

Maine Association of Basketball Coaches Points of Pride



The Maine Association of Basketball Coaches was formed in 1979 by a small group of high school basketball coaches looking to have a greater voice in matters pertaining to basketball in the state of Maine. The MABC has evolved and grown steadily ever since. The early years saw a membership of a couple dozen coaches. The MABC has grown its membership over the years and now is near 100% annually.

The purpose of the organization is to help promote the development of basketball and to make necessary recommendations towards this end to the Maine Principals Association. The MABC also look to encourage and recognize professional accomplishments through the sponsorship of achievement programs and awards. Lastly, the MABC looks to work for the betterment of youth by the sponsorship of games and activities where the abilities and talents of youths will be recognized.

In 1980, the MABC partnered with the American Heart Association to sponsor the first ever East-West Senior All-Star Games. This basketball showcase event was the first of its kind in Maine. In 1988, the MABC formed a new partnership with a group of local McDonald's owner operators throughout Maine. The event was renamed the Maine McDonald's All-Star Weekend and this partnership has grown and thrived steadily over the past 29 years. The weekend serves as a fundraising event for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine. The weekend consists of all-star team practices, lead by the MABC's Coaches of the Year, followed by visits to the local Ronald McDonald House in Bangor, Maine. That evening features the MABC's annual awards banquet. The MABC Media Award, Bob Brown Contributor Award, and the Spirit of the Game Awards are presented. This is followed by the highlight of the evening, the naming of Mr. and Miss Maine Basketball for

each year. The following day the all-star teams compete at Husson University in Bangor, Maine. Between games the MABC hands out awards to coaches who have earned their way onto the MABC's Coaches Honor Roll for victories. In 2017, Maine McDonald's All-Star Weekend raised \$45,000.00 for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine.

Since its inception, the MABC has sponsored an annual fall coaches clinic. In the early years, the MABC fall clinic was headlined by coaches such as Jim Valvano, Rollie Massimino, Rick Pitino, and Hubie Brown. In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to draw high profile clinicians due to their affiliations with various shoe companies. As a result, the MABC is considering alternatives, such as partnering with neighboring states to offer a quality clinic or offering a player showcase event designed for exposure to college coaches in place of the annual fall clinic.

Recent years have seen a steady flow of Maine high school basketball being recruited and playing at colleges of all levels throughout the country. Maine high school basketball coaches continue to provide multiple opportunities for players to fundamentally develop and improve their skills while also providing exposure to college coaches and college basketball opportunities.

In 2009, the MABC was invited to attend the summer meetings of the NHSBCA in Louisville, Kentucky. Since that summer, the MABC has been a regular attendee of the group's summer meetings. In the years since, the MABC has forged relationships, garnered new ideas, and put into practice many new policies to help our association grow.

The primary goal of the Maine Association of Basketball Coaches is the promotion of basketball in the state of Maine. This will be accomplished by maintaining our current programs while looking for opportunities to grow the association.