

The Case for Alignment

A Unified Basketball Community in Alberta

Collaboration is a word often used to describe how we can most effectively work together. Best practices, mindfulness, measurable outcomes and many others are also used to describe what people are striving to achieve.

Alignment is the critical starting point for these endeavors to have the best chance for success. If all involved are **aligned** and **collaborating** through the challenges and obstacles, the chances of success are much higher.

Alignment is not controlling; it is the establishing of necessary and agreed upon standards to create a safe, inviting, inclusive and positive environment.

Please take the time to read and review the ABA summary of what **alignment** means and how it can help us unify as we move forward and beyond the COVID challenges.

What is alignment?

- 🏀 An established system of support and guidance for all levels of play.
- 🏀 The whole is greater than the sum of its parts—all aligned organizations together will provide greater resources, support and professionalism for coaches, players, referees and parents
- 🏀 Leading edge technical, strategic and performance expertise—the most current and modern techniques and approaches are constantly shared among aligned organizations
- 🏀 Policies and best practices being shared and provided to/from direct contact with all levels of sport governance

Alignment with whom?

- 🏀 Complete alignment with Coaches Association of Canada (CAC), Sport Canada, Canada Basketball (including Game Plan) and Alberta Basketball Association (ABA)
- 🏀 Coaches, administrators, spectators, referees, parents, players and stakeholders at all levels
- 🏀 ABA Membership is the pathway to alignment
- 🏀 Benefits to ABA Membership are many
- 🏀 All organizations work in concert for the ongoing education and safety in sport for the basketball community

Why is alignment important?

- 🏀 Safety in Sport for all
- 🏀 Professional Development for coaches
- 🏀 Creating positive sports culture and a positive sports environment for all to enjoy and thrive
- 🏀 Everyone is on the same page and talking the same language
- 🏀 Together, groups are working towards similar goals: “Love of Sport for Life”, “Active for Life” (Health and Wellness)
- 🏀 Sharing of great ideas and current resources

What is Sanctioning?

- 🏀 Sanctioning is the process whereby established standards are available to support sport safety and best practices
- 🏀 Proven policies, procedures and guidelines are developed by National Sports Organizations (NSO) and Provincial Sports Organizations (PSO) for the betterment of youth sport and coaching accountability
- 🏀 Peace of mind for parents knowing that standards for safety and best practices are in place via membership and alignment

Comparison of other sport organizations that are aligned.

- 🏀 PSO and NSO membership is an established standard for nearly all other sports in Alberta and Canada; i.e: Hockey, Soccer, Volleyball, Athletics and Gymnastics

Inclusive and Transparent

- 🏀 For everyone who values alignment, you have a voice—present your ideas and/or concerns to your PSO and they will be dealt with accordingly
- 🏀 There are no hidden agendas with alignment—it makes complete sense to be aligned with so many diverse and professional organizations—as has been mentioned above
- 🏀 Enhanced connections and communications with provincial, national and international organizations result with alignment

Professional Development / Training / Resources

General

- 🏀 Best Practices: Communication, Information, Supplementation
ABA is committed to improved communications with basketball groups across the province
As modern information regarding the game of basketball is learned, it will be shared with coaches across AB
There are numerous supplemental resources available to coaches with alignment
- 🏀 Registration Strategy for Teams, Clubs or Organizations
 - 🏀 Some have argued that a membership fee is a money grab—this document states clearly that membership is an investment, there are numerous resources, supports and benefits to membership
 - 🏀 Nearly every other sports organization in Alberta and Canada have a membership fee associated with their sport—if you play a sport, there is a membership fee
 - 🏀 ABA is suggesting that every club— team or organization requests their parents or players to go online and register for an ABA membership. After completing individual registration athletes can present their valid ABA membership card
 - 🏀 ABA membership only needs to be paid once a year to participate in any basketball event in Alberta
 - 🏀 Access to the [ABA Registration System](#) is streamlined and user friendly
 - 🏀 Teams, Clubs and Organizations will receive an organization specific portal to manage their groups registrations
- 🏀 ABA is aligned with Sport Canada, Coaches Association of Canada and Canada Basketball—alignment affords all members the opportunity to stay connected with the newest trends and best practices from our national governing body.
- 🏀 As we know all-too-well, youth sports programs across the province and country have suffered during the past twelve months due to navigating COVID and lockdowns. It is prudent and incredibly important to recognize that Safe Sport is necessary for our children. ABA is directly connected with the Government of Alberta, SPAR and Canada Basketball to ensure current information is provided to allow basketball programs to return to the court safely.
- 🏀 The following link to the [Coaches Association of Canada \(CAC\)](#) demonstrates the level of professionalism alignment has to offer. Most coaches and most organizations support the resources offered by the CAC, they support the value of certification, education and development and fully support the number one priority of Safety in Sport for youth. Alignment makes 100% sense and should be an easy argument for all to accept.

Coaches

There are an abundance of resources available through the Coaches Association of Canada, the NCCP, Canada Basketball, Alberta Basketball Association and more.

 [Click here to access the ABA Coaches Resource Page](#)

Referees

-  Coordinate and support the implementation of Safe Sport and risk management strategies for referees
-  Support the transition of Alberta Basketball Officials Association (ABOA) to a model of a Provincial Basketball Officials Commission under the auspices of the ABA to integrate the organization, administration, growth, and development of basketball officiating and basketball officials within Alberta
-  Collaborate in the recruitment and retention of officials, as well as gender and racial inclusivity of referees in the system
-  Referee Clinics, Online Training Modules & Webinars, Access to developed educational resources
-  Game Plan
-  NOCP Certification: National Officials Certification Program
 -  Enhance the development of quality basketball officiating in Alberta through a structured, supported, and transparent official's pathway and standardized training program as developed by the Canadian Basketball Officials Commission (CBOC)

A Provincial Basketball Community Aligned and United

The ABA is focused on **alignment** to unite the basketball community across the province. If you have a question about this document or ABA's 2021 - 2025 Strategic Plan, please contact info@basketballalberta.ca or 780.427.9044