



KNOXVILLE YOUTH ATHLETICS COMPETITIVE TEAM

General Parent Information

Welcome to the Knoxville Youth Athletics Competitive Team!

Congratulations on having your child make the qualifying standards for our youth competitive track and field team. The package of information you have downloaded should provide you with all the information you should need. Please take time to read through this package it will answer many of the questions you might have.

Competitive Team – What does it mean?

The word competitive speaks for itself. Those that are on the competitive team are given a higher – more specialized level of instruction than those in our developmental programs. With this come increased expectations on the part of coaches, athletes and parents. Although we do moderate these in the youngest age groups, being on the competitive team requires commitment.

The competitive team will **not** meet you or your child's expectations if:

- You plan on being away for an extended period of time over the summer (> than 7 days)
- You will not be able to compete in the AAU District Championships (6-22-24), AAU National Qualifier Championships (6/26-29) or the AAU National Championships (7/27-8/3). **Exceptions have been discussed; please contact Brent Smith at kyacoachbrent@gmail.com with concerns.**
- Have other conflicting sports activities during the summer. This is a competitive team and not conditioning for another sport.
- Plan on missing practice.
- If you are not in the habit of following instructions, paying attention at practice and respecting your fellow teammates, event specialty coaches and parent volunteers.
- Don't plan on making a commitment to go to the National Championships if qualified.

Once qualified in one event can I try another?

Generally, the answer is yes. However, it is wise not to spread yourself too thin. The older your child is the more select they need to be on event selection outside of the event they qualified in. Let interest and input from your event specialty coach serve as your guide.

Practices

Outlined in this package. We expect you to attend practice. Missing practice means a missed opportunity to learn and improve. No practice = No meets. Practice will be held rain or shine. Please do not call the competitive team director or the hotline regarding practice cancellation unless you live 40+ miles from West High School Track. If inclement weather strikes we will make a practice cancellation call at practice only. Please make sure that you provide ample fluids (preferably water before and during – Gatorade-PowerAde after) for practices. We do not provide this at practice.

Team Policies

Are included in this package and part of the acceptance waiver you agreed to when registering online. Please read over carefully so that there are no surprises down the road.

Coaches

Coaches on the competitive team have a wide range of experience in the event specialties. Olympians, NCAA Champions, All-Americans / track athletes, former area high school coaches to former competitive team members currently compete at the university level. This diverse mix of knowledge provides a great learning opportunity for your child. Parents unless an event specialty coach asks you – please leave your coaching cap at home and enjoy your time in the stands. Hovering around or over your child during practice (unless you are asked to volunteer) is not accepted practice in our program. Take the two hours of practice and enjoy a relaxed walk / run around the practice area, read a book, take a nap and chat with your fellow parents. Leave the coaching to the coaches.

Meets and Travel

Our summer meet schedule is designed to test your training progress through the summer. Qualifying to the Nationals is no small task. If you do, we expect you to go. We have strived to keep our travel down to a minimum in order to keep costs reasonable. It will be the parent's responsibility to get their kids to and from meets. This allows parents freedom to book travel and hotels according to their budget and when their child is competing. We will provide the name of the hotel where KYA coaches will be staying for your convenience so that athletes can maintain contact with their coaches. Special provisions will be made for any athlete who is unable to have a parent transport them to a meet or car pool with another parent.

Costs

Costs are detailed in the attached package. While our resources are not limitless, we do understand in this day and time how difficult it is to cobble together the finances to help your child. We do provide assistance on a case-by-case basis under the guidelines set forth in this package.

Relays

Relays are formed from those that have made the team. It is a privilege to be on a relay – teamwork and practice is the key for success here. If you do not attend practice you will not be considered for a relay. Relays are formed in a cooperative effort between event specialty coaches and the relay coordinator. No relay spot is guaranteed. Relays that have qualified for nationals and met the relay time standard must have a majority of its athletes also qualified in individual events. All spots on relays are open, fluid and not final until we go to nationals. ***Please make sure you read over the attached relay standards so that you understand how relays are dealt with in our program.*** Failure to do so usually results in disappointment for parent and child.

Uniforms

All competitive team members are required to compete in team uniforms. The uniform top will have the logo seen on this letterhead on a blue/white jersey top. Your registration fee does NOT include the cost of the jersey. Please make sure that you purchase blue running / blue spandex shorts to go with the top. Remember all relays must have the same top AND bottom.

Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers are always welcome. There are numerous tasks that you can volunteer for to help lighten the load for all. You can sign up for these online when you register your child. They include:

- Team Online Registration / Meet Entry Volunteers - Responsible for assisting new team parents with the online registration process and program fee payment. Volunteers will need to be available for training on the new online team registration system. Volunteers should also be available for the first Saturday meet in June to assist new competitive team qualifiers with the team registration process. Volunteers will also be responsible for assisting Competitive Team Director in athlete entry into meets this will require volunteers to train with a Competitive Team Coach to learn the online entry process.
- Saturday Qualifying Meets Volunteers (6/1 and 6/8) – Help man KYA tent to distribute information about competitive team to new prospective qualifiers. Prefer you have previous experience with Competitive Team.
- Team Meet Set-up – Assist with setting up team tents, providing fluids for athletes, distributing athlete bib numbers, athlete event check-in and team area break down and clean up at meets.