

STMA KNIGHTS BOYS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

**A Handbook For Players, Parents, Coaches and
Association Members**



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STMA Boys Basketball Association

<https://www.stma.hoopsystems.com>

Intent of STMA Traveling Boys Basketball (STMABB)

STMA has a long tradition of excellence in school and athletics. The STMABB association, in keeping with this tradition of excellence, is pleased to be working in conjunction with the players, parents and coaches to provide an excellent traveling basketball experience for your child. The young men who participate in our program have an opportunity to develop essential life skills such as discipline, sportsmanship, ownership of actions, leadership, teamwork, class, and grit through a competitive basketball experience.

The STMABB association requests that our athletes, parents, coaches and board members conduct themselves in the most respectful, ethical manner, both in dealing with wins and losses on the court, as well as with each other, our opponents, and members of our community.

Long after the wins and losses have been counted and the boys have concluded their traveling basketball experience, the ultimate question will be whether or not these young men have become better basketball players, and more importantly, better individuals. Was the experience playing for STMABB full of competitive games, fond memories, and lasting friendships? Are the young men able to deal with the disappointment of losing and the joy of winning in a dignified manner, and are they able to face difficult situations with grit and determination?

As parents, coaches, and association members we are equally responsible for your child's experience. Please review this handbook carefully to learn more about how you can help make your child's experience in STMABB a positive one. As always, contact the STMABB association at <https://www.stmahoopsystems.com> if you have questions. Let's have a great season!



TEAMWORK

Coming together is the beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success.

Henry Ford

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Mission Statement of the STMABB

Our mission is to foster a culture of positivity where kids learn from success as well as failure, become elite basketball players and even better teammates; develop a diverse skill set in the present that will allow them to own their future and fall in love with the game.

Player Eligibility

Residence Requirements

In order to participate in STMABB, a player must live in and/or attend school in District 885 by September 1st of the current calendar year, unless otherwise approved by the STMABB board. Home-schooled students will be allowed to participate in STMABB as long as they meet the STMA residency requirements.

Grade Requirements

All players must be in 4th-8th grade and in good standing with the STMA schools in order to participate. Players must play at their current grade level. No third graders will be allowed to participate in STMABB travel basketball and no lower grade athlete will be allowed to “play up” into a higher travel level unless deemed necessary by the board and with board approval.

Participation After Tryouts

Once tryouts have been completed and teams have been formed, no new player may participate in a traveling team without board and coach approval. This player must also meet residency and/or school requirements in order to be eligible to participate.

MYAS Requirements

All athletes who play for a high school varsity, junior varsity, or 10th grade team are ineligible to participate in MYAS sanctioned traveling basketball events, per MSHSL rules.

Commitment Level for STMABB

As expected, the level of commitment for STMABB is very high. The following can be expected of your child and/or you as a parent:

- Two day mandatory tryout in September
- Parent pre-season meeting in mid-October
- Season length: October through March
- Practices are mandatory and will usually be twice a week
- Tournaments are Saturday and Sunday events; some events may include a Friday night game
- Most tournaments have at least three games
- Parents are expected to volunteer between 2-4 hours at our home tournament in mid-February
- Optional community service and team bonding events as determined by coaches
- Number of total tournaments in a season will be limited by the board
- Teams are encouraged to attend STMA high school basketball games

Costs Associated with STMABB

Tryout Fees

There is a tryout fee due on or before the tryout date in September. Those participants who do not make a team will have this fee applied toward the in-house basketball league. See the STMABB website to pay online.

Registration Fees

Registration fees help cover the cost of the following expenses:

- Financial assistance/scholarships
- Tournament registrations
- Uniforms
- Practice facility fees
- Insurance
- Equipment
- Website
- MYAS scheduling for home tournament
- Evaluations

- Training and clinics
- Coaches shirts
- Hoops and Hotdogs – in-house youth event
- Youth In-House Coordinator
- Website Coordinator

STMABB takes pride in keeping these fees at some of the lowest in the metro area. Registration fees must be paid before the first practice of the season. Visit the STMABB website for information on this season's registration fees and paying online.

Financial Assistance (Scholarships)

If a family has a financial situation which makes them unable to afford the full amount of the registration fees, the family can apply for partial or full assistance by contacting the Secretary of the STMABB board at secretarystmabasketball@gmail.com.

Playing Time

STMABB believes that all players in the organization are important to the success of the team. Coaches are instructed to adequately monitor the amount of playing time each athlete is given in a game, and try to be as fair as possible in providing equal playing time. The STMABB board encourages coaches to give all players the late game experience. There are exceptions to the equal playing time rule, which can be determined by the following factors:

- Attitude in practices and games
- Attendance at practice
- Work ethic and hustle
- Academic standing

Coaches should communicate with the board when situations arise.

STMABB believes that school should take precedence to traveling basketball. Violating school rules or having poor grades is not acceptable, and playing time will be affected.

As a general rule:



Fundraising

Teams should not fundraise for any purpose without board approval. The main fundraiser for STMABB is the home tournament in February.

Uniforms

STMABB takes a lot of pride in providing the uniforms that our Knights players are wearing. These uniforms should be worn for games only, not for practice. Because the STMABB association is providing these uniforms, they are on *loan* to your son for the season. At the conclusion of the season, each player will be responsible for turning in his uniform to the coach. By wearing the uniform, your son is taking full responsibility for its condition. If a uniform is lost or damaged, the player's family will incur the cost of the uniform, which is \$60.00. ***No uniforms from the STMABB association will be allowed to be worn for spring or fall AAU or other non-STMABB sanctioned teams.***

Coaching

Like any nonprofit entity, the STMABB association relies on volunteers to make its program successful. The board is always looking for knowledgeable, effective, and personable coaches who are willing and able to adhere to the mission of STMABB.

Some of the most important qualities we are looking for in a coach include the following:

- Commitment to the mission of STMABB
- Experience playing and/or coaching the game of basketball
- Ability to work well with players, parents, and other coaches
- Strong morals in practice and games
- Leadership qualities that promote sportsmanship
- Ability to teach the fundamentals of basketball to develop quality players
- Ability to help our players grow to be quality young men

Selecting Coaches

The STMABB board will interview and select the head coaches at each grade level. Assistant coaches will be chosen by the head coaches after the rosters have been finalized, but final approval will be granted by the STMABB board. Interested coaches can apply through the association website.

If there is not an interested coach at a certain level, the board will post a coaching opportunity on the STMABB website and do their best to secure a coach. In the event that a grade level cannot secure an individual willing to coach by the beginning of the first practice of the season, there will not be a team and refunds will be issued.

Background Checks/Concussion Training

All coaches in the STMABB program are required to have a background check on file as well as complete a concussion training video before coaching. Each needs to be completed every three years. Both the concussion training and background checks can be completed online. There is usually a 1-2 week waiting period for the background check results.

Coaches Code of Conduct

All coaches, head and assistant, must complete the Coach's Code of Conduct in order to coach during the season. STMABB has a high regard for ethical behavior of our coaches, both on and off the court. You are essentially the face of the STMA school district and will be counted on to not only support our mission, but be an exemplary role model for our young men in this program.

Coach Code of Conduct

1. I will not berate the officials or "trash talk" to my opponent.
2. I will not use profanity.
3. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, contest administrators and officials at every game.
4. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my teammates and opponents ahead of my personal desire to win.
5. I will treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, gender, creed, or ability.
6. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all STMABB sporting events.
7. I will do my best to remember that youth sports are supposed to be FUN and that winning and losing are part of everyone's experience.
8. I will express my concerns through the proper channels in a dignified manner.
9. I will respect the volunteers that are assisting with the conduct of these events.
10. I will respect and adhere to the Minnesota State High School League rules governing eligibility and competition.

Coaching Communication With Board

Our program cannot exist without quality coaches and the board would like to assist in any way possible. The board also understands that certain aspects of coaching may need extra attention at times throughout the season. The board asks that the following be reported through email to the STMABB board president:

1. Any altercation with a parent during or after a game/practice
2. Any technical foul received during a tournament
3. A dismissal from competition; whether coach, parent or player
4. Any injury to a player that required medical attention
5. Any school-related issues – academic, suspensions, etc.
6. Any conduct detrimental to our community, school, program, or team

Coaching Discipline

In rare instances, the board may be required to take action regarding the behavior of coaches. Coaches who disregard the Code of Conduct may face disciplinary consequences, including temporary or permanent banishment from any STMABB sponsored events.

The following is the protocol the board will follow in responding to inappropriate coaching actions during competition:

- 1st technical foul in a season → Discussion with board
- 2nd technical foul in a season → Three game suspension
- 3rd technical foul in a season → Dismissal from program

Coach Resources

There are a variety of online resources to assist coaches. In addition, the STMABB website has a “Coaches Corner” to further ensure that coaches have the resources for developing players during practice and games. At times throughout the season, the head boys basketball coach will forward online practice tips that he uses for his varsity/junior varsity teams.

Coach and Parent Communication

In order for our program to have success and for our players to have the best experience possible, coaches and parents need to work together. Players will learn best when they witness positive interactions between coaches and parents.

At times, a parent will disagree with a coach's decision in regards to how their child or other team members are treated. Parents should wait 24 hours prior to contacting a coach and never during or immediately after the competition. Parents and family members are to remain in the spectator section of the gymnasium during tournaments and will not approach the bench or gym floor during competition. Anyone that instigates physical contact with a coach, player, official or spectator before, during, or after the competition will be required to meet with the board before their son's participation in the next STMABB activity.

Coach and Parent Communication Guidelines:

- All conversation between coaches and parents should be private, not involve other parents, players, or coaches, and should remain professional and respectful
- Ideally, have a face-to-face conversation or a phone conversation. The worst way to communicate frustration is through email.
- If an email is sent, please notify the association president at presidentstmabasketball@gmail.com
- Coaches are encouraged to conduct a team meeting with all parents and players before the season begins and periodically during the season. These meetings can be informal and allow the parents to hear from the coach, and likewise, the parents to give some constructive feedback before situations arise.
- Parents are encouraged to thank their team's coaches for all of their efforts throughout the season, and be gracious to the coaches for volunteering. Without their effort, your child's team doesn't exist!

Players

Playing for STMABB is an honor and responsibility. These athletes have been afforded an opportunity to further develop their basketball skills in a more competitive, higher-level nature, representing our Knight's program each time the uniform is worn. Our athletes are held to a high standard, not only during basketball competition, but also in the classroom and as citizens.

The following is the Player Code of Conduct that each player must abide by in order to represent STMABB:

Player Code of Conduct

1. I will not berate the officials or "trash talk" to my opponent.
2. I will not use profanity.
3. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, contest administrators and officials at every game.
4. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my teammates and opponents ahead of my personal desire to win.
5. I will treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, gender, creed, or ability.
6. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all STMABB sporting events.
7. I will do my best to remember that youth sports is supposed to be FUN and that winning and losing are part of everyone's experience.
8. I will express my concerns through the proper channels in a dignified manner.
9. I will respect the volunteers that are assisting with the conduct of these events.
10. I will respect and adhere to the Minnesota State High School League rules governing eligibility and competition.

In some instances, an athlete may not abide by the STMABB code of conduct and a consequence is deemed necessary. These violations will be case-by-case and the coach and/or board members will identify the appropriate consequence consistent with the violation.

Other violations, such as missing practice or receiving reprimands during competitions, will receive consequences based on the following general rule:

- 1st unexcused missed practice → no playing time in first half of next game
- 2nd unexcused missed practice → one game suspension
- 3rd unexcused missed practice → one tournament (full) suspension
- 4th unexcused missed practice → dismissed from team

If an athlete earns a technical foul, the coach and player's family will work to determine the appropriate consequence. Should further on-court behavior issues happen, the board will step in and help mediate the situation. We expect our players to behave appropriately, while allowing the opportunity to learn from mistakes.

When an athlete and parent chooses to enroll in STMABB, they are making a true commitment to practice and tournaments. That means that you are making a sincere effort to get your child to each and every practice and tournament. Playing time is strictly dependent on attendance as each individual is regarded as an important individual in the team's success. Therefore, the excuse "I couldn't find a ride to practice" is not an acceptable reason for missing practice, and as a result, playing time will be reduced.

Parents

STMABB believes that parents are an important part of the success of the program. We need your help in fulfilling the mission of STMA BB. We want to foster a culture of positivity where kids learn from success as well as failure, become elite basketball players and even better teammates; develop a diverse skill set in the present that will allow them to own their future and fall in love with the game.

In addition, we expect parents to follow the Parent Code of Conduct. Any breach of the code of conduct will result in intervention by the STMABB association.

Parent Code of Conduct

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, contest administrators, and officials at every game.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of my personal desire to win.
3. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all STMABB sporting events.
4. I will remember that the game is for the kids—not the adults; and will do my best to make sure that youth sports is a fun and positive experience.
5. I will remain mindful that my conduct influences the respect that other athletes, coaches, parents and the public hold for the STMA community and athletics.
6. I will treat other players, coaches, fans, volunteers and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
7. I will not berate the officials.
8. I will not use profanity.
9. I will not undermine the coaches' instructions or directions.
10. I will calmly communicate my concerns through the proper channels in a dignified and adult manner.

Board Members

The STMABB board members primary objective is to collaboratively carry out the mission of STMA Boys Basketball. The members support the head coach of the high school basketball program, direct the fundraising of the program, and make the decisions to promote a positive traveling experience for the athletes and their families.

STMA Boys Basketball Association is composed of individuals that have satisfactorily shown a desire to assist in the purposes of STMA Boys Basketball Association and must be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the business and affairs of the association and shall consist of a minimum of three and not more than ten persons.

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Head Varsity Basketball Coach

The board also has additional support from nonvoting committee coordinators and their members. These committees organize the traveling schedule, oversee the home tournament and concessions, market the program, coordinate the in-house program, and develop and update our website. These members will periodically report back to the board members. Committee opportunities can be found on the association website.

Board members must meet the following expectations:

1. Willingly and unequivocally support the mission of STMA Boys Basketball.
2. Discuss topics and make decisions in a collaborative manner without using criticism or condemnation of others' thoughts and ideas.
3. Act professionally at all times during meetings and in the community.
4. Perform the functions of the board in good faith and with integrity.
5. Refrain from spreading rumors, innuendos, or any unethical comments regarding the program, board members, coaches, or parents.
6. Conduct themselves in a way that reflects the tradition and integrity of STMABB.
7. Act in the best interest of STMABB and work diligently to promote and support the traveling program in its entirety.
8. Keep information entrusted to them confidential. Members will not disclose information which would damage the reputation of STMABB.

9. Act in a way that does not allow them private or personal gains, whether in the program or in the community.

Tryout Process

The purpose of tryouts is to assign players to their appropriate levels based on their abilities and skills. Team selection is based on a combination of the evaluation process, previous and current coach feedback.

Evaluation

STMABB hires outside evaluators with strong knowledge and experience to assess the skills and abilities of our potential traveling basketball team members. Evaluators will assess athletes on basic basketball skills such as dribbling, shooting, passing, as well as match students in one-on-one, three-on-three and team situations. Evaluators also monitor defensive and strength abilities and basketball understanding.

Team Sizes

STMABB hopes to field an A, B, and C level team at each grade.

Roster Construction

Potential head coaches are allowed to watch and take notes at tryouts. The coaches are not to make recommendations to the evaluators.

Rosters will be chosen based on the evaluators' scoring system. Each player is given a final score based on the evaluations.

Below is a guideline to create rosters in 4th grade:

A Team → Players ranked 1-8

B Team → Players ranked 9-18

C Team → Players ranked 19-28

Below is a guideline to create rosters in 5th – 8th grade:

A Team → Players ranked 1-6 and coach selects 2 players from rankings 7-15

B Team → Next 6 highest ranked players and coach selects 2-4 players from rankings 15-23

C Team → Next highest 8 ranked players and coach selects 2 players from rankings 25-34

Ill/Injured/Absent from Tryouts

If a player is not able to attend tryouts, he is not automatically placed on a team, but consideration will be given and discussed. In order for the board to be fair to the athletes trying out, the following are needed in order to be considered for a team:

- A doctor's note from the day(s) of tryouts indicating that the individual is sick/injured and cannot participate at tryouts.
- Recommendation from the coach from the previous year as to the level he/she feels is appropriate. Remember, previous year's placement does not guarantee placement for the current year.
- The board will discuss the previous year's coach assessment
- Ill, injured, or absent players may be selected selected by coach

Announcement of Results

After coaches have been contacted and teams have been decided, results will be posted on the association website.