have been cut at one time or another, Michael Jordan was once cut from his high school team. Players should evaluate the areas that they need improvement in and work at those particular areas. We created the Developmental League to help players improve for the following year.

Q: How many teams per age bracket will there be?

A: Most age brackets will have one to three teams depending on the number of coaches and players at each level. The number of teams at each age level will vary depending on the number of potential players and coaches prior to tryouts.

When you have been selected for a Team

Q: How many times a week do teams practice?

A: Teams will practice one or two times per week depending on the coach and level of the team.

Q: Are players required to attend all practices?

A: Each coach will determine this for their team. Some coaches will say that practice is mandatory for all players while others may not. The coach will make that decision for their team. Please read each coaches bio to learn about a particular coach's policies.

Q: How much travel is required to play AAU?

A: Most tournaments will be within one hour of driving distance from Mass Premier Courts. The list of Mass Premier Courts 2017 tournaments is posted online. Not every team will play in every tournament but most teams play in many of our own tournaments. The number of tournaments each team plays in and the location of the tournaments really depends on the coach. If a team qualifies for the State Tournament or National Championship then travel may become much more extensive.

Q: How does AAU basketball compare to travel team basketball?

A: Participation in the Mass Premier AAU basketball program is an elevated level of competition from travel basketball. Teams are comprised of the best players from a variety of towns making competition much tougher.

Q: If I am selected to a team do I have to participate?

A: If selected to a team it is an option to decline your spot on the team. AAU is a commitment so please be sure that you are going to be able to make a commitment when you are trying out. You may be asked for a deposit to secure your spot on the team shortly after the tryout.

Q: Do I have to play in all the games?

A: No you are not required to play in all games although your team fee will remain the same.

Q: Do Mass Premier AAU team parents have to pay the gate fee at Mass Premier Courts AAU Tournaments?

A: No, tournament passes will be given to each parent to bypass home tournament gate fees.

Q: How long is the AAU season?

A: The AAU runs from March until July 1st (spring) and September –November (fall). If your team qualifies for the National or plays in additional tournaments then the season may be extended.

Q: When do I have to make payment for playing on the AAU Team?

A: All payment arrangements are made after the team selection and prior to the first practice.

Q: Can we wear last year's uniform?

A: If you participated in our 2015 Fall AAU program you may use the same uniform (we will use the same uniforms for the 2017 season). For those who want or need to order new uniforms the cost of the uniform is included in the cost of Mass Premier Courts AAU Program. Teams are required to have matching uniforms. We are not able to order 1/2 uniforms for players.

Q: Will any extra clothing, or team apparel be given to our team?

A: The option is available for all teams to pay for additional team paraphernalia (i.e. warm-ups, gym bags, sweatshirts, etc.) This option is available for all teams, and is decided case by case with each team. Any extra team paraphernalia is not included in the AAU price.

Q: What is the cost to play AAU at Mass Premier Courts in the spring?

A: The cost varies depending on the number of tournaments and the team you're on. To see how much our AAU program costs please check the coaches' bio.

Mass Premier AAU Spring Pricing Variables and Inclusions:

The price can be anywhere from \$500 - \$900 and will vary depending on:

- **Number of practices for your team**
- **Number of tournaments your team participates in**
 - **9 Tournaments - \$720**

- **8 Tournaments - \$680**
- **7 Tournaments - \$640**
- **6 Tournaments - \$600**
- **5 Tournaments - \$560**
- **Uniform fee**
 - **Fee for uniform TBD**
 - **No orders of 1/2 a uniform (just a jersey or shorts) will be accepted**
- **Coach's Stipend – estimate \$60 per player**

The spring price will also include:

- **Balls and equipment**
- **Free open gym use during the spring and summer**
- **50% discount on MPC summer basketball camps – value of \$125**
 - **Must register before May 15th to receive discount**