

AAU Affiliation

Sokol USA will begin an affiliation with the Amateur Athletics Union (AAU) for the 2018-19 gym season as a member organization. This affiliation provides an additional level of insurance and allows Sokol USA to run a sanctioned gymnastics meet at Sokolfest 2019. Lodges or units seeking an alternative, or an additional insurance option, can join as member clubs and be covered under the AAU Sport Accident and General Liability Insurance. Membership runs from SEP 1-AUG 31 and allows participation in any AAU licensed event, not just Sokol events by lodges or units who obtain an AAU Club Membership.

If the lodge or unit does not need the insurance benefits of AAU Club Membership, but their gymnasts will be participating in the Sokolfest 2019 Gymnastics Competition, each gymnast and coach must still register for individual membership in AAU. The Sokolfest 2019 Registration Form will require an AAU membership number for each gymnast and coach on the floor. There will be no exceptions.

Individual AAU gymnastics membership fee costs are Youth - \$14, Adult - \$24, and Coach - \$16. An individual with an adult participant gymnastics membership does not need to also purchase a coaching membership; but an adult with only a coaching membership is not permitted to compete.

AAU offers free online courses for coaches and requires that coaches take at least the Level 1 AAU Positive Coaching Alliance Course the first year and the next two levels in each of the following years. However, a coach may take all three levels the first year. There are also 3 additional courses offered free of charge on topics such as motivation, techniques and training schedules.

The Club Fee for gym classes only is \$50 for combined youth & adult activities. The Club Fee for gyms who want to cover classes, as well as events like competitions, is \$80 for combined youth & adult activities. Most gyms will have to pay the \$80 membership fee, since they have both youth and adult gymnasts and occasionally hold meets, exhibitions, etc., PLUS the individual membership fee for each youth and adult gymnast and/or coach.

If the AAU insurance for Sport Accident and General Liability is your sole insurance, then anyone who participates in Sokol gymnastics, calisthenics, exercise, or fitness classes – and is on your gym floor - should be an AAU member so you have complete insurance coverage.

"Extended insurance" is also available for \$2/per youth member. AAU will extend their insurance to your gymnasts when participating in any outside meet, such as a local YMCA, USAG, or non-sanctioned Sokol meet. This coverage is not offered to adults, but if an adult is competing for a lodge or unit that has elected to have youth members pay the additional \$2, the extended insurance covers all participants, youth and adults, from your gym in all events such as those previously mentioned above.

AAU also provides a Youth Protection Handbook. To read more information about AAU, to register, and to take the online courses go to: **aausports.org**