



GRIPPEN PARK BMX DEVELOPMENT

2011 ABA TROPHY TEAM

“Have you ever wanted to be part of a team?”

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SUMMARY

Grippen Park BMX will establish a BMX “Trophy” racing team- name TBA- in 2011, aimed at nurturing the growth, enjoyment, and development of amateur BMX racers at the Grippen Park BMX Racing Facility.

This document summarizes the blueprint for 2011. This Strategic Plan will serve as our key management tool; a basis for building an integrated and systematic approach to addressing our team goals & priorities.

The following elements are contained in the plan:

- Our Mission
- Our Vision for Grippen Park BMX Development Team (“GDT” until a team name can be established) team and the values we believe should serve as a basis of operations.
- Our Goals, both on an individual basis, and team basis.
- Team operating structure
- Timeline & Priorities and actions that need to be addressed in pursuing stated Goals.

GDT team members will be held accountable their level of participation within an environment established around fun, mentoring, and demonstrating a high standard of conduct. The team IS NOT results oriented, but high results may help in providing athletes with recognition across the BMX community, where the team may serve as a stepping stone to a higher level team later on down the line. This will be encouraged, rather than discouraged, in the “Development” structure. Measurable results will provide team leaders with valuable feedback to our on-track goals, and allow us to assess our racing progress over time. Dedicated team members should and will experience measured success on the track.

Our long terms success will be measured by the impact we have had in developing upstanding members of our communities that, through their association with GDT, will be able to grow personally and achieve success beyond the BMX track.

OUR MISSION

The Grippen Park BMX Development Team provides a BMX racing platform aimed at ensuring a fun, healthy, and educational environment for the all amateur BMX athletes. The Team will emphasize enjoyment of the sport through fun and respectful competition; that promotes personal and athletic growth; that ensures that all of our riders have fun competing together as a team; where development of sportsmanship, leadership, character building, and camaraderie are prioritized. The ideal team members will be positive influences on their peers on the track, and carry that practice through off the track, and into their communities.

“Others will follow, where we lead.”

OUR VISION

LOCATION

GDT will operate as an *ABA Trophy Team* located and operated at Grippen Park BMX.

THE GDT ATHLETE

The ideal GDT Rider is:

- A racer who clearly loves racing, and has fun doing it.
- A racer who takes pride in what they are doing, and how they are doing it.
- A racer who will abide by our Code of Conduct.
- A racer who's expressed a keen interest in graduating beyond Novice or Intermediate level to Expert, or a racer who has expressed an interest in climbing the Expert ranks.
- A racer who has shown a consistent improvement of their on-track performance and is dedicated to continually improving their level of performance.

TEAM RACING PRIORITIES: ON THE TRACK

The highest priority of any athlete should be to ensure they are HAVING FUN doing what they are doing; no athlete should be involved with GDT that either does not enjoy racing BMX, or does not enjoy his/her time at the track. As such, attending the following races is NOT required by any team member.

Team members will primarily focus on training within the district, out of the Grippen Park BMX Racing Facility. As a team, in addition to district racing at Grippen Park BMX, we will support riders that reach for following high caliber races / series:

- ABA National Series
- Redline Cup Series
- State Championships

The reason for supporting the higher caliber races is to help provide a basis of guideline for those racers who are focused on earning either a NAG plate, Redline Cup plate, or competing and finishing well in the NY State Championships. As a team, we will support these races and compete in the team competitions were applicable.

It is recommended- but not required- for team members to attend as many gate practices and district races as possible (on a regular, weekly basis), and recommended to supplement racing at Grippen Park BMX with visits to neighboring tracks in the area to seek out different competition, and develop skills at different facilities.

ATHLETE PRIORITIES: OFF THE TRACK

Off the track, younger racers are expected to be dedicated to their school work. This is not to imply a certain GPA must be maintained, but it is expected parents will support the notion of prioritizing education.

All GDT team members and parents will be required to sign a Code of Conduct, and are expected to follow its guidelines.

Team members will be required to fulfill a certain number of volunteer hours “giving back”. This can be either by helping at scheduled track work parties, by mentoring younger and / or new riders at the track that need help or just need a friend to show them around, or by helping the track executive with set-up and take down on race & practice days. Volunteering at neighboring tracks for their work parties will also be considered equivalent volunteer hours.

ATHLETE CONDUCT

As expressed above, the foundation of this team is built on sportsmanship. Being a GDT Team Member is about looking at someone in the eyes when you speak to them, about high fives at the end of a race, about doing your best, and about having fun. Members of this team are expected to be role models offering inspiration to others both on and off the track. This applies to parents as well. It is the parent's opportunity to showcase the patience and praise they have for their children and their efforts. Each racer and parent will be required to sign the following Code of Conduct:

BMX Rider's Code of Conduct

- I will ride because I want to, not because my parents or others want me to.
- I will ride by the rules and in the spirit of the race.
- I will control my temper – fighting or ‘mouthing –off’ can spoil the activity for everyone.
- I will respect my opponents.
- I will remember that winning isn't everything – that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
- I will treat all spectators and participants with respect and avoid negative criticism.
- I will acknowledge all good racing and performances - those of my fellow members and my opponents.
- I will lead by example and always demonstrate good sportsmanship before and after races.
- I will respect the track volunteers and officials and their authority during races and practices. I will remember that they are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.
- I will respect all facilities and equipment made available.
- I will not use profanity, abusive language or threatening behavior towards any rider, parent, or track official.
- I will do my best to serve as a welcoming committee to new riders to the sport and help them feel at home and comfortable.
- I will remember that while wearing the team jersey at any time, I am officially representing the track, the team and any team sponsors and will abide by the rules above.

BMX Parent's Code of Conduct

- I will not force my child to ride BMX
- I will remember that my child rides for his or her enjoyment, not mine.

- I will encourage my child to ride by the rules and to resolve conflict without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of the race.
- I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and hard.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a race.
- I will remember that children learn by example, I will applaud good riding and performances by both my child and their opponents.
- I will not use profanity, abusive language or threatening behavior towards any rider, parent, or track official.
- I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteers who give their time to BMX for my child.
- I will not condone the athletic use of alcohol, drugs or banned performance enhancing substances.
- I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from BMX racing.
- I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set for the Association.

ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA / FEES & SPONSOR OBLIGATIONS Selection Criteria

Given the basis of the team is to develop BMX racers, selection criteria is based more on past demonstrated conduct at the track (by both athlete and parent), and a pledge by both the athlete and parent to help us in fulfilling our stated "Vision". Racers must be full track riders.

Funding

Being a first year team, up front funding for kits and race fees are required by the racers; yearly fees going forward will be determined in each off season.

As the year progresses, the team may conduct fundraisers and seek out cash sponsors to help with covering overhead in following years, or "extras" this year.

Sponsors

The team is in the process of arranging shop, gear, and parts sponsorship agreements to allow racers access to products at discounted prices.

Team Clothing

Team Race Jersey will be the only *mandatory requirement* for all GDT athletes. The team will make available matching pants, gloves, shoes, and helmets.

Bikes, parts & accessories

Race bikes and parts will be available this season from selected local suppliers at team discounted prices. Sponsorship arrangements TBA.

Team Support

A stocked tool box & work stand will be available in the Pro Shop to racers at every race at Grippen Park BMX. A 10'x10' team tent will be brought to every out-of- district team event to serve as a central gathering point for team members. Keeping in the spirit of the team, this is available to ALL racers at

the track and encouraging team riders to help out ANY racer in need of mechanical help. Racers are responsible for their own individual entry fees; GDT pays for all Trophy Team and other Team Competition entry fees.

Training

Weekly or Bi-Weekly **private** structured training sessions and development clinics will begin immediately at the Grippen Park BMX Racing Facility. Racers on the team will be highly encouraged to attend these training sessions.

Sponsor Obligations

It will be obligated of the team members to wear the team jersey at all races. It is expected that when a team member needs to buy a new bike or gear over and in addition to the mandatory jersey, they will make every effort to purchase the sponsor's brand items when shopping for new gear. It is understood that many team members may choose to acquire second hand items; this will NOT BE DISCOURAGED.

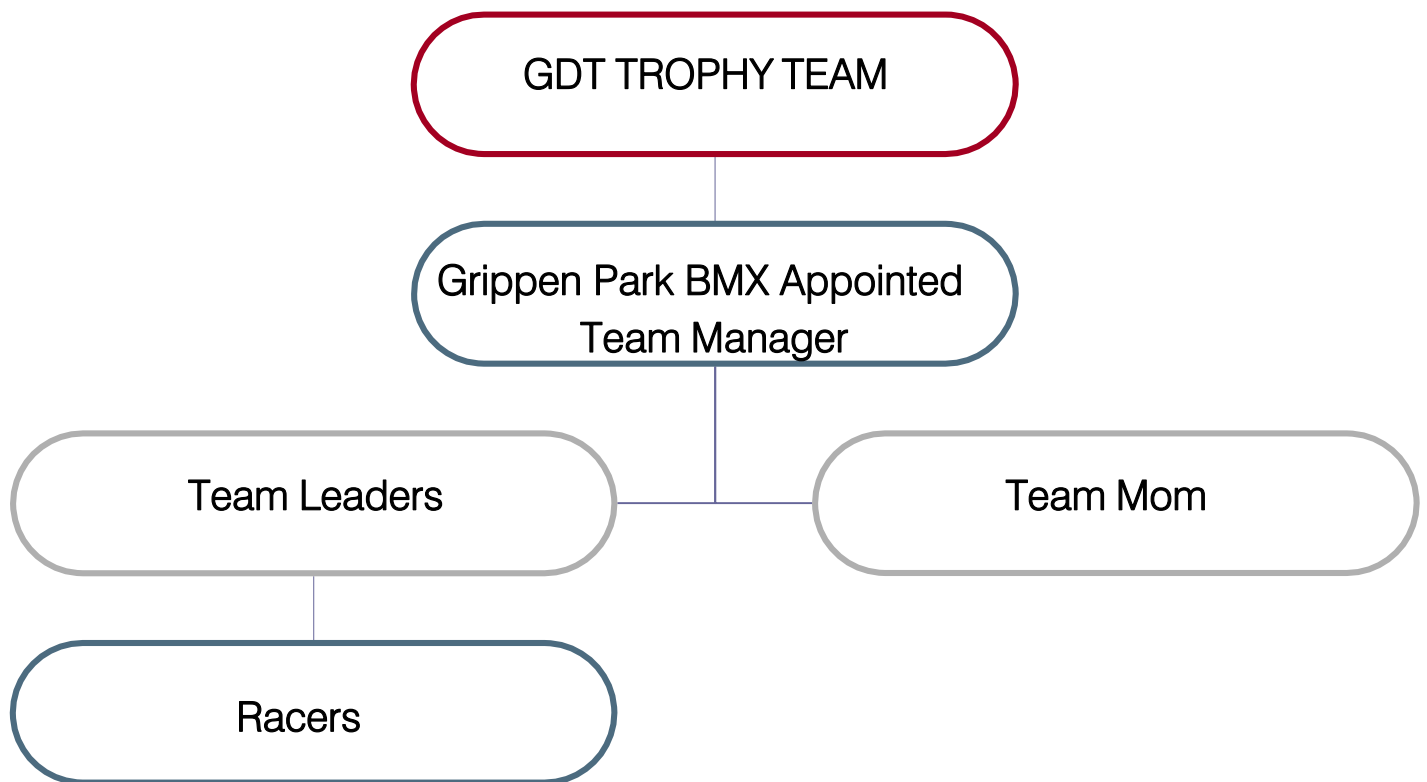
Team Fees

Up-front MANDATORY fees will be \$35.00, which will cover the cost of a fully custom race jersey (w/ name and/or number), number plate, and aid in subsidizing extra coaching costs. A second jersey (recommended if racing frequently) can be purchased up front for an additional \$50.00.

TEAM OPERATING STRUCTURE

Grippen Park BMX will oversee all team operations, with the assistance of team leaders. The team itself will also rely heavily on the organizational skills of the Team Mom (TBA), who will oversee all non-racing organizational requirements (travel, accommodations, team functions, clinics, etc.).

The Team Mom position is a volunteer position that will require not only a high level of commitment, but organizational skills to ensure all the intricate details of managing a team are taken care of and accounted for. It is expected that all members, (leaders, racers, parents), treat the Team Mom with the highest levels of respect.



TIMELINE

SHORT TERM FOCUS & TIMELINE

Short term focus of GDT includes:

- Racer commitments: ASAP (to accommodate jersey order).
- Distribution of team info
- Team kits & extra team wear
- Scheduling- No later than June 31st

LONG TERM FOCUS

Long term focus is to simply foster and maintain an environment whereby racers have as much fun as possible, and progress as far as they are capable in the sport of BMX. We will encourage riders to seek higher level sponsorship and team opportunities if these options come available, all while providing an uplifting environment.

CONCLUSION

At Grippen Park BMX, we are in need of a track team that caters to those families that wish to be involved in a team environment that is locally run, managed and has a clear cut focus. The focus of this team is to nurture the growth of committed racers- weather novice, intermediate, or expert- and to help them progress as far in the sport that they want. If that means GDT is a long term home to the racer, great; if that means GDT is a stepping stone, that's OK too.

Grippen Park BMX recognizes the calls for a local, track based team, and are committed to fulfilling this need.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Please see Dave at the track or e-mail your expressions of interest as either a racer or volunteer (we'll need a lot of help!) to dave (@) grippenparkbmx.com with the subject line "GDT Team". Please include all relevant details (racer's name, age, level, and contact info).