

WHAT AAU ACTUALLY IS

AAU is the Amateur Athletic Union — the umbrella for travel / club basketball. It is **not a league**. Clubs form teams and travel to weekend tournaments (typically 3–5 games in two days). Quality varies because the club sets roster size, practice, and coaching. In Central New York the main season sits after school ball: generally March through late May, some teams into June. A good program never asks a player to skip school ball.

WHAT A SEASON ACTUALLY COSTS

Published numbers only. The 2027 spring fee is announced with tryout dates — it is not published yet, so it is not printed here.

ITEM	WHAT IT IS
SPRING AAU 2027	Fee announced with tryout dates. Not published. See mvebasketball.com/tryouts .
WHAT'S IN THE FEE	Tournament entry, gym rental, coaching. Directors keep \$0. Travel, hotels, food, and gym admission are extra. Six tournaments per team.
SATURDAY SKILLS	Last block (summer 2026, finished): \$15 middle school / \$20 high school per Saturday. Next-block dates unpublished. mvebasketball.com/training
HOSTED TOURNAMENTS	\$185 per team, boys grades 5–Varsity, two games guaranteed. Dates unpublished. mvebasketball.com/tournaments
IF MONEY IS THE ISSUE	No player is turned away. Ask. Donors and sponsors cover the gap.

THE TIME IT REALLY TAKES

Generally one or two weeknight practices, set after teams are picked. Six tournament weekends per team — not every weekend, but when there is one, plan on the whole day (pool play Saturday, bracket Sunday). Gas, hotels, food, and spectator admission are usually on the family.

12 QUESTIONS TO ASK ANY PROGRAM

- Who exactly will coach my son's team?
- Where does my fee go — and how much do the directors keep?
- How many players will be on the roster?
- How many tournaments, and how far is the travel?
- Is there a playing-time philosophy?
- Are coaches background-checked and certified?
- What happens if he misses a weekend?
- Is financial assistance available?
- Where do your alumni end up?
- How do you communicate with parents?
- Do you support school ball and other sports?
- What is your refund policy?

WHERE MOHAWK VALLEY ELITE STANDS

- Certified 501(c)(3). EIN 99-0948552. Fees go to tournament entry, gym, and coaching.
- Directors keep \$0.
- Rosters 8–10. Never more than 10. One coach, one team.
- School ball and other sports: yes. Season is built around that.
- If cost is the barrier, talk to us. No player has been turned away over money.
- Grades 5–11 (12th invite only). Season: early March into late May.