
AIRDRIE MINOR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Parent Handbook

2026–2027 Season

About this document

This handbook answers common questions from AMBA families about registration, team formation, season logistics, and your responsibilities as a parent or guardian.

Items marked [UPDATED] reflect changes from previous seasons. **Items marked [NEW]** are newly added for 2026–2027.

airdriebasketball.ca

REGISTRATION & FEES

What does the registration fee include?

Your AMBA registration fee covers:

- Registration with the Calgary Minor Basketball Association (CMBA)
- Equipment and uniform use for the season
- Practice and game gym rental
- Coach and player development clinics
- Tournament entry fees
- Liability insurance costs

*[NEW] Starting in the 2024–2025 season, all players and referees are also required to purchase an **Alberta Basketball Association (ABA) membership**. This is collected separately by the ABA during registration and covers provincial insurance and your entry fee should your team qualify for provincials.*

Fees do not cover personal items such as shoes, mouth guards, athletic braces, or optional team gear (hoodies, track pants, etc.).

2026–2027 Fee Changes

*[NEW] Registration fees have been updated for 2026–2027 to reflect AMBA's growth to **480+ registered players** and investment in improved operations and programming. Current exact fees are listed on the registration page at airdriebasketball.ca.*

Program	Change from Previous Season
Jr. NBA	+\$20
Mini House	+\$50
Travel U11–U15	+\$75
Travel U18	\$350 (fall) / \$200 (winter)

When does registration open?

Registration typically opens in **mid-to-late June** each year. Check our website or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the exact date.

How does registration work?

Returning players have approximately one month of early access before registration opens to the public. Spots are filled on a **first-come, first-served** basis:

- The first 10–12 players per age group are accepted onto a roster.

- Additional registrants are placed on a waitlist until there are enough players for another team.
- Depending on final numbers, a team may have fewer than 10 players.

Pay-to-play policy: Players will not be placed on a team or permitted to begin practices until full payment has been received.

When does registration close?

Registration remains open until rosters reach an adequate size and/or the CMBA roster deadline passes. Fees are not prorated for players who register after practices or games have already begun.

Can I get a refund if my child withdraws?

Refunds are not issued after the **final evaluation night** for your child's age group. Once evaluations are complete, teams are formed and rosters are submitted to CMBA. Please see the AMBA Refund Policy on our website for full details, including exceptions.

Why does registration open so early?

Early registration gives us time to ensure a spot for every player. Gym space must be booked with local schools months in advance, and team formation requires enough lead time to handle imbalanced numbers. It also allows time to source coaches, allocate equipment, and arrange uniform sizing.

Financial Assistance

Basketball should be accessible to every family in Airdrie. If the registration fee is a barrier, we encourage you to explore:

- **KidSport Alberta** — provides funding for children 18 and under. Visit kidsportcanada.ca/alberta.
- **Canadian Tire Jumpstart** — helps children in financial need participate in organized sport. Visit jumpstart.canadiantire.ca.

KidSport and Jumpstart funds must be confirmed before the start of evaluations. Email your confirmation number to registration@airdriebasketball.ca within 24 hours of registering.

TEAM FORMATIONS

How are travel teams formed?

When registration numbers allow for more than one team in an age category, AMBA holds **player evaluations** to determine placement. We also follow CMBA's guidelines as a member association.

Our goal is to field as many competitive teams as possible. Evaluations result in tiered teams (A, B, C, etc.) that play against teams of similar skill level. This creates a more balanced season, builds player confidence, and allows coaches to tailor training to their group.

Please try not to get too caught up in which team your child is placed on. Our goal is for every player to have fun, develop their skills, and grow in confidence — regardless of which tier they're in.

Who makes placement decisions? [NEW]

Team placements are made by the **AMBA Evaluation Committee** — a formal body established under policy in October 2025. The committee consists of a minimum of three members, including Travel Team Coordinators, Mini House Coordinators, and the Player Development Coordinator.

Decisions are made by **majority vote (50% + 1)**. Previous season coaches may be consulted for context on a player's development, effort, and attitude — but not for placement recommendations. Personal opinions, parent feedback, and informal conversations are explicitly excluded.

All evaluation records are stored securely in **Skill Shark**.

Conflict of interest: Committee members must declare any close family or personal relationship with a player under consideration and recuse themselves from that player's placement vote.

How will I find out which team my child is on? [NEW]

Placement decisions are communicated through **official AMBA channels only** — AMBA email or the TeamLinked platform. The Evaluation Committee does not communicate results directly with parents prior to the official notification. All placement decisions are final, subject to the appeal process below.

Can I appeal my child's team placement? [NEW]

*Appeals must be based on **procedural fairness or factual error** — not disagreement with the outcome or your assessment of your child's skill level.*

Who can appeal: Only a player's parent or legal guardian.

Deadline: Within **7 days** of the official placement notification.

How to submit: Send a written appeal to president@airdriebasketball.ca, outlining the specific concern and supporting information. A **non-refundable \$100 fee** must accompany the appeal.

Review: A minimum of three Board members will review the appeal independently of the Evaluation Committee. The outcome will be communicated in writing within **14 days** of receipt.

Players remain on their assigned team during the appeal process unless directed otherwise by the Board. The \$100 appeal fee is non-refundable regardless of outcome.

Can I pick my child's coach?

Unfortunately no. The size of our association and our team formation process make it impractical to accommodate coaching preferences.

What happens for Grade 9 (U15) players who make their high school team?

AMBA and CMBA permit a Grade 9 player who has made their high school team to continue with our organization. Players should confirm with their school coach and review school eligibility rules before committing to both programs.

If a Grade 9 player leaves AMBA because they made their high school team, a refund is not provided. If a team must fold due to insufficient remaining players, those who did not choose to leave will receive a pro-rated refund. See the AMBA Refund Policy for details.

Can I request that my child play on the same team as another player?

The size of our association and our team formation process do not allow us to accommodate this type of request.

For siblings: both children will be evaluated separately. If there is a significant skill difference, we will contact parents to discuss options. We are not able to move a lower-skilled player up to a higher-skilled team.

What are the team size limits?

AMBA aims to find a spot for every registered player. General maximums:

- 13 players on a U18 (high school) team
- 12 players on U15 and U13 teams
- 8 players on U11 or Mini House teams

A minimum of **seven players** is required to field a team.

Can my child "play up" to an older age group?

You may request that your child be moved to an older age group by emailing the Vice President. Requests are reviewed by the Board of Directors on an individual basis and are only considered when roster space exists at the higher age group.

Players requesting to play up must attend evaluations for **both** their own age group and the requested age group.

Call-ups: A player may be called up to fill in for a short bench up to **twice** in a season. The older team must have seven or fewer available players. Per CMBA rules, a player called up more than twice becomes an official member of the older team. Coaches must email the Vice President to track all call-ups.

SEASON INFORMATION

How long is each season?

Jr. NBA (formerly Tykes) [UPDATED]

The Jr. NBA program runs for a 12-week cycle. See the program page on our website for the current season's start date.

Mini House

Practices and games begin approximately the first week of October. There is a Christmas break, with play resuming in January through the last week of February. The season closes with the Mini House Wind-Up Tournament on the final weekend.

U11–U15

Player evaluations are held in mid-September. League games begin the weekend after Thanksgiving. There is a Christmas break, with games resuming in January through the last weekend of February. Teams advancing to Provincials typically play in the second weekend of March.

U18

The U18 season begins earlier to finish before high school basketball season. Games typically begin the third weekend of September and conclude at the end of November. If there is sufficient interest, AMBA will consider a winter U18 team running January through early March.

Where and when are practices and games?

Jr. NBA: One 45-minute practice per weekday evening in the Airdrie area.

Mini House: All practices and games are held in the Airdrie area. One practice per weekday evening. Games are on Friday evenings, plus the end-of-season Mini House Tournament (Friday evening and Saturday daytime).

U11–U18: All practices take place in the Airdrie area on weeknight evenings (Monday–Thursday). Games are played on Saturdays in the Calgary area and are scheduled by CMBA.

Important: There is no guarantee of a specific practice day or time. Please ensure you are available any weekday evening before registering. Practice schedules are released each Sunday for the week ahead. Game schedules are posted at cmba.ab.ca.

Where do I find practice and game information? [UPDATED]

All practice and game information is posted on our website (airdriebasketball.ca) and through the **TeamLinked app** each Sunday for the upcoming week. Locations can change week to week — always check before heading out.

CMBA game schedules are also available at cmba.ab.ca.

Does AMBA guarantee fair play time?

Yes. Coaches are expected to give all players a **significant and meaningful** amount of playing time throughout the season. All players listed on a scoresheet should play in each quarter, with exceptions for late arrivals, disciplinary issues, illness, or injury.

Fair play time is not the same as equal play time. The pace of the game, number of players on the bench, and frequency of stoppages make perfectly equal time impractical. See our Fair Play Time policy for details.

PLAYER & PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

What do we expect from parents and guardians?

Basketball is built on respect — for teammates, opponents, officials, coaches, and administrators. As a parent or guardian, you are your child's most visible role model. We ask that you model the behaviour we expect from the kids on the court.

Respect in Sport training: All parents and guardians must complete the Respect in Sport – Activity Leader course before registering their child. This short online course covers how to recognize and respond to bullying, harassment, and abuse in youth sport.

Specific expectations:

- Ensure your child arrives **on time** to practices and games.
- **Do not challenge referees** during or after a game. Use the Game Report link on the CMBA or AMBA website to raise officiating concerns.
- Keep **noise levels low** in the gym during practices so players can hear coach instruction.
- Follow the **24-hour rule** before raising any issue with a coach, parent, or Board member.
- **Fulfill your volunteer commitment** each season.
- Model sportsmanlike behaviour: help up a fallen opponent, applaud injured players leaving the court, respect officials at all times.

Can I leave my child at practice?

Yes — as long as a practice monitor is assigned for that session. If you are not the assigned monitor that day, you are free to leave. Parents are always welcome to stay and watch.

Siblings who attend must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. They may not be left in the care of the player or coach, must stay off the court, and must not wander school hallways.

Please plan to pick up your child **at least five minutes before** the scheduled end of practice.

Do I have to volunteer?

Yes. AMBA exists because of volunteers. Every coach, assistant coach, team manager, and board member gives their time without pay. We cannot run this program without the contribution of every family.

*[UPDATED] A **\$250 volunteer deposit per athlete** is required at registration (or before your child's evaluation). If you fulfill your volunteer role by the end of the season, your deposit is returned. If you opt out or do not complete your commitment, the \$250 is kept by AMBA. (Previous seasons: \$100)*

It is your responsibility to track and fulfill your own commitment — do not rely on coaches, team managers, or AMBA to remind you.

Team roles — Mini House and U11 (7 roles required per team):

1. Coach (AMBA approved)

2. Assistant Coach (AMBA approved)
3. Team Manager (AMBA approved)
4. Scorekeeper / Timekeeper 1 (all games in the season)
5. Scorekeeper / Timekeeper 2 (all games in the season)
6. Gym Monitor 1 (all practices and games)
7. Gym Monitor 2 (all practices and games)

Team roles — U13, U15, and U18 (8 roles required per team):

Same as above, plus:

8. Gym Monitor 3 (all practices and games)

Alternate volunteer opportunities (for families who cannot fill a team role):

- Board or Committee Member
- [NEW] Player Evaluator — assist with fall evaluations (basketball knowledge required; two sessions must be completed)
- Equipment Locker volunteer (minimum 3 times per season)
- Financial Auditor (AMBA approved, appointed at the AGM)
- Mini House Tournament helper (door monitor or equipment)
- [NEW] CMBA Casino — AMBA members may work at CMBA casino events to satisfy their annual volunteer requirement
- Other opportunities posted throughout the season on our website

How do I raise a complaint or concern?

AMBA follows a **24-hour rule** for all complaints. If an issue arises at a game or practice, wait at least 24 hours before reaching out to a coach, team manager, other parent, or Board member. Feedback submitted within 24 hours of an incident will not be responded to.

We encourage you to approach the person involved directly first. If you're not comfortable doing that, or you've tried and the issue is unresolved, contact the President at president@airdriebasketball.ca.

The full AMBA Complaint and Disciplinary Procedure is available on our website.

QUICK REFERENCE

Program age guide — 2026–2027

Update birth years each season before publishing.

Program	Born	Season Type
Jr. NBA	2019–2021	House League (Airdrie only)
Mini House	2017–2018	House League (Airdrie only)
U11	2015–2016	Travel (CMBA)
U13	2013–2014	Travel (CMBA)
U15	2011–2012	Travel (CMBA)
U18	2008–2010	Travel (CMBA)

Key contacts

Role	Email
General enquiries	info@airdriebasketball.ca
Registration	registration@airdriebasketball.ca
Volunteering	volunteer@airdriebasketball.ca
Treasurer / payments	treasurer@airdriebasketball.ca
President (complaints)	president@airdriebasketball.ca

Key links

Resource	URL
AMBA website	airdriebasketball.ca
TeamLinked app	Via airdriebasketball.ca
CMBA	cmba.ab.ca
Alberta Basketball	albertabasketball.ca
KidSport Alberta	kidsportcanada.ca/alberta
Jumpstart	jumpstart.canadiantire.ca
Respect in Sport	respectgroupinc.com

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