



Dear AAU Karate Instructors, Athletes and Parents,
The 2008 / 2009 AAU Competition season have arrived. Thanks too you're past efforts Ohio AAU karate continues to be a huge success in the tri-state area.

The season will begin with the Ohio AAU Karate Registration Tournament, which will be held Saturday November 22, 2008 (additional information will be sent shortly). Remember, your AAU membership fees are included with the tournament registration. The 2009 Ohio AAU Karate Championships will be held Saturday February 28, 2009 followed by our Regional Championships April 17 - 19, 2009. Start your planning; you don't want to miss the Championships. The 2009 AAU National Championships will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Yes, sunny Florida! Lets plan ahead for these upcoming events.

As a reminder, athletes **must attend** and qualify at both our District and Regional tournaments to be eligible to compete at the National Championships. The top 16 qualify to go on to the next event. I highly encourage all athletes to attend our local events and make plans to attend the National Championships. There will be teams from all over the country, as well as Hawaii, who attend, and the level of competition is guaranteed to be excellent. It is a fantastic experience to attend the "Nationals" - something that all competitors will always remember.

To prepare for the upcoming season, I encourage you too:

1. Attend the registration tournament. If you're not able to do so register as an AAU athlete for 2009 - online at www.aausports.org
2. Get an AAU patch on a plain white gi
3. Purchase the AAU vinyl kumite gloves and foam face shield helmet (required for youth, Macho Warrior helmet is the mandatory helmet for youth - instructors can contact me about how to get patches and other equipment for your dojo)
4. Attend some of the pre-season events – Ohio / Ky / Indy training sessions, practice tournaments, etc.
5. Stay up to date on AAU Karate info and rules at <http://www.aaukarate.org/>

Please see the upcoming events for the tri-state area. I will continue to keep you informed about any future news or announcements. I'm looking forward to a great AAU Karate season and hope to see you at the competitions.

Sincerely,
David B. Williams, District Chairman
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