

---

The presentation of the NBA Azerbaijan Junior League for boys and girls aged 12-14 has been organized by the American National Basketball Association (NBA) and the Azerbaijan Basketball Federation (ABF).

The event was attended by Minister of Youth and Sports Azad Rahimov, Deputy Minister of Education Firudin Gurbanov, Vice-President of the National Olympic Committee Chingiz Huseynzade, Vice-President of NBA for Europe, Africa and Middle East countries Jesus Paskaul, US Ambassador to Azerbaijan Lee Litzenberger, President of the Azerbaijan Basketball Association Nadir Nasibov.

In his address Minister of Youth and Sports Azad Rahimov spoke about assistance and attention given by our state to sports. Azad Rahimov noted that sports in Azerbaijan is developing from day to day and current material-technical base of sports contributes to a progress of a basketball in our country. Azad Rahimov had also touched successes achieved by our sportsmen over last year.

In his speech Deputy Minister of Education Firudin Gurbanov spoke about an importance of NBA Azerbaijan Junior League that would be held in our country. He noted that this project would play a positive in leading school children to healthy lifestyle and in detecting talented sportsmen. Firudin Gurbanov also noted that this step would contribute to a formation of basketball teams in each of schools in Azerbaijan in future. Noting that thanks to the creation of the Junior League, the popularity of this type of sport in the regions will increase over the next one year, Firudin Gurbanov thanked everyone who contributed to this work.

In their speeches the guests at the event had expressed their thoughts about the project and wished successes to organizers of the event.

At the end of the event, questions from the media have been answered and a memorable gift has been presented to the official guest at the event.

It should be noted that the league matches will be held from March to May of the current year according to the rules established by the NBA system and structure. The project will identify 30 teams comprised of boys and girls across the country.