

Competition Team Structure: Understanding the Difference Between Team A and Team B

In our competitive program, we have established two distinct teams—**Team A** and **Team B**—to reflect our athletes' readiness and developmental stages. This structure ensures that everyone has a clear path to success, with an understanding of where they stand and what they need to work on to advance. Below is an explanation of the differences between the two teams and how the system works to inspire growth and progression.

Team A: Ready for Competition Now

Team A consists of athletes who are **ready to compete right now**. These athletes have demonstrated the skills, mindset, and preparation needed to represent our program in competitions without hesitation. Because of their high level of readiness, **funding and resources are prioritized for Team A** to support their participation in tournaments.

Key features of Team A:

- **Prepared for any competition:** Athletes on Team A are those we feel confident sending to a tournament tomorrow if needed.
- **Automatic approval for all tournaments:** Members of Team A are automatically approved to compete in any competition, whether it's local, regional, or national, without needing to seek further approval from the coaching staff.
- **Top priority for funding:** When it comes to travel, registration, and other competition expenses, Team A will be prioritized to ensure they have the resources needed to perform at their best.

However, **being placed on Team A doesn't guarantee a permanent spot**. Athletes on Team A must continue to show grit, improvement, and dedication throughout the year. **Your spot on Team A is not set in stone**—it is determined by performance at the tryouts and is subject to change based on what coaches see during practices and competitions. To remain on Team A, you will need to **keep showing progress and heart** each semester.

Team B: On the Cusp of Greatness

Team B is composed of athletes who are **right on the edge of being ready** to compete at a high level but need some minor refinements. These athletes may be **a little rusty**, need more experience, or require just a bit more grit and heart to push them to the next level. **Team B should not be viewed as a setback**; instead, it's a team where growth happens, and it's a direct pipeline to Team A.

Key features of Team B:

- **Opportunities to compete:** Athletes in Team B are allowed to compete in **approved local tournaments**. However, for any tournament that is restricted for Team A, **Team B athletes must seek approval from a coach** to compete.
- **Pipeline to Team A:** The goal is for Team B athletes to **work hard, show improvement, and eventually move up to Team A**. As you demonstrate the necessary skills and readiness, there will be opportunities to transition to the top team.
- **Motivational challenge:** Team B is not meant to be discouraging—**it's a stepping stone**. This is your chance to light a fire under yourself, sharpen your focus, and prove that you belong in the top tier.

Pathway from Team B to Team A

There is a clear path from Team B to Team A. If we see **consistent effort, improvement, and dedication** from Team B members, we will consider moving them up. The decision to move up will be based on the following:

- Demonstrated improvement in training and competition
- Grit, determination, and a willingness to push through challenges
- Feedback from instructors on readiness for higher-level competitions

Additionally, **if a Team B member competes in a qualifier and qualifies**, their status on the team may be subject to change, as we will re-evaluate their readiness.

Encouragement for Team B Members

Being part of Team B is an opportunity. **It's not about where you start, but where you're going**. This is your chance to fine-tune your skills, build more heart and grit, and show that you're ready to rise to the top. Team B is the place where the **hard work happens**, and it's where you can prove to yourself and others that you're ready for the next level.

Remember, everyone on Team A started with a journey like yours. **Team B is the proving ground**, where the drive to succeed and the determination to improve can lead you to the top.

Stay motivated, work hard, and show us you're ready. The road to Team A is open to anyone willing to put in the work.

Together, we rise!