2024 AAU Codebook

Sports For All, Forever

August 19, 2024

THE CODE OF THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION
2024 EDITION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble **1**

Article I – Governance of the Union **1**

A. Adoption and Amendments **1**
1. Adoption 1
2. Amendments 1
   a. Adoption Requirements 1
   b. Presentation 1
   c. Time and Form of Publication 1
   d. Consideration 2
   e. Urgent Amendment 2
   f. Language, Stylistic, Housekeeping Changes 2

B. Membership **2**
1. Conditions for Membership 2
2. Categories 2
   a. District Member 2
   b. Club Member 2
   c. Individual Member 2
   d. Allied Member 3

C. Congress **3**
1. Composition 3
   a. District Representatives 3
   b. Sport Committee Representatives 3
   c. National Officers 3
   d. Past Officers 3
   e. Allied Member Representatives 3
   f. Members-at-Large 3
2. Powers 3
3. Vote(s) in Congress 4

D. Board of Directors **4**
1. Composition 4
2. Powers 4

E. Officers **5**
1. Titles 5
2. Elections 5
3. Qualifications 5
4. Term of Office 5
5. Duties
   a. President 5
   b. Vice-Presidents 6
   c. Secretary 6

d. Treasurer 6
6. Vacancies 6
7. Emergency Powers of Officers 6

F. Committees **7**
1. Administrative Committees 7
a. Finance Committee 7
b. Insurance Committee 7
c. Legislation Committee 8
d. Nominations and Elections Committee 8
e. Redistricting Committee 8
f. Registration Committee 8
g. Administrative Committee Structure & Procedures 9

2. National Sport Committees
a. Chair 9
b. Composition 9
c. Meetings 9
d. Voting 9
e. Quorum 10
f. Duties 10
g. Dissolution 11

3. Special Committees/Ad Hoc Committees 11

Article II – Governance of the Districts **12**

A. Adoption **12**
1. Amendments 12

B. Charter **12**

C. Name, Territory, Jurisdiction **12**

D. Objectives **12**

E. Management **12**
1. Board of Managers 12
a. Composition 12
b. Duties 12
c. Voting 13
2. Executive Committee 13
a. Composition 13
b. Duties 13

3. Officers 14
a. Titles 14
b. Eligibility 14
c. Term of Office 14
d. Duties 14

e. Removal 15
f. Vacancies 16

4. Meetings, Notice and Quorum
a. Biennial Meeting 16
b. Special 16
c. Executive Committee 16
d. Notices 16
e. Quorum 16

5. Committees
a. Required Committees 16
1. Finance Committee 17
2. Nominations and Elections Committee 17
3. Review Committee 17
4. District Sport Committees 17
5. Special Committees/ Ad Hoc Committees 20

6. District Championships 20
a. Conduct Of 20
b. Participation In

F. Governance of Non-chartered Districts **20**

G. Dissolution **20**
1. District 20
2. District Sports Committee 21

Article III – Judiciary of the AAU **22**

A. Judicial Entities **22**
1. National Board of Review 22
a. Jurisdiction 22
b. Composition 22
c. Powers 22
d. Eligibility to Serve 22
e. Term of Office 22
f. Vacancies 23

2. National Board of Appeals
a. Composition 23
b. Powers 23
c. Standard of Review 23

3. District Review Committee **23**
a. Composition 23
b. Powers 23
c. Jurisdiction 23

4. Infractions Committees and Disciplinary Officers 24

B. Authority **24**
1. Fraud 24
2. Competing for Money 24

3. Aid or Abet Disqualification of an Athlete 24
4. Doping 24
5. Aid or Abet Controlled Substance Use 24
6. Unfair Dealing in Competition 24
7. Violation of AAU Rules/Policies 24
8. Aid or Abet Violation of the AAU Code 24
9. Failure to Cooperate with AAU Judicial Body 24
10. Act of Disturbance, Obstruction of a Competition, Disruption, Disrepute 24

C. Procedures **24**
1. Hearings 25
2. Procedures 25
3. Appeals 25
4. Reinstatement 25

Bylaws of the AAU **26**

1. Official Emblem, Seal, National Office **26**
1.1 Official Seal 26
1.2 Official Emblem 26
1.3 National Office 26

2. Fiscal and Legal **26**
2.1 Fiscal Year 26
2.2 Bonds 26
2.3 Bank Accounts and Depositories 26
2.4 Checking, Savings & Depository Accounts 26
2.5 Auditor and Auditor Report 27
2.6 Budget 27
2.7 Audit Committee 27
2.8 Finance Committee 27
2.9 Investment Committee 27
2.10 General Counsel 28
2.11 Special Counsel 28
2.12 Contracts 28
2.13 Conflict of Interest 28
2.14 Compensation 28

3. Event License **28**

4. Membership
4.1 Individual Membership **29**
4.2 Club & Individual Membership Applications 29
4.3 Membership and Residency 30

5. Dues, Fees, Reports and Remittances **30**
5.1 Dues and Fees 30
5.2 District Reports 31

6. Eligibility **31**
6.1 Youth Athlete Participation 31

6.2 Club Attachment 31
6.3 Transfers 31

7. Competition **32**
7.1 District Championships 32
7.2 No Championship held in District 32
7.3 Special Competition 32
7.4 Acceptance of Entry 32
7.5 National Championship 32
7.5.1 Award 32
7.5.2 Championship Contracts 32
7.6 Competition Outside the U.S. 32

8. Districts and Chartering **32**
8.1 District Membership 33
8.2 District Territories 33
8.3 Redistricting Territories 33
8.4 Inter-District Sport Management Agreements 33
8.5 Names and Territories 33
8.6 Zone Alignment 37
8.7 Regional Alignment 38

9. Meetings, Notices, Voting **38**
9.1 Meetings of the AAU of the U.S., Inc. 38
9.2 District Representation to Congress 38
9.3 National Sport Committee Representation to Congress 38
9.4 Notice 39
9.5 Order of Meetings 39
9.6 Rules of Order 40
9.7 Mail or Electronic Voting or Teleconference Voting 40

10. Composition of Board of Directors **40**
10.1 The Officers 40
10.2 Zone Representatives 40
10.3 Administrative Chairs 40
10.4 Council Chairs 40
10.5 District Governors' Council 40
10.6 National Sport Committee Representation 40
10.7 Other National Sport Committee Representation 40
10.8 District Representation 40
10.9 Other District Representation 40
10.10 Non-voting Members 40
10.11 Representation limits 40
10.12 Designee for Absent Representative 41
10.13 Term of Elected/Appointed Positions Begin/End 41
11. National Councils **41**
11.1 Sports Council 41
11.2 Past Presidents' Council 41
11.3 Zone Councils 41

11.4 District Governors' Council 42

12. Miscellaneous **42**
12.1 AAU James E. Sullivan Award 42
12.2 Life Membership 42
12.3 Indemnification 42
12.4 Executive Director 43
12.5 Substantial Compliance 43
12.6 Glossary of Terms 43

AAU National Policies **44**

I. Membership Policies **44**

A. Communication Agreement 44
B. Complaints or Disputes 44
C. Mediation 44
D. Binding Arbitration 45
E. Other Legal Matters 45
F. Indemnification/Assumption of Risk 46
G. Administrative Remedies 47
H. Membership Limitations 47
I. Misrepresentation 48
J. Sport Agents, Agencies and Representatives 48
K. Agency 49
L. Waiver/Release/Authorization to Use Likeness Names, Voice and Words 49
M. Notice of Claims 49
N. Participation Without Modification 49
O. Cooperation with AAU Bodies and Committees 50

II. Membership Data **50**

A. Pro 50
B. Access to AAU Membership Data 50
C. District Governors 50
D. Non-Disclosure of Membership Data 50
E. Violation of Policy 50

III. Financial Practices **50**

A. Unpaid Debts/Outstanding Charges/Insufficient Fund Checks 51
B. Purchasing Guidelines 51
C. Solicitation of Funds 51
D. Commission Guidelines 51
E. National Sport Committee Finances 52
F. AAU Credit 53
G. District Charter Late Fee 53
H. AAU Convention 53
I. Travel 53

IV. Use of Marks and Logos **54**

A. AAU Registered Marks 54
B. Use of Olympic Marks 54

V. AAU Spokesperson **54**

VI. Television/Web streaming Rights for National Events **55**

A. Rights 55
B. Guidelines for Allocation of Proceeds 55

VII. Websites and Social Media **55**

A. Website Content 55
B. Social Media 56

VIII. Defense Policy **56**

IX. Management of Emergency Situations **57**

A. Spokesperson 57
B. Protocols 57

X. Procedures for Nomination and Election of National Officers, District Officers, District Sport Directors, Other District Offices and the National Sport Chairs. **57**

A. Credentialing at the AAU Convention Meetings 57
B. National Officers 57
C. District Officers 59
D. District Sport Directors 61
E. Nomination for National Sport Chairs 63
F. Zone Representative to Board of Directors 64
G. District Governors Council Chair & Vice-Chair 65

XI. Business Practices **66**

XII. Event Licensing **67**

1. Practice 67
2. Management 68
3. Event License Categories 68
4. Event License Regulations 68
5. National Championship Event Licenses 68

XIII. International Competition **69**

XIV. Sport Committees **69**

A. Sport Status 69
B. Procedures for Approval of New Sport Activity 69
C. Special Meetings 70
D. Sport Committee Meeting Order (Agendas) 70
E. Executive Committee 70

XV. Judicial Procedures **70**

A. Introduction 70
B. Procedures during Hearings 70
C. Infractions Committees & Judicial Officers 70
D. District Review Committees 71
E. National Board of Review 72
F. Board of Appeals 73
G. Interpretation & Application of Code 73

XVI. Re-Districting Procedures **73**

XVII. District Management **74**

A. Credentialing Voters for District and Sport Committee Meetings 74
B. District Filing of Minutes 74

XVIII. Event Policies **74**

A. Schedule Changes 74
B. Age Groups/Skill Levels/Weight Classes and other as Defined by the Event Flyer… 74
C. Right of Removal/Denial of Admission 74
D. Handguns/Weapons 75
E. Medical Emergency 75
F. National Championship Event Hosts 75
G. District Qualifiers Medals 75
H. Championship Contracts 75

XIX. Whistleblower Policy **75**
A. No Retaliation 75
B. Reporting Procedure 75
C. Compliance Officer 75
D. Confidentiality 76
E. Handling of Reported Violations 76
F. Distribution 76

XX. Document Retention Policy **76**

XXI. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy **76**

A. Purpose
B. Conflict of Interest Defined 76
C. Disclosure Procedures 77
D. Recusal 77

E. Review of the Policy; Delivery of Conflict of Information Form 77
XXII. Athlete Protection **78**

Appendices

A. Glossary of Terms **79**
B. Special Committees 81
C. List of Approved Sports 82
D. Zone Alignment 83
E. Map of Districts 84
F. Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy 85 (1)

CONSTITUTION OF THE
AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF THE UNITED STATES INC.
(AAU)

Preamble

The AAU, being established to promote the benefits of participation in athletics and sports-related activities, hereby adopts this Constitution and Bylaws for the advancement of that purpose.

ARTICLE I

GOVERNANCE OF THE UNION

A. Adoption and Amendments.

1. **Adoption.** This Constitution and Bylaws shall be effective immediately when approved at the Regular Meeting of Congress in accordance with legislative procedures in effect at the time of adoption. Persons holding any National or local office in the AAU organization at the time this Constitution is adopted shall remain in office for the term elected or until removed or replaced according to the provisions of the Code.

2. **Amendments.** The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended only by the Congress of the AAU under the following procedure(s) only:

   a. Amendments to the Constitution may be approved only upon the affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members of Congress voting. The Bylaws may be amended upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those members of Congress voting. Amendments become effective immediately upon approval unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption.

   b. Presentation. A proposed amendment may be submitted only by:

      1. A District member, after approval at its Biennial meeting.
      2. An elected Officer of the National AAU.
      3. The Board of Directors.
      4. The Chair of a National Sports or Administrative Committee.
      5. Governor

   c. Time and Form of Publication. A proposed amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws must

be received by the Secretary of the AAU in writing. The proposed amendment must be received at least forty-five (45) days before the next held Meeting of the Congress of the AAU at which it is to be submitted. The proposed amendment must be submitted in such a form to show the entire section, subsection or paragraph as it will read if adopted. The proposed amendment shall be forwarded by the Secretary immediately to the Chair of the Legislation Committee. A report of all proposed amendments must be mailed by the Secretary to each delegate to Congress at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of Congress.

d. **Consideration.** Proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws must be submitted to the Legislation Committee for review. Upon completion of such review, the Legislation Committee shall present its recommendations to Congress.

e. **Urgent Amendment**. If considered urgent and necessary, the Legislation Committee may, by a majority vote, present amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws for consideration at any time during a meeting of Congress. Approval of an urgent amendment requires an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members of Congress voting.

f. **Language, Stylistic, Housekeeping Changes**. The Chair of the Legislation Committee is authorized to make language and stylistic changes to the Constitution and Bylaws to avoid inconsistencies of wording and conflicting provisions, to improve syntax, and correct grammatical and typographical errors. Congress shall be informed in writing, of the proposed changes after which it shall either accept or reject the revisions.

B. Membership. Membership in the AAU is a privilege granted by the AAU. It is not a right**.** The AAU at its sole discretion reserves the right to accept or reject any applicant(s) for membership.

1. Conditions for Membership. Membership in any category may be granted only after an application is submitted and approved. By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to comply with all the provisions of the AAU Code, including its Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, procedures, regulations, and rules of the AAU.

2. Categories. Categories of membership in the AAU are as follows:

a. **District Member.** A District member is an organization chartered by the Congress to provide administrative services within a designated geographic area.

b. **Club Member.** A Club member is an organization or group that has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code.

c. **Individual Member.** An individual member is a person who has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code. Individual membership categories are:

1. Youth Athlete.
2. Adult Athlete
3. Non-Athlete

d. **Allied Member.** An organization or group approved by Congress which is engaged in athletics or sports-related activities.

C. **Congress.** Congress is the legislative body of the AAU.

1. **Composition**. The members of Congress shall be at least 18 years of age and shall consist of:

   a. **District Representatives**. Each chartered district shall automatically have the Governor, Secretary, and Treasurer as members of Congress. In addition, the District shall elect from members of its Board of Managers at its Biennial meeting the number of members to the Congress as it is entitled based upon the formula established in the Bylaws. Members elected to represent the District to Congress must be CURRENT AAU members in good standing at the time of election. Districts that are NOT in good financial standing with the AAU, and have not made arrangements with the majority of the Officers for repayment, may have a voice, but NO vote in Congress.

   b. **Sport Committee Representatives.** Each National Sport Committee which holds a National Championship shall have as members of Congress such representatives as are appointed by the Chair. The number of members to the Congress is calculated using the formula established in the Bylaws. Sport Committees which have a negative fund balance and have not made satisfactory arrangements approved by a majority of the AAU Officers for payment, may have a voice but no vote in the proceedings of Congress.

   c. **The National Officers**

   d. **Past Officers of the AAU.** Each Past President, Past Vice-President, Past Secretary, and Past Treasurer shall be members of Congress.

   e. **Allied Member Organization Representatives.** Each Allied member may appoint one representative to Congress. Pre-registration and non-athlete membership are required.

   f. **Members-at-Large.** The President may appoint up to two (2) Members-at-Large to the Congress.

2. **Powers.** The powers of Congress are to:

   a. Amend the Code of the AAU.

   b. Elect the Officers of the AAU and the Zone Members of the AAU Board of Review. The Officers will be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Congress casting ballots at the Biennial Meeting. Elections for all officers will be conducted by ballot under the supervision of the Nominations and Elections Committee. If there is only one candidate for a particular office, the vote for that office may be taken by a voice vote or moved by acclamation.

   c. Establish dues and fees and to approve the budgets of the AAU.

d. Establish AAU Districts.

e. Grant, withhold, suspend, or revoke charters for District members.

f. Approve AAU National Sport Committees, the National Sport Committee budgets and National Championship events.

g. Remove Officers, Members of Congress, or members of the Board of Review or any other member of the AAU by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of those present and voting.

h. Establish and approve regular meetings of Congress.

i. Assume original jurisdiction in any matter or matters.

j. Impose and enforce penalties for any violation of the Code.

k. Call for special meetings in accordance to New York Not-for-Profit law.

3. **Vote(s) in Congress.**

a. A member of Congress must be present to vote.

b. A member of Congress may simultaneously represent more than one category of membership but may not represent more than one entity in any category. A member of Congress may not have more than two (2) votes.

D. Board of Directors.

1. **Composition.** The composition of the Board of Directors shall be established in Bylaw 10.

2. **Powers.** The Board of Directors has the power to:

a. Act for the AAU and on behalf of the Congress, subject to the approval of, or ratification of its actions by Congress, except that it cannot amend the Constitution or Bylaws. Board actions must be presented, in writing, and approved by Congress at the next scheduled meeting.

b. Establish by majority vote, national policies and procedures for the AAU which shall remain in effect until modified, amended, or deleted by the Board or Congress.

c. Approve National Sport Committee operating rules and National Championship events.

d. Nominate candidates from the Zones for the Board of Review.

e. Approve the General Counsel of the AAU.

f. Establish check signing authority.

g. Audit Treasurer's records.

h. Review the budget of the AAU and submit it to Congress for approval.

i. Elect members of the Nominations and Elections Committee.

j. In the event of a vacancy in the office of National Secretary, Treasurer, or Second Vice-President, elect a successor to hold office until the next meeting of Congress at which time Congress will fill the office for the remainder of any unexpired term. [Effective after 2022 Congress]

E. Officers.

1. **Titles.** The titles of the Officers of the AAU are: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

2. **Elections.** The Officers will be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Congress casting votes at every other Biennial meeting. Elections for all officers will be conducted by written ballot, or electronic vote, under the supervision of the Nominations and Elections Committee. If there is only one candidate for a particular office, the vote for that office may be taken by a voice vote.

3. **Qualifications.** Only members of Congress are eligible for nomination and election to an office.

4. **Term of Office.** Each Officer shall serve for a term of four (4) years following election and/or until a successor is elected.

   a. Term Limits. Each Officer may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms of four (4) years in the same office.

5. **Duties.** The duties of the Officers are:

   a. President

   1. The President orders meetings of the AAU as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws and presides at all meetings of the AAU.
   2. The President may appoint Special Committees.
   3. The President appoints a member of each Committee or Council to serve as its chair, except where provided otherwise in this constitution.
   4. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominations and Elections Committee, the Board of Review and the Board of Appeals.
   5. The President, along with the National Secretary, signs all contracts and agreements of the AAU, with prior approval of the National Treasurer. If the approval is withheld by

the Treasurer, the majority of all Officers shall decide. For any reason that a majority of the Officers cannot be attained, the Board of Directors shall rule on approval.

6. The President, with the approval of the majority of the AAU Officers, will name AAU representatives to organizations in which the AAU is a member.
7. The President may call special meetings of Congress and/or the Board of Directors.
8. The President has the right to exercise all the duties pertaining to his office in accordance with the AAU Code.

b. Vice-Presidents. The Vice-Presidents have such duties as assigned to them by the President, the Board of Directors, and by Congress.

c. Secretary. The Secretary has the responsibility to:

1. Keep the official records of the AAU including but not limited to Congress and the Board of Directors.
2. Conduct official correspondence of the AAU.
3. Issue official notices of all meetings of the AAU.
4. Sign, along with the President, all contracts and agreements of the AAU, with prior approval of the National Treasurer. If the approval is withheld by the Treasurer, the majority of the Officers cannot be attained, the Board of Directors shall rule on approval.

d. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have the duty and responsibility to oversee the following:

1. Receipt and deposit of all monies of the AAU in to accounts in the name of the AAU.
2. Execution of all checks, notes and drafts together with dual signatures when required by the Code.
3. Payment of all bills approved by an authorized AAU Officer or by the Congress provided such bills are within the authorized current budget of the AAU.
4. Furnishing to the Finance Committee, Audit Committee, and/or Board of Directors when requested all monies, accounts, books, papers, vouchers and records pertaining to his office for audit or other purposes.
5. The Treasurer shall prepare the budget and submit it to the Board of Directors and Finance Committee for review.
6. Review and approve all contracts for signature by the President and Secretary in accordance with AAU guidelines and policies. If the approval is withheld by the Treasurer, the majority of all Officers cannot be attained, the Board of Directors shall rule on approval.

6. Vacancies. In the event of the death, resignation, removal or incapacity of an Officer, the vacancies shall be filled as follows :

a. President. The First Vice-President becomes the President.

b. First Vice-President. The Second Vice-President becomes the First Vice-President.

c. Second Vice-President. The Board of Directors elects a successor to hold office until the next meeting of the Congress at which time Congress will fill the office for the remainder of any unexpired term. [Effective after 2022 Congress]

d. Secretary. The Board of Directors elects a successor to hold office until the next meeting of Congress at which time Congress will fill the office for the remainder of any unexpired term.

e. Treasurer. The Board of Directors elects a successor to hold office until the next meeting of Congress at which time Congress will fill the office for the remainder of any unexpired term.

7. Emergency Powers of Officers. In the event of actual or potential emergency situations that require timely action, the National Officers shall convene an emergency meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall determine whether there is an emergency situation that requires timely action. If the Board of Directors so determines an emergency situation exists, the BOD shall authorize emergency powers to the Officers. Emergency Powers shall be exercised by a majority vote of the National Officers. **These Emergency Powers include:**

a. Suspend any rule, regulation or section of the AAU Code, required to mitigate the Emergency.

b. Assume original jurisdiction in any matter relating to the emergency affecting the AAU.

c. All emergency actions exercised shall be reported in writing in full detail by the Officers to the Board of Directors within 30 days. Within 60 days of the Officers receiving Emergency Powers, the Board shall ratify, modify, rescind, suspend, or revoke any such action(s) during emergency or regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting.

d. Emergency Powers authorization, granted to the Officers, ends after 60 days, but may be renewed.

e. All Emergency actions will be reported in full to the Board of Directors and Congress within 30 days.

F. Committees. The types of Committees of the AAU are Administrative, Sport and Special (Ad Hoc).

1. Administrative Committees. The Administrative Committees of the AAU are :

a. Finance Committee.

1. Composition. The majority of the Officers shall select five (5) members. The National Officers are Ex-Officio members of the Committee.

2. Duties. To ensure the financial integrity of the Union by overseeing the financial matters of the AAU.

b. Insurance Committee.

1. Composition. The majority of the Officers shall select five (5) members. The Chairs of the Legislation Committee, Finance Committee, and the Registration Committee shall be members.

2. **Duties.** The Committee shall assess the insurance needs of the AAU and evaluate and recommend to the President insurance programs.

c. Legislation Committee

1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of a representative appointed by each District and up to two (2) at-large members appointed by the President.

2. Duties:

a. To receive, review and/or modify and/or initiate proposals for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws consider and evaluate those proposals and present its recommendations to Congress.

b. To consider and recommend to Congress all proposals on changes to Districts and Zones.

d. Nominations and Elections Committee

1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of up to five (5) members who are elected to a four (4) year term in odd-numbered years by the Board of Directors.

2. **Duties.**

a. To develop procedures for elections which upon approval by the Board of Directors shall become National Policy.

b. To oversee and conduct all elections and matters which require a ballot.

c. To review and approve or disapprove all campaign materials (including but not limited to eblasts, flyers, handouts, t-shirts, etc.).

e. Redistricting Committee

1. **Composition.** The majority of the Officers shall select five (5) members.

2. **Duties.**

a. Develop procedures for redistricting which upon approval by the Board of Directors shall become National Policy.

b. Consider and recommend to the Legislation Committee all proposals on territorial changes for Districts and Zones.

f. Registration Committee.

1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of the elected Registrar of each District or a representative designated by the District Governor, plus the National Registration Chair and in addition thereto up to two (2) at-large members appointed by the President.

2. **Duties.** To develop, review, and coordinate membership registration procedures and issue event licenses as provided by Bylaws and Policies.

3. **Executive Committee.** The Registration Chair and four (4) committee members elected by the Committee shall serve a two (2) year term. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Chair.

g. **Administrative Committee Structure and Procedures.**

1. **Chairs**. The President of the AAU, upon approval by a majority of the National Officers, appoints the Chairs.

2. **Meetings.**
   a. Regular committee meetings are held in conjunction with the AAU Convention. They may be observed by any person registered for the Convention; however, such observers shall have no voice unless recognized by the Committee Chair. This shall not affect the Committee's right to meet in executive session whereupon observers may be excluded at the sole discretion of the Chair.
   b. Special meetings of a Committee are scheduled at the request of the Chair or upon the written request of at least one-half (1/2) of the committee members. At least ten (10) days' notice shall be provided along with the purpose of the meeting.
   c. **Voting**. At all meetings, only members of the Committee are permitted to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy. Each member of the Committee will have one vote.
   d. **Quorum**. A quorum consists of those voting members of the Committee that are present at the meeting.
   e. **Vacancies.** Vacancies occurring on any committee may be filled with the same procedure as provided for in the original appointment.

2. **National Sport Committees**. A Committee may be established to conduct the program in each sport approved by Congress. Criteria for the formation of a National Sport Committee shall be established by national policy.

a. **Chair.** National Sport Chairs shall be elected by their National Sport Committee at the committee meeting during National Conventions in which National Officers are elected.

1. Terms are four (4) years.
2. National election policies shall apply.
3. National Sport Chairs may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, subject to the Right of Appeal to the National Board of Review.
4. The President, with the approval of a majority of the Officers may appoint a person to fill a vacant National Sport Chair position. The appointees will serve until the next regular or special meeting of the Sport Committee, at which time an election shall be held to complete the term.
5. Duties of the Chair:
   a. Preside at meetings of the Committee.
   b. Conduct the business of the Committee, subject to the Committee's operating rules.
   c. Prepare the budget which shall be reviewed and approved by the National Treasurer.
   d. Select delegates to Congress by the required deadline.

b. **Composition.** The National Sport Committee will consist of the following all of whom must be at least 18 years of age:

1. The elected or appointed Sports Director of each District or a representative designated by the District Governor;
2. National Sports Chair;
3. Members of the Executive Committee who are elected as provided by the sport operating rules;
4. One (1) appointed representative from each Allied member that registers members in the sport.

c. Meetings.

1. **Regular.** Regular sports committee meetings shall be held in conjunction with the AAU Convention, and may be held as provided by National Policy.
2. **Special.** Special meetings of a Committee are scheduled at the request of the Chair or upon the written request of at least one half (1/2) of the Committee members. Ten (10) days' notice is required and the notice shall state the purpose of the meeting.

d. Voting. At all meetings, only members of the Committee are permitted to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy. Each member of the Committee will have one vote. Only representatives from Districts, and Allied members, which registered a minimum of .5% (a half percent) of the total number of athletes in that sport, in the previous year, shall be allowed to vote in the National Sport Committee meeting.

e. Quorum. A quorum consists of the voting members of the Committee that are present at the meeting.

f. Duties. A National Sport Committee has the duty to:

1. Adopt rules, procedures and operating policies relative to the conduct of the sport to include competition rules, National Championship qualification criteria, and Committee governance, and submits them to the Board of Directors for approval. If the Committee has established an Executive Committee, that Committee may review and approve competition rules for the sport between meetings of the Committee.

   a. The National Sport Committee operating rules and procedures may only be amended by the National Sport Committee under the following procedure:

   1. Amendments may be approved only upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those members of the National Sport Committee voting. Amendments become effective immediately upon approval unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption.
   2. Presentation. A proposed amendment may be submitted only by:
      a. A District Sport Committee after approval at its Biennial District Sport Committee meeting. Such approval must be reflected in the District Sport Committee meeting minutes).
      b. The applicable National Sport Chair.
      c. The National Sport Committee Executive Committee. Such approval must be reflected in the National Sport Executive Committee meeting minutes.

3. Time and Form. A proposed amendment must be received by the National Secretary in writing. The proposed amendment must be received at least forty-five (45) days before the meeting of the National Sport Committee at which it is to be submitted. The proposed amendment must be submitted in such form to show the entire section, subsection or paragraph as it will read if adopted. The proposed amendment shall be forwarded at the direction of the Secretary immediately to the National Sport Chair. A report of all proposed amendments must be mailed by the Secretary to each member of the National Sport Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.
4. Other/Floor Amendment. Amendments may be presented to the National Sport Committee for consideration at the time of the meeting. Approval of these amendments requires an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members of the National Sport Committee voting.

2. Conduct National Championships and other activities of the National Committee.
3. Establish an Executive Committee, the composition of which shall be established in the Committee Operating Rules. The Executive Committee shall act in behalf of the National Sport Committee between National Sport Committee meetings subject to the approval of the Committee except that it may not amend Sections of the National Sport Committee handbook that are incorporated from the Code.
4. Create and maintain a National Sport Committee handbook in which the operating rules, procedures and policies of the committee are set out. Handbooks shall be standardized for all sport committees.

g. **Dissolution.** Upon the dissolution of any National Sport Committee, the net assets of the Committee shall be transferred to the general fund of the AAU.

3. **Special Committees/Ad Hoc Committees.** The President, the Board of Directors, or Congress, by majority vote, may appoint Special Committees or Ad Hoc Committees and designate the responsibilities to further the interests of the AAU. The President shall appoint the Chair with a majority consent of the National Officers.

ARTICLE II
GOVERNANCE OF THE DISTRICTS

A. Adoption. Each District member shall adopt the provisions of this Article which are mandatory in their entirety and must be incorporated as each District's governance.

1. **Amendments.** This Article cannot be amended by a District. Amendments adopted by the Congress shall be automatically binding upon each District.

B. Charter. The District shall comply with the terms of its charter, the AAU Constitution, Bylaws, and National Policies.

C. Name, Territory and Jurisdiction. The District shall operate with the name and territory designated by Congress. Districts shall exercise jurisdiction over its territory for the purpose of conducting the business of the AAU.

D. Objectives. The objectives of the District are to foster the mission of the AAU, protect and promote the mutual interests of AAU members, provide administrative services to sports-oriented groups, and conduct sport programs in approved sports.

E. Management.

1. **Board of Managers.** The Board of Managers governs the District.

   a. **Composition.** The members of the Board of Managers shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and shall consist of:

      1. Clubs' representatives.
      2. Officers of the District.
      3. District Sport Directors.
      4. **At-Large.** Up to two (2) at-large members appointed by the Governor.

   b. **Duties.** The management of the business affairs of the District is the sole responsibility of the Board of Managers. At the Biennial Legislative meeting, the Board of Managers shall have the power and the duty to:

      1. Elect the following:
         a. Officers of the District;
         b. The Review Committee;
         c. The Nominations and Elections Committee and approve procedures for District elections;
         d. Delegates to the Congress of the AAU;
      2. Review and approve the budget of the District;
      3. Establish the dates of the Biennial Legislative and special meetings of the District.
      4. Establish policies and rules consistent with the Code and necessary for the management of the District;

5. Approve action of the Executive Committee;
6. Nominate, by a majority vote, candidates for National Office; and
7. By a majority vote, propose to Congress amendments to the AAU Code.

c. Voting.

1. Each club which has registered at least five (5) individual members during the current year shall appoint one representative to serve on the Board of Managers. The representative shall be designated on the club membership application.
   a. The club may by written notice to the District Secretary withdraw its representative and substitute a new representative.
   b. Written notice to the District Secretary for the withdrawal of its representative and substitution of a new club representative must be received seven (7) days prior to the meeting date.
   c. Replacement representative shall be at least 18 years old on the date of the meeting.
   d. Clubs must be registered and in the AAU database 14 days prior to the Board of Managers meeting to be eligible to vote.
   e. Clubs cannot add athletes within the 14-day rule before the District Meeting to meet the 5-member rule for voting privileges.
2. There shall be no voting by proxy.
3. Each eligible club representative of the Board of Managers shall have one vote unless the District selects weighted voting as set out below.
   a. The following system of weighted voting may be adopted by a District by a 2/3 vote at a District Biennial Legislative Meeting.
   b. Districts may assign weighted voting privileges to club representatives based on registered membership. One representative may cast all the votes to which the club is entitled.
      1. Each club shall receive one vote for the first five (5) members attached to the club. The club shall receive one additional vote for each additional fifteen (15) members attached.
4. A member of the Board of Managers is limited to voting for a maximum of two entities (i.e. Club Representative, Sport Committee Chair, At-Large Representative, or District Officer).

2. Executive Committee.

a. Composition. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the following members:

1. Elected Officers of the District;
2. The Director, or designee, of the District Sport Committee whose District Sport Committee has registered one percent (1%) or more of the total membership of the District. (Membership numbers will be determined utilizing the year-end total as supplied by the AAU National Office for the previous year.)
3. The Chair of the Finance Committee.

b. Duties. The Executive Committee has the power and duty to:

1. Act for the District and the Board of Managers during the interval between meetings of the Board of Managers subject to the approval of the Board.
2. Approve the date, time and location of the Biennial District Sport Committee Meeting;

3. Approve District Sport Committee operating rules.
4. Fill a vacancy occurring in an elected office. The appointment shall be effective until the next Board of Managers meeting where an election will be held to fill the balance of the unexpired term.
5. Schedule the time and location of the Board of Managers Biennial Legislative Meeting.
6. Review accounts of the District Treasurer.

3. Officers.

a. Titles. The District Officers are Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Registrar, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board of Managers may approve the establishment of additional District Officers. No individual may hold more than one office at the same time.

b. Eligibility. Only members of the Board of Managers are eligible to hold office.

c. Term of Office. Each Officer shall serve a term of four (4) years or until his successor is chosen.

d. Duties. The duties of the Officers are:

1. **Governor.** The Governor presides at all meetings, appoints Committees, calls special meetings, and performs any other duties that pertain to the office of Governor.

2. **Lieutenant Governor.** The Lieutenant Governor has duties as assigned by the Governor.

3. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall:

   a. Keep the records of the District, including but not limited to the minutes of all District Board of Managers and Executive Committee meetings and copies of all District Sport Committee meetings and District Sport Committee Operating Rules.

   b. Issue or approve issue of all District and District Sport Committee meeting notices. Forward a copy of District Board of Managers notices to the National Office.

   c. Prepare meeting minutes for approval at all Board of Managers and District Executive Committee meetings. Forward a copy of all minutes to the National Office.

   d. Prepare a report of activities for the District Board of Managers Biennial Legislative meeting.

   e. Prepare and submit the District reports required by the Constitution and Bylaws.
   f. Turn over all minutes and records to the succeeding Secretary upon end of term of office.

4. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for and oversee the following:

a. Payment or authorization of payment of the District membership (charter) fee to the National Office.

b. Receipt and deposit of all monies of the District into District accounts.

c. Payment of all bills approved by an authorized officer or by the Board of Managers provided they are within the authorized current budget of the District.

d. Execution of all checks, notes, and drafts as prescribed by District policy.

e. Preparation of the District's financial report (including budget) to the Board of Managers.

f. Comply with the requirements of the AAU Business Practices by filing the required District and Sport Committee IRS 990 forms. A copy of the form(s) shall be available at the District's Biennial Legislative Meeting.

g. Consult with the Finance Committee to prepare the District's budget.

h. Furnish to the Board of Managers or Finance Committee when requested all monies, accounts, books, papers, vouchers and records pertaining to the office for audit or other purposes, and turn over all records to the successor when elected.

i. Review and approve District Sport Committee budgets.

5. Registrar. The Registrar shall:

a. Review and then approve or deny applications for membership.

b. Credential eligible voters at all District Board of Managers meetings (as outlined in National Policies.)

c. Monitor any event to assure compliance with AAU requirements.

d. Insure a quorum of voting members exists at all management meetings and submit a credentials report to the District Secretary.

e. Consider the transfer of athletes pursuant to the Bylaws.

6. Additional Officers. The duties of additional officers as established by the Board of Managers shall be specified by the Board of Managers.

e. Removal. An elected Officer may be removed by:
1. On the order of the National Board of Review following the filing of a complaint and the Board's proceedings.
2. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board of Managers at the Biennial meeting provided that the Notice of the meeting specifies that a motion to remove is on the agenda.

f. **Vacancies.** In the event of the death, resignation, removal or incapacity of an officer, the District Executive Committee shall appoint an individual to serve in the position until the next Board of Managers meeting where an election will be held to fill the balance of the unexpired term.

4. Meetings, Notice and Quorum.

a. **Biennial Meeting.** The Biennial meeting of the Board of Managers shall be held during the last week of the month of April, month of May or June in even years on a date selected by the Board of Managers two years in advance. If the Biennial Legislative meeting minutes do not reflect the date of the next Biennial Legislative meeting, the date shall be the first Saturday or Sunday in June. The Executive Committee shall select the time and location of the meeting.

b. **Special.** The Board of Managers shall have special meetings upon the call of the Governor or upon the written request of at least one-third (1/3) of the Board of Managers. Notices shall be sent at least ten (10) days before the meeting and shall include the purpose of the meeting.

c. **Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year and at other times as it may deem appropriate. The Executive Committee shall meet upon the call of the Governor or by written request of 1/3 of the Executive Committee.

d. **Notices.**

1. **Time.** Notice of the Biennial meetings of the Board of Managers shall be given to all club members at least thirty (30) days, but no more than sixty (60) days before the meeting. Notice for meetings of the District Executive Committee shall be not less than fifteen (15) days or more than thirty (30) days.
2. **Information.** The notice of a meeting shall contain the time, date, and site. For special meetings the purpose shall be given.
3. **Service of Address.** The Notice shall be sent to the electronic address last given to the National Office by each member entitled to Notice.

e. **Quorum.** At all meetings of the Board of Managers, a quorum shall consist of representatives from at least five (5) member clubs. At all meetings of the Executive Committee, a quorum shall consist of twenty percent (20%) of its members.

5. Committees.

a. **Required Committees.** Each District shall have the following Committees:

1. **Finance Committee.**

a. **Composition.** The Governor appoints the members and the Chair. The District Treasurer may not act as Chair of the Finance Committee.

b. **Duties**. The duties of the Finance Committee are to:

1. Examine the accounts of the Treasurer, and report to the Executive Committee;
2. Consult with the Treasurer to prepare the budget of the District and provide it to the Board of Managers for approval.

2. Nominations and Elections Committee.

a. **Composition.** The Board of Managers shall elect three (3) members to the Nominations and Elections Committee who shall serve a term of four (4) years. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Governor from among the elected members.

b. **Duties:** The duties of the Nominations and Elections Committee are to conduct the election for District Officers, delegates to Congress, Review Committee and the Nominations and Elections Committee. The Committee shall follow the election procedures established by National Policy.

3. Review Committee

a. **Composition.** The Board of Managers shall elect three (3) members to the Review Committee, who shall serve a term of four (4) years. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Governor from among the elected Committee members. No more than two (2) members may be from the same sport.

b. **Duties.** The duties of the Review Committee are :

1. Investigate and review complaints regarding violations of the AAU Code, and to conduct hearings in accordance with Article III and procedures established by National AAU Policy.
2. Upon the appeal of the applicant, review any decision of the Registrar to deny a membership application.
3. The Committee may delegate its authority to a Sport Director, or Sport Infractions Committee, subject to the right of parties to appeal to the Committee.

4. District Sport Committees. In each approved AAU sport in which the District has athletes actively participating, there may be a Committee to manage competition within the District.

a. **Composition.** The District Sport Committee shall include the following :

1. Each club member which registers at least five individual members in the sport shall have one representative on the District Sport Committee;
2. District Sport Committee Officers as defined by that sport's operating rules.
3. The Governor may appoint up to two (2) at-large members.

b. Duties. The duties of the District Sport Committee are to :

1. In even years, hold a Biennial meeting, the date, time and location of which shall be approved by the District Executive Committee. [Added 10/08]
2. Adopt at the Biennial Meeting, rules of operation of the Committee to be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval and which shall not conflict with the provisions of the AAU Constitution, Bylaws, National Policies or National Sport Committee rules.
3. Determine whether to establish a Committee operating account and if so to comply with all relevant AAU procedures and policies.
4. Provide for the conduct of the District championship(s).
5. If the District Sport Committee is organized as an administrative club under the AAU, it shall annually file the Location of Assets Report with the District Office, and forward a copy to the National Office.

c. District Sport Director. In each approved sport in which the District has athletes actively participating, there may be a Director.

1. **Election.** In each sport committee in which five or more club members have designated the sport as its primary sport, the Director shall be elected by the Committee at its Biennial Meeting. The District Sport Director takes office upon election.

2. **Appointment.** When there are fewer than five clubs registered to the Sport, the Sport Director may be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the National Sport Committee Chair. The District Sport Director takes office upon appointment.

3. **Term of Office.**

   a. The term of office for an elected District Sport Director shall be four (4) years to run concurrently with the District Officers.
   b. The term of office for an appointed District Sport Director shall be one year; or until removed by the Governor; or until the Sport Committee has met the criteria to elect a Director.
   c. Vacancies. A vacancy occurring in a District Sport Director position shall be filled by the Governor with the approval of the National Sport Committee Chair.
   d. If a District Sport Director vacancy occurs, or if a sport reaches the five-club threshold, between a scheduled election year and the next Biennial Meeting, there shall be an election at the interim Biennial Meeting for a director to serve until the next regularly scheduled election. All Notice and nomination requirements must be complied with.

4. **Duties**. The Sport Committee Director shall :

   a. Develop a budget for the Sport Committee to file with the District Treasurer;

b. Perform the duties set forth in the Committee Rules of Operation.

c. Review and approve, or for a reasonable cause deny, event licenses in the sport.

d. Maintain the records of the District Sport Committee, including but not limited to the minutes of all meetings, the budget, location of assets report (if required), and the District Sport Committee operating rules. [Added 10/08]

e. Preside at Sport Committee meetings ;

f. Prepare, or have prepared, meeting minutes (which shall be approved at all District Sport Committee meetings). Forward a copy of all minutes to the National Office and District Secretary no later than 30 days following the District Sport Committee meeting.

g. File a copy of all records requested by the District Secretary or the AAU National Office Compliance Department no later than 30 days following District Sport Committee meetings.

h. At the conclusion of service as Sport Director turn over all records to the successor to the position.

5. Removal. District Sport Directors may be removed as follows:

a. By District Sport Committee. An elected Sport Committee Director may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Sport Committee at the Biennial meeting provided that the Notice of the meeting specifies that a motion to remove is on the agenda.

b. By National Sport Chair. Each National Sport Chair shall annually review the number of events held in their sport. If the number of licensed days of activity (excluding practice licenses) is below the minimum established by the Sports Council, the National Sport Chair may remove the District Director with the consent of the Governor. If the District Governor does not agree with the removal, the President shall appoint an arbiter who will make the final decision which shall be binding.

c. By National Board of Review. A Sport Director may be removed by order of the National Board of Review following the filing of a complaint and the Board's proceedings.

d. By the National Board of Review Chair after the failure of the District Director to file minutes, reports and records as required by this article.

d. Meetings.

1. Notice. Notice of the Biennial Meeting of the District Sport Committee will be given to all clubs with members registered in the sport.

a. Timing of Notice. Notice shall be sent not less than thirty (30), or more than sixty (60) days (prior to the election).

2. Quorum. Five (5) member clubs with voting eligibility must be present to constitute a quorum of the Biennial Sport Committee meeting.

e. Voting. Each club which has registered at least five (5) individual members in the sport during the current year shall appoint one (1) representative to serve on the

District Sport Committee. The representative shall be designated on the club membership application.

1. The club by written notice to the District Sports Director may withdraw its representative and submit a new club representative. Written notice to the District Sports Director of the withdrawal and replacement must be received seven (7) days prior to the meeting. The Club Replacement shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age as of the date of the meeting.
2. There shall be no voting by proxy.
3. Each member of the Sports Committee shall have one vote.

5. Special Committees/Ad Hoc Committees. The Governor or Board of Managers may appoint Special Committees or Ad Hoc Committees and designate the responsibilities to further the interests of the District. The Governor shall appoint the Chair.

6. District Championships.

a. District Championships shall be conducted in accordance with National Sport Committee rules.

b. District Championship participation shall be open to any member athlete or club who fulfills the entry requirements. The District Sport Committee may not establish special eligibility criteria beyond the rules and regulations established by the National Sport Committee.

F. Governance of Non-Chartered Districts. The National Office shall manage non-chartered Districts.

G. Dissolution.

1. **District.** Upon dissolution of a District member, the net assets will not inure to the benefit of any private shareholder, individual or corporation, but will be distributed to the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc. If the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc. is not then in existence, the assets of the District shall be distributed to another organization operated exclusively for exempt purposes as described under IRS Code Section 501(c) or corresponding sections as may from time to time be in force.

2. **District Sports Committee.** Upon the dissolution of any District Sport Committee, the net assets of the committee shall be transferred to the District.

ARTICLE III
JUDICIARY OF THE AAU AND ITS ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

A. Judicial Entities. The Judicial Entities of the AAU shall enforce the provisions of the AAU Code and ensure that members and affiliates are afforded due process by this Code.

1. National Board of Review

a. Jurisdiction. The Board of Review may review any decision, action, or omission by a member or other entity (other than the Congress) which is a part of the Union or any of its activities. The Board of Review may exercise original jurisdiction in any matter including the actions or omissions of a District member.

b. Composition. The National Board of Review shall consist of a maximum of five (5) members of the AAU composed as follows:

1. The President shall appoint the Chair from a panel of three (3) candidates nominated by the Board of Directors.
2. The Board of Directors shall nominate two (2) resident members from each of the four (4) zones from which Congress shall elect one (1) member from each zone.

c. Powers: The National Board of Review has the powers to:

1. Upon its own initiative, or pursuant to an appeal or a complaint, investigate any act or omission regarding violations of the AAU Constitution, Bylaws, National Policies or Sport Rules or District rules or policies.
2. Require the production of documents, oral or written statements, or any information or material relative to any matter before the Board.
3. Dismiss a complaint or appeal or conduct hearings and enter decisions relative to any matter before the Board.
4. Vacate, modify, sustain, or reverse any decision, mandate or order or refer matters to another entity for resolution.
5. Impose and enforce penalties, which may include but are not limited to suspension, expulsion, probation, fines, or disqualification.
6. Assess costs and expenses against the party creating such expenses.
7. Order an audit of a District, and depending upon the findings of the audit, refer cases for civil and/or criminal proceedings.
8. Establish, amend, rescind, interpret, review and enforce rules and procedures utilized by the AAU judicial bodies.
9. Interpret and enforce the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws and National AAU Policies.

d. Eligibility to Serve. Any member of the AAU shall be eligible to serve on the Board of Review except voting members of the Board of Directors, members of the Board of Appeals, and National Sport Committee Chairs.

e. Term of Office. Members of the Board of Review shall serve until their terms expire, or until they resign, become disqualified, or are removed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Congress. The term of office for those elected shall be four (4) years. Elections for the

Board of Review shall be held at Convention in years Officers are not elected. Persons holding office at adoption shall remain in office until 2020. The term of office for the appointed chair shall be six (6) years. All members of the Board of Review shall be eligible for re-election or re-appointment.

f. Vacancies. Vacancies on the Board of Review may be filled by the President who will appoint a member to serve until the next meeting of Congress at which time the vacancy shall be filled as prescribed in this article.

2. National Board of Appeals.

a. Composition. The National Board of Appeals shall be composed of the Chair of the Legislation Committee, the Chair of the Registration Committee and three other members of the AAU appointed from time to time by the President. The Chair of the Legislation Committee shall act as Chair.

b. Powers. Any decision of the National Board of Review may be appealed to the National Board of Appeals. The National Board of Appeals may:

1. Vacate, modify, sustain, reverse or remand any decision of the Board of Review in which the appellant sustains one or more of the following bases of appeal:
- **a.** Misapplication or misinterpretation of AAU Code or policies;
- **b.** Newly discovered evidence;
- **c.** Findings of fact contrary to the evidence presented; or
- **d.** Excessive penalties.

2. Assess costs and expenses against the unsuccessful party.

c. Standard of Review. The standard of review of the Board of Appeals shall be whether there is substantial evidence to uphold the decision of the Board of Review and/or whether the Board of Review abused its discretion.

3. District Review Committee

a. Composition. The Board of Managers shall elect three (3) members to the Review Committee, who shall serve a term of four (4) years. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Governor from among the elected Committee members. No more than two (2) members may be from the same sport.

b. Powers. The District Review Committee powers are:

1. Investigate allegations regarding violations of any rule or regulation to which District members are subject;
2. Review any decision of a District Committee;
3. Hold hearings in accordance with procedures established by the National Board of Review.
4. Upon finding a violation, impose penalties, which may include suspension, expulsion, censure, reprimand, fines, restitution, warning, probation, or other appropriate penalty.

c. **Jurisdiction.** Complaints against club or individual members of the AAU in regard to a matter at the District level may be heard by the Review Committee.

4. **Infractions Committees and Disciplinary Officers.** National Sport Committees and District Sport Committees may designate individuals as disciplinary officers, or establish an Infractions Committee for the purpose of enforcing the rules of the sport. The authority of such officers or committee is establishing judicial procedures, rules shall be provided for in National Policies and the right to appeal.

B. Authority. The appropriate judicial body may exercise its authority as to any member, entity, or affiliate of the AAU which is determined to have violated the AAU Code including but not limited to the following:

1. **Fraud.** The falsification of the truth for the purpose of participation in any competition, or acts of deceit, misrepresentation, concealment, or a misstatement of fact or intention.

2. **Competing for Money.** An AAU event may not present any awards, prizes, or payments that would cause the athlete to be ineligible for high school competition or which would disqualify the athlete from receiving a college scholarship.

3. Aid or abet any athlete to disqualify himself.

4. **Doping.** Doping is the administration of or the use by a competing athlete of any substance foreign to the body or of any physiological substance taken in abnormal quantity or taken by an abnormal route of entry into the body, with the intention of increasing performance in competition in an artificial and unfair manner. The use of, or to aid or abet the use of, controlled substances or doping by athletes is a violation.

5. Aid or abet the use of controlled substances or doping by athletes.

6. Unfair dealing in connection with athletic competition.

7. Violation of AAU rules or policies.

8. Aid or abet any person to violate the AAU Code. A club member may be held responsible for violations by persons acting as a representative of the club.

9. Fail to cooperate with an AAU Judicial Body relative to the investigation of any matter; or fail to give evidence in any inquiry when so directed by the Judicial Body.

10. Any act which disturbs or obstructs a competition or which disrupts the interests of the AAU, or which brings the AAU into disrepute.

C. Procedures.

1. **Hearings.** If a Judicial Body finds reasonable cause to believe the AAU Code, or other AAU rules or regulations, have been violated, it shall provide an opportunity for a hearing to the person(s) or entity charged before making any decision or imposing any penalty.

a. Hearings may be waived by the party entitled to the hearing.

b. Reasonable notice must be given of the violation(s) charged, and the time, place and format of the hearing.

2. **Procedures.** The Board of Review shall establish standard operating procedures for the Judicial Bodies, which upon approval by the Board of Directors shall become National Policy.

3. **Appeals.** Any decision of an AAU entity may be appealed to the appropriate Judicial Body. The Board of Review shall establish standard appeal procedures which upon approval by the Board of Directors shall become National Policy.

4. **Reinstatement**. Any member or other entity which has been disqualified, suspended, or made ineligible, may seek reinstatement by submitting an affidavit and petition to the body which rendered the decision, setting forth the grounds for the request for reinstatement.

BYLAWS
OF THE
AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION USA, INC.

BYLAW 1. OFFICIAL EMBLEM, SEAL, NATIONAL OFFICE.

1.1 The Official Seal of the AAU is two concentric circles approximately 1 ½" diameter and 1 7/8" diameter, respectively with a design representing "Fortuna" approximately "1-¼" high center in the circular rings. The words "Amateur Athletic Union of the United States MDCCCLXXXVIII" approximately 3/32" high are inscribed in a partial circle around the seal at a radius of approximately 5/8".

1.2 The Official Emblem of the AAU is a modified Heraldic shield outlined in gold with the upper part of the field (chief) containing the letters "AAU" in red with a white background superimposed on a blue field. A gold line separates the "chief" field from the bottom of the shield. Seven red and six white vertical bards of equal width alternately extend from the base of the "chief" field downward to the gold peripheral outline. Superimposed on these vertical bars is the letters "USA" in white on a blue bar extending diagonally from the "dexter flank" to the "sinister base." The blue diagonal bar is also outlined in gold.

1.3 Congress shall select a location for the business office of the AAU which shall be known as AAU National Office.

BYLAW 2. FISCAL AND LEGAL.

2.1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the AAU is September 1 through August 31.

2.2 Bonds. Corporate fidelity bonds shall be obtained in a form and amount approved by the Board of Directors, indemnifying the AAU against losses resulting from infidelity, defalcation or misappropriation, fraud, and/or theft by the National Officers, and/or District Officers, and all employees and/or agents, of funds, property or assets owned by or under the control of the AAU. Upon recovery, if any, such funds or property shall be restored to the AAU entity (ies) which suffered the loss; or, if more than one (1) such entity – and, if recovery is less than 100%, any such restoration shall be on a pro rata basis.

2.3 Bank Accounts and Depositories. The Board of Directors shall designate depositories for the funds, property, and assets belonging to or under the control of the AAU and by title designate the persons who are responsible for the control of such assets.

2.4 Checking, Savings and Depository Accounts. All cash receipts must be deposited in to a designated checking account (in the General Fund). Funds on deposit in this bank account can be withdrawn only by check or letter of transmittal with the signature of any two (2) Officers (President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary or Treasurer), or their designees. Other assets or property of the AAU may be physically transferred from one financial institution to another by action of the Board of Directors.

2.5 Auditor and Audit Report. The Board of Directors shall select a Certified Public Accountant to audit the books and financial records of the AAU for the ensuing year. The auditor submits its report to the Board of Directors through the Finance Committee. A copy of the audit report shall be made available to each member of Congress at the next Meeting.

2.6 Budget. Budgets shall be prepared by the Treasurer, provided to the Board of Directors for review and submitted to Congress for approval at the Meeting.

2.6.1 The Treasurer shall prepare the budget, which may be reviewed by the Finance Committee.

2.6.2 The Treasurer shall submit the budget to the Board of Directors for review and/or revision and the Board shall recommend the budget to Congress.

2.6.3 The Treasurer shall submit the recommended budget to Congress at the AAU Convention for final approval.

2.7 Audit Committee

2.7.1 Composition. The Audit Committee shall consist of three (3) members of the Board of Directors who are elected by the Board of Directors.

2.7.2 Qualifications. Members of the Audit Committee must meet the requirements set forth in New York statutes, the state of incorporation.

2.7.3 Duties. Duties as established in National Policy.

2.8 Finance Committee.

2.8.1 The Finance Committee shall assist and advise the Officers and Staff in the planning function concerning long-term budgets, capital expenditures and long-term financial obligations, and keeping Congress regularly informed of the general financial status of the Union.

2.8.2 Within a reasonable time after the end of the fiscal year and the completion of the outside audit, the Committee may audit and examine the accounts of the Treasurer. A report on the fiscal year will be made to the Board of Directors at the next meeting occurring after the close of the fiscal year and the completion of the outside audit.

2.8.3 The Finance Committee shall examine the accounts of the Treasurer, if requested to do so by a majority of the Officers or the Board of Directors. In such case, the Treasurer shall turn over all records pertaining to the office.

2.9 Investment Committee. The Finance Committee may establish an Investment Sub-Committee.

2.9.1 Composition. The Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, the Chair of the Finance Committee, and two (2) at-large members appointed by the President.

2.9.2 Duties. Has authority over and controls the investment and reinvestment, purchases, sale and management of securities and other invested assets of the AAU.

2.10 General Counsel. The President, with the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors, may select a member of the legal profession as General Counsel. General Counsel advises and consults with the Officers and agents of the AAU, renders legal advice and assistance as may be requested, and performs any other duties delegated.

2.11 Special Counsel. The Board of Directors or President may authorize the appointment of special legal counsel when in the best interests of the AAU.

2.12 Contracts. All contracts to which the AAU is a party must be examined and approved as to form by Counsel of the AAU prior to execution. Any contracts over the value of $2,500.00 are to be signed by the President and the Secretary. Any other contract may be signed by the staff as authorized by the President and Secretary.

2.13 Conflict of Interest. If any Officer, member of the Board of Directors, National Sport Chair, District Officer, District Executive Committee member, District Sport Director, or key employee has a financial interest in any transaction involving the AAU, such individual shall;

2.13.1.1 File a disclosure statement with the Compliance Department of the National AAU. The disclosure shall be filed as provided in AAU National Policy.

2.14 Compensation. Compensation of all paid personnel of the AAU will be approved by the National Officers. Any compensation of an elected officer will be approved by the Board of Directors. Approved compensation of the elected National Officers must be published on the AAU website.

BYLAW 3. EVENT LICENSE.

3.1 No event shall be conducted under the auspices of the AAU unless a written license has been issued for the activity. A license is the written approval of the AAU for the conduct of the activity.

3.2 Only AAU members shall be allowed to participate in licensed events unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws.

3.3 A license may be issued to any club in good standing and which meets the membership criteria. A license application should be reviewed by the District Sport Committee Director or the Governor if there is no District Sport Director. If the license application is rejected, the applicant shall be notified.

3.4 No license shall take effect until approved or until the 15-day review period has expired.

3.5 The National Registration Executive Committee has the authority to:

3.5.1 Issue a license in an unchartered District.

3.5.2 Issue a license for events in location where there is no active District member.

3.5.3 Issue a license for events in Districts where there is no current active participation. (No District Championship in the prior membership year).

3.5.4 Approve international competition.

3.5.5 Issue a license for events directly sponsored by the National AAU or National Sports Committee. (The National Sport Committee shall consult with the District Sport Director and Governor prior to seeking an event license.)

3.5.6 Review and approve any licenses rejected by the District.

3.5.7 Revoke an approved license for good cause.

3.6 Event licenses issued to one organization cannot be transferred to another organization.

3.7 No event license will be issued for any event where the word "Olympic" or any derivative thereof is used in any advertisements or notice in connection with the event except upon the specific written approval of the Board of Directors.

BYLAW 4. MEMBERSHIP.

4.1 Individual Membership. Membership is required of all persons who participate in the AAU in the following capacities:

4.1.1. Athletes
4.1.2. Coaches
4.1.3. Club Contacts
4.1.4. District Officers
4.1.5. District Committee Chairs, Sport Directors and Committee Members, Members of the District Board of Managers (Club Contact or Club Replacement Representative)
4.1.6. National Committee Chairs and Committee Members
4.1.7. Event Operators and event management listed on any event information
4.1.8. Members of the Board of Directors
4.1.9. Members of Congress
4.1.10 National Officers

4.2 Club and Individual Membership Applications. Applications for club and individual membership must be completed and submitted with the yearly membership fee. All club and individual memberships expire on August 31st of the membership year. All membership applications must be processed on-line or through the AAU National Office. [Rev. 10/07]

4.2.1 Review and Approval. All Club and youth memberships are effective immediately upon receipt of the application and fees by the AAU, subject to the right of the Registrar to review the application. Individual Adult memberships are effective immediately upon receipt of the application fees by the AAU and successfully passing a criminal background check, subject to the rights of the Registrar to review the application. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the application, the Registrar may reject an application for good cause. Applications are automatically approved if not rejected within thirty (30) days. The

decision of the Registrar to reject an application is subject to the appeal process established by Article III of the Constitution.

4.3 Membership and Residency.

4.3.1 Adult members will not be bound by residence requirements.

4.3.2 Youth members may, with the approval of the National Sport Committee, register in the District of their bona fide residency, or the District that their club/team is registered except as follows:

4.3.2.1 A youth member who resides in the county of one District that adjoins a county of another District and who attends a school located in the adjoining county will have the option of registering in either District.

4.3.2.2 A youth member subject to a written joint legal custody arrangement whose custodians reside in different Districts shall have the option of registering in either District.

4.3.2.3 A bona fide student at an educational institution may be considered a resident of the District in which the institution is located.

4.3.2.4 The National Board of Review shall determine issues of residency.

4.3.3 Persons living outside the U.S. may register on-line or through the AAU National Office. The respective National Sports Committee rules shall govern the participation of non-U.S. residents in AAU competitions.

BYLAW 5. DUES, FEES, REPORTS AND REMITTANCES

5.1 Dues and Fees.

5.1.2 District Membership Fees. Congress establishes District membership fees which shall be paid according to National Policy III.

5.1.3 Clubs Membership Fees. Club membership fees shall be established by Congress. Districts shall not establish additional club fees or club requirements.

5.1.4 Individual Membership Fees. Individual membership fees shall be established by Congress. Fees shall not exceed those established by the Congress.

5.1.4.1 Youth Program Membership. A youth membership (athlete or non-athlete) allows participation in all AAU youth sports.

5.1.4.2 Adult Program Membership. An adult athlete member must register and pay the appropriate fee in each sport in which the member participates.

5.1.5 Event License Fees.

The AAU will collect (in advance) the fee established by the Congress for the granting of an event license for the conduct of a competition, exhibition or demonstration. Districts shall not establish additional fees.

5.2 District Reports. The District shall make reports to the AAU as required by this Bylaw. The Governor and Secretary of the District are responsible for filing the reports. A District which fails to submit the required reports shall not be chartered. National staff shall report failures to the National Board of Review.

5.2.1. Notice. The District Secretary must forward to the National Office, in care of the Compliance Department, a copy of the District Board of Managers Meeting notice, at the time it is sent to the member clubs.

5.2.2 Minutes. The District Secretary must, within thirty (30) days after each meeting of the District, mail to the National Headquarters of the AAU a copy of the minutes of the meeting with an attached list of attendees.

5.2.3 Request and Consent Form. Annually submit to the National AAU Office any IRS compliance forms requested.

5.2.4 All elected Officers of the District shall annually sign and file the Location of District Assets report with the District Office and forward a copy to the National Office.

5.2.5 The Districts shall report annually their listing of Officers, Sports Directors and appointments to the National Legislation and Registration Committee.

BYLAW 6. ELIGIBILITY

6.1 A youth member may, with the approval of the National Sport Committee to elect to participate in his or her District of bona fide residence or a District that geographically adjoins that District or District that their club/team is registered. Exception: In team events the National Sports Committee shall determine the number of youth members permitted to participate on a team from an adjoining District.

6.2 Club Attachment. A youth member becomes attached to a club member when he/she competes with that club in any AAU authorized event (practice not included). A youth member may be attached to only one club with the following exceptions:

6.2.1 An athlete may attach to additional clubs (one in each sport) if he/she participates in additional sports.

6.2.2 Participation in an AAU authorized league does not create club attachment.

6.3 Transfers. Athletes who transfer under this section are subject to National Championship eligibility restrictions as adopted by National Sport Committees. After a youth member becomes attached to a club, he/she may only transfer to another club in the same sport as follows:

6.3.1 If the youth member has not competed in any AAU authorized events in that Sport for a period of sixty (60) days no permission is necessary.

6.3.2 If the representative of the club to which an athlete is attached signs a release form permitting an immediate transfer. (Athletes who transfer under this section are subject to National Championship eligibility restrictions as adopted by National Sport Committees.) [Added 10/07]

6.3.3 When the transfer is for the purpose of competing with a team which has qualified for a National Championship as provided by National Sport Committee rules.

6.3.4 If the Registrar determines there is good cause to believe that the transfer is due to events outside the control of the athlete or that the transfer serves the best interest of the AAU.

BYLAW 7. COMPETITION.

7.1 District Championships. Districts may conduct Championships in any AAU approved sport. National Sport Committee rules determine whether District Championships qualify athletes/teams to National Championships.

7.2 Districts located within the same state may, by mutual consent, conduct an AAU Championship in any of the sports open to competitors from all such Districts.

7.3 Special Competition. In the event no competition is planned in a District, competition in a sport may be initiated by the National Sports Committee.

7.4 Acceptance of Entry. The person or committee designated to direct an authorized competition may accept or reject entries in accordance with National Sport Committee rules and AAU Code.

7.5 National Championship. Each National Sport Committee shall establish the criteria for the placement of national championship events.

7.5.1 Award. The Championships of the AAU shall be placed by the appropriate National Sport Committee. A National Sport Committee has the right to accept or reject any bid for national events.

7.5.2. Championship Contracts. National Sport Committees shall execute a Championship contract for all National Championship events. The contract shall include legal and financial rights, privileges, and responsibilities of all parties, and shall not be binding until approved and signed by the AAU, the Host Organization and the Chair of the National Sport Committee.

7.6 Competitions Outside of the U.S. Any competitions outside the U.S., if any, shall be subject to insurance coverage limitations.

BYLAW 8. DISTRICTS AND CHARTERING.

8.1 District Membership. Districts are chartered by Congress. Districts must complete a charter application and forward it with the yearly membership fee as defined by the Business Practices. Congress will not grant charters to District members unless the District has:

8.1.1 A minimum of ten (10) club members;
8.1.2 A minimum of 2,000 members;
8.1.3 Filed all required District reports;
8.1.4 Paid all fees due to the AAU.

8.2 District territories are established by Congress.

8.3 Redistricting Territories. Proposals to change territorial boundaries of Districts must be received by the National Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the National Meeting.

8.3.1 The National Secretary shall give notice of the proposal to all Districts that will be affected by the proposal and shall forward the proposal to the Chair of the Redistricting Committee.

8.4 Inter-District Sport Management Agreements. Adjoining Districts may enter agreements which permit one District to operate and manage sports within the territory of the other District. The agreement must be in writing and must be approved by the Board of Managers of both Districts, and the appropriate National Sport Committee. A copy of the agreement shall be filed by the AAU Compliance Department.

8.5 Names and Territories. The names and territories of the AAU Districts are as follows:

8.5.1 ADIRONDACK (Organized January 31, 1920) – That portion of New York State east and north of Broome, Cortland, Dutchess, Onondaga, Orange, Oswego and Sullivan Counties.

8.5.2 ALASKA (Organized December 3, 1965) - State of Alaska

8.5.3 ARIZONA (Organized March 10, 1956) – State of Arizona

8.5.4 ARKANSAS (Organized February 16, 1936) – State of Arkansas and Bowle County, Texas

8.5.5 CENTRAL (Organized 1890) – State of Illinois except Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties, however all Judo events in these counties shall be controlled by the Central District.

8.5.6 CENTRAL CALIFORNIA (Organized 1952) – Counties of Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Tulare in the State of California (Territory re-aligned December 1963)

8.5.7 COLORADO (Organized November 1906) State of Colorado (Territory re-aligned December 1963, 1965, 1968. Re-named October 2004.)

8.5.8 CONNECTICUT (Organized September 17, 1929) – State of Connecticut

8.5.9 FLORIDA (Organized January 1925) – State of Florida except Broward, Dade, that part of Hendry County west of Route 833, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties. (Territory re-aligned December 1958, 1959, 1963, 1972, and 1999)

8.5.10 FLORIDA GOLD COAST (Organized December 30, 1959) – Counties of Broward, Dade, that part of Hendry County east of Route 833, Monroe and Palm Beach in the State of Florida. (Name changed from South Florida Association at 1960 Convention) (Territory re-aligned December 1963)

8.5.11 GEORGIA (Organized January 6, 1951) – State of Georgia.

8.5.12 GULF (Organized March 6, 1931) – That part of the State of Texas bounded on the North and including the counties of Angelina, Houston, Leon, Nacogdoches, Robertson and Shelby; on the East by the State of Louisiana; on the South by the Gulf of Mexico and on the West by and including the counties of Austin, Brazos, Colorado, Fort Bend, Grimes, Matagorda, Robertson, Waller, Washington and Wharton. (Territory re-aligned September 1992)

8.5.13 HAWAIIAN (Organized November 1910) – State of Hawaii

8.5.14 INDIANA (Organized August 22, 1919) – State of Indiana except Clark, Dearborn and Floyd Counties.

8.5.15 INLAND EMPIRE (Organized April 25, 1937) – State of Washington, counties of Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima. State of Idaho. (Territory re-aligned September 1987 and October 2002 to include the territory of the Snake River Association which was originally organized December 2, 1978.Re-aligned in October 2014.)

8.5.16 IOWA (Organized January 15, 1939) – State of Iowa.

8.5.17 KENTUCKY (Organized February 27, 1939) – The Commonwealth of Kentucky and Clark and Floyd counties in Indiana. (Territory re-aligned September 1987, October 2003)

8.5.18 LAKE ERIE (Organized January 5, 1931 as Northeastern Ohio Association. Name changed at the 1956 Convention) The counties of Ashland, Ashtabula, Belmont, Columbiana, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Jefferson, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Trumball, Tuscarawus and Wayne. (Territory re-aligned December 1960 and September 1991)

8.5.19 MARYLAND (Organized 1981) – State of Maryland except the counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges. (Territory re-aligned December 1968)

8.5.20 MICHIGAN (Organized November 1923) – State of Michigan (Territory re-aligned December 1962 and October 1971)

8.5.21 MIDDLE ATLANTIC (Organized 1906) – State of New Jersey south of Mercer and Monmouth counties; the State of Delaware; and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

east of and including Bedford, Centre, Clinton and Potter counties. (Territory re-aligned December 1962)

8.5.22 MINNESOTA (Organized April 25, 1932) – State of Minnesota. (Re-aligned September 1989).

8.5.23 MISSOURI VALLEY (Organized February 14, 1931) – State of Kansas and that portion of the western part of the State of Missouri including and bounded by Adair, Audrain, Benton, Callaway, Christian, Cole, Greene, Hickory, Macon, Montineau, Morgan, Polk, Randolph, Schuyler and Taney (Territory re-aligned December 1962)

8.5.24 MONTANA (Organized February 15, 1936) – State of Montana

8.5.25 NEBRASKA (Organized June 26, 1922 as the Midwestern Association) – State of Nebraska (Territory re-aligned September 1986)

8.5.26 NEW ENGLAND (Organized 1890) – States of New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island and Vermont; and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (Territory re-aligned September 1987 to incorporate the Maine Association which was originally organized December 9, 1934)

8.5.27 NEW JERSEY (Organized April 21, 1930) – State of New Jersey north of and including Hudson, Mercer and Monmouth counties.

8.5.28 NEW MEXICO (Organized May 29, 1947) **–** State of New Mexico and the counties of Brewster, Culbertson, Crockett, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Terrell in the State of Texas. (Territory re-aligned September 1983)

8.5.29 NEW YORK METROPOLITAN (Organized 1890) – State of New York south of and including Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties. (Re-named October 2004.)

8.5.30 NIAGARA (Organized September 27, 1919) - State of New York west of and including Broome, Cortland, Onondaga and Oswego counties.

8.5.31 NORTH CAROLINA (Organized December 5, 1965) - State of North Carolina

8.5.32 NORTH DAKOTA (Organized December 1, 1962) – State of North Dakota

8.5.33 OHIO (Organized May 1, 1923) - State of Ohio except the counties of Ashland, Ashtabula, Belmont, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Jefferson, Tuscarawus, and Wayne; and the Dearborn County in the State of Indiana. (Territory re-aligned December 1959, 1960, 1962, 1963, October 1971, and October 2003)

8.5.34 OKLAHOMA (Organized February 23, 1936) – State of Oklahoma

8.5.35 OREGON (Organized September 23, 1935) – State of Oregon and Clark Cowlitz and Skamania counties in the State of Washington (Territory re-aligned September 1987)

8.5.36 OZARK (Organized 1935) - State of Missouri east of and including the counties of Camden, Dallas, Douglas, Knox, Miller, Monroe, Montgomery, Osage, Ozark, Pike,

Scotland, Shelby, and Webster (including the city of St. Louis). Counties of Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair in the State of Illinois with the reservation that all judo therein be controlled by the Central Association. (Territory re-aligned December 1962)

8.5.36 PACIFIC (Organized 1890) State of California north of but not including the counties of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono and San Luis Obispo; and the State of Nevada except the counties of Elko, Eureka and White Pine. (Territory re-aligned December 1961, December 1962 and 1963, and October 2014 re-aligned to incorporate the Southern Nevada territory.)

8.5.36 PACIFIC NORTHWEST (Organized June 1905) – State of Washington, west of but not including the counties of Chelan, Kittitas, Okanogan and Yakima; and north of but not including Cowlitz, Klickitat, and Skamania.

8.5.37 PACIFIC SOUTHWEST (Organized December 10, 1949 as Pacific Border Association. Name changed in 1956) – Imperial and San Diego counties in the State of California.

8.5.38 POTOMAC VALLEY (Organized October 15, 1929 as the District of Columbia Association. Territory re-named December 1972) – All territory within the District of Columbia, counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges in the State of Maryland, and the counties of Arlington and Fairfax and cities of Alexandria and Falls Church in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

8.5.39 PUERTO RICO (Organized September 8, 1984) – Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands.

8.5.40 SOUTH CAROLINA (Organized December 5, 1965) – State of South Carolina

8.5.41 SOUTH DAKOTA (Organized December 4, 1965) – State of South Dakota

8.5.42 SOUTH TEXAS (Organized November 12, 1945) – State of Texas bounded on the East by and including the counties of Burleson, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Milam; on the South by the Gulf of Mexico and the Republic of Mexico; on the West by and including the counties of Schleicher, Sutton and Val Verde; and on the North by and including the counties of Bell, Burnett, Coryell, Falls, Lampasas, Llano, Mason and Menard. (Territory re-aligned December 1961, 1963 and September 1992)

8.5.43 SOUTHEASTERN (Organized August 13, 1951) – State of Alabama and the State of Tennessee. (Territory re-aligned December 1958, December 1982, September 1989, and September 1999)

8.5.44 SOUTHERN (Organized 1892) – State of Louisiana and the State of Mississippi

8.5.45 SOUTHERN PACIFIC (Organized November 1909) – Including the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura in the State of California. (Territory re-aligned October 1973)

8.5.46 SOUTHWESTERN (Organized May 8, 1936) – State of Texas bounded on the South but not including the counties of Angelina, Brown, Callahan, Coryell, Falls, Houston, Lampasas, Leon, Milam, Mills, Nacogdoches, Robertson and Shelby; on the East by the

State of Louisiana and the State of Arkansas and Bowie County in Texas; on the North by the State of Oklahoma and Bowie County in Texas; and on the West by the counties of, but not including Foard, Hardeman, Haskell, Jones and Knox. (Territory re-aligned September 1992)

8.5.47 UTAH (Organized November 1910) – State of Utah and the Counties of Elko, Eureka and White Pine in the State of Nevada. (Territory re-aligned December 1978 and October 2014)

8.5.48 VIRGINIA (Organized December 9, 1934) – Commonwealth of Virginia except the counties Arlington and Fairfax and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church. (Territory re-aligned December 1968)

8.5.49 WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA (Organized November 16, 1917 as the Allegheny Mountain Association) – Counties west of Bedford, Centre, Clinton, Huntingdon and Potter in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. (Territory re-aligned December 1959 and October 2003)

8.5.50 WEST TEXAS (Organized 1952) – State of Texas bounded on the South and including the counties of Concho, Irion, McCulloch, Pecos, Reeves, Regan, San Saba, Tom Green And Upton; on the West by the State of New Mexico; on the North by the State of Oklahoma; and on the East by the State of Oklahoma and by and including the counties of Brown, Callahan, Foard, Hardeman, Haskell, Jones, Knox, Mills, and San Saba. (Territory re-aligned December 1961, October 1976)

8.5.51 WEST VIRGINIA (Organized February 28, 1960) – The State of West Virginia (Territory re-aligned December 1963, October 1973 and October 2003)

8.5.52 WISCONSIN (Organized June 6, 1935) – State of Wisconsin (Territory re-aligned December 1964 and September 1989)

8.5.53 WYOMING (Organized December 9, 1968) – State of Wyoming

8.6 Zone Alignment. There shall be four (4) Zones of the AAU. The Districts which comprise the Zones of the AAU are:

8.6.36 Zone A. Adirondack, Connecticut, Lake Erie, Maryland, Middle Atlantic, New England, New Jersey, New York Metropolitan, Niagara, Ohio Potomac Valley, Virginia, Western Pennsylvania.

8.6.37 Zone B. Florida, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, Gulf, Kentucky, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Texas, Southeastern, Southern, Southwestern, West Texas, West Virginia.

8.6.38 Zone C. Arkansas, Central, Indiana, Iowa, Ozark, Oklahoma, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri Valley, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

8.6.39 Zone D. Alaska, Arizona, Central California, Colorado, Hawaiian, Inland Empire, New Mexico, Oregon, Pacific, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Southern Pacific, Utah.

8.7 Regional Alignment. National Sport Committee rules may designate territory for Regional competition.

Bylaw 9. Meetings, Notices, Voting.

9.1 Meetings of the AAU of the U.S. Inc. The AAU shall hold a Convention at least every two (2) years. The business of the Convention shall include the Regular Meeting of Congress, the Regular Meeting of Sport Committees, Administrative Committees and any other matters pertinent to the AAU.

9.1.1 Representation at the AAU Convention.

9.1.1.1 District Representatives to Congress. The District must submit its list of delegates to Congress to the Compliance Department at the National Office on or before August 1st each year Congress convenes. If an elected member is unable to attend Congress, the Governor, or a person selected by the Board of Managers may assign, in writing, a replacement member.

9.1.1.2 National Sport Committee Representatives to Congress. Each National Sport Chair shall submit a list of sport delegates to Congress to the Compliance Department at the National Office on or before August 1st each year Congress convenes. The Chair may replace the named members as necessary to fill any vacancies.

9.1.1.3 District Representatives to National Sport Committees. If the District's elected or appointed Sport Director is unable to attend the meeting of the National Sport Committee, a District Officer, or a person selected by the Board of Managers, may assign, in writing, a replacement representative who shall be entitled to all rights and privileges due the District representative at that meeting.

9.2 District Representation to Congress. The District's representation in Congress is based on the number of individual members reported to the National Office by the deadline established by the Board of Directors. The formula used to calculate representation is as follows:

No. of Individual Members	Representatives to Congress
1st 2,000	3

One (1) additional representative for each additional one thousand (1,000) individual members. (If the total number of individual members shall number more than five hundred (500) it shall count as an additional one thousand (1,000) for calculating additional members of Congress.) A District shall have a maximum of 20 representatives under this section.

9.3 National Sport Committee Representation to Congress. The Sport Committee's representation in Congress is based on the number of individual members reported to the

National Office by the deadline established by the Board of Directors. The formula used to calculate representation is as follows:

No. of Individual Members	Representatives to Congress
150 to 500	1
501 to 1,000	2
1,001 to 5,000	4
5,001 to 10,000	6
10,001 to 20,000	8
20,001 to 35,000	10
35,001 to 50,000	12
50,001 to 65,000	14
65,001 to 80,000	16
80,001 to 95,000	18
95,001 to 110,000	20
110,001 to 125,000	21
125,001 to 140,000	22
140,001 or more	23

9.4 Notice. At least thirty (30) days' notice of regular meetings or twenty (20) days' notice of special meetings shall be given to members of Congress and the members of a National Sport Committee. The Special Meeting Notice shall state the purpose of a Special Meeting.

9.5 Order of Meetings. At all meeting of Congress, Districts, and National Sport Committees, the following order of the meeting shall be observed.

Roll call of members (Credentialing process)
Call meeting to order
Establish rules of the meeting
Adopt Agenda
Approval of the minutes of preceding meeting
Reports of Officers and Committees
Unfinished business
New business
- At District Biennial Legislative Meeting include an item to establish the Biennial Legislative Meeting Date
- Requests from the National Office to include items on the agenda

Elections
Announcements
Standing Resolutions
Adjournment

9.6 Rules of Order. Unless otherwise provided parliamentary procedures shall be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. The presiding officer may designate a qualified individual to serve as parliamentarian.

9.7 Mail or Electronic or Teleconference Voting. In the interval between meetings of Congress, a District Board of Managers, or a Committee, any action that can be taken at a special meeting can also be taken by mail or electronic vote. Members shall be given a date and time by which the vote shall be received if mail, or electronic, or teleconference voting is being used.

9.7.1 Mail/Electronic/Teleconference votes can be taken only after the proposition is presented, and notice given in the same manner as a special meeting.

9.7.2 **Filing.** In every instance of a mail, electronic or teleconference vote, the Secretary shall preserve the ballot of each member in the files for a period of one year.

Bylaw 10. Composition of the Board of Directors.

10.1 **The Officers.** The President, the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

10.2 An elected representative from each of the four Zones.

10.3 The Chairs of the Finance, Insurance, Legislation, and Registration Committees.

10.4 The Chairs of the Past Presidents' Council, and Sport Council. **(Effective after the 2018 National Convention.)**

10.5 The elected Chair and Vice Chair of the District Governors' Council. [Effective 2020]

10.6 The Chair, or the permanent designee, of the National Sport Committees whose National Sport Committee has registered five percent (5%) or more of the total membership of the AAU. (Registration will be determined utilizing the final numbers supplied by the AAU National Office which determine voting representation at the National Meeting.)

10.7 A representative recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors from a National Sport Committee not represented under 10.6.

10.8 The Governor, or permanent designee from any District whose individual membership registrations total four percent (4%) or more of the total membership of the AAU. (Registration will be determined utilizing the final numbers supplied by the AAU National Office which determine voting representation at the National Meeting.)

10.9 A representative recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors from a District not represented under 10.8.

10.10 The Chair of the National Board of Review and the General Counsel will be non-voting members.

10.11 No individual may represent more than one of the above-listed categories.

10.12 The absence of any elected or appointed representative to the Board of Directors will not be filled by a designee.

10.13 Terms of elected/appointed positions to the Board of Directors will begin when the elected/appointed position is filled and expires when the term has expired or person is replaced.

Bylaw 11. National Councils.

11.1 Sport Council. The Council will consist of the Chair of each National Sport Committee and up to two (2) at-large members to be appointed by the President. The President shall appoint the Chair.

11.1.1 Duties. The Council will:

11.1.1.1 Recommend broad policies for improvement and enhancement of the youth sport programs.

11.1.1.2 Encourage multi-sport competition in the youth program.

11.1.1.3 Conduct other business that will contribute to the cohesive planning for AAU sports programs.

11.1.1.4 Elect a representative to serve a two (2) year term on the National Board of Directors. (Effective after the 2018 National Convention.)

11.2 Past Presidents' Council. The Council will consist of all past National Presidents of the AAU. The Council will serve as a special advisory group to the President, Board of Directors, and Congress.

11.3 Zone Councils. The Zone Councils shall consist of a representative selected by the Governor from each District located in the Zone (Refer to Bylaw 8). Additionally, each National Sport Committee may appoint one (1) representative to each Zone Council (A, B, C, D). Appointee must reside within the zone he or she represents.

11.3.1 Chair. Every four (4) years, in concert with National Officer elections at the Convention, an election for the Chair of the Zone Councils will be held. The Chairs of the Zone Councils shall conduct all council meetings and represent the Zone to the Board of Directors.

11.3.2 Vacancy. A vacancy by death, resignation, or removal shall remain so until the next regularly held election.

11.3.3 Voting.

a. There shall be no voting by proxy.
b. A member of the Zone Council is limited to voting for a maximum of two entities.

11.4 District Governors Council. The Council shall consist of all current District Governors. In case of absence, the District Governor may appoint another officer of the District who will represent the District.

11.4.1.1 Chair and Vice Chair. A Chair shall be elected by the Council at each National Convention for a two-year term. The Council shall also elect a Vice Chair for a two-year term. One of the elected members must reside in Zones A or B and the other elected member must reside in Zones C or D. The Chair and Vice-Chair serve as members of the AAU Board of Directors. [Effective 2020]

11.4.1.2 Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Chair and the Vice Chair, and one member of each zone elected by the members of that zone for two-year terms. [Effective 2020]

11.4.2 Duties. The Council will:

11.4.2.a Consider and recommend policies for the improvement and enhancement of the general welfare of the Districts and the Amateur Athletic Union.

11.4.2.b Serve as a special advisory group to the President, Board of Directors, Congress, and the National Office.

11.4.2.c Conduct other business that will contribute to the growth and development of the Districts and the Amateur Athletic Union.

Bylaw 12. Miscellaneous.

12.1 AAU James E. Sullivan Award. The AAU James E. Sullivan award shall be presented annually. A Committee appointed by the President shall conduct the Sullivan Award program in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Directors.

12.2 Life Membership. Honorary membership, known as Life Membership, may be granted to persons who contribute a minimum of $125.00 to the AAU, and they shall receive the privileges established by the Board of Directors.

12.3 Allied Organization. The AAU shall offer an allied organization membership as previously mentioned throughout the Code. In addition to the benefits there, an allied member organization shall have a vote on the Sullivan Award Committee, the allied organization shall receive AAU email and newsletters, and receive an allied organization member logo to promote their relationship with the AAU in their region or country. The allied organization will be listed as a member in good standing on the AAUsports.org website. The allied organization member will be presented with a letter on official AAU letterhead commemorating the relationship for one year. The allied member organization will also receive a signed certificate suitable for framing. To become an allied member, an application must be requested and completed through the AAU National Office. The fee is $350 annually.

12.4 Indemnification. Each District shall indemnify its Officers and managers to the fullest extent allowed by law while acting reasonably within the scope of its capacity. This indemnification is secondary and in excess to coverage afforded under any insurance policy from any source.

12.5 Executive Director. There may be an Executive Director who shall serve as the chief operating officer of the AAU with direct responsibility for all staff functions. The Executive Director may be employed or dismissed by a majority vote of the Officers. However should any officer be employed as such, the Executive Director must be employed or dismissed by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

12.6 Substantial Compliance. Failure of literal or complete compliance in respect of dates and times of notice, or the sending or receipt of the same, or errors in phraseology of notice of proposals, which do not cause substantial injury to the rights of members, shall not invalidate the actions or proceedings of the members at any meeting.

12.7 Glossary of Terms. The Chair of the Legislation Committee and the National Board of Review shall prepare and maintain a glossary which shall define terms used in the AAU Code to be appended to these Bylaws. Any changes, additions or amendments to the glossary shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

AAU NATIONAL POLICIES

IF ANY PORTION OF ANY POLICY IS HELD TO BE INVALID, THE BALANCE NOTWITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

I. **MEMBERSHIP POLICIES**. By submitting or authorizing an application for membership in the AAU, the applicant agrees and stipulates to the following terms and conditions:

A. The applicant agrees and consents to receive and accept all written or oral communications, including but not limited to e-mails, facsimiles, mail-outs, advertisements, and telephone calls from the AAU, its employees, Officers, agents, attorneys, volunteers, members, affiliates, subordinates, host organizations and clubs.

B. As to any complaint or dispute relating to the AAU or any entity of the AAU, all membership applicants and members must exhaust all administrative remedies established by Article III of the AAU Constitution, National Policy I.G, National Policy XV, and mediation, before commencing any petition seeking binding arbitration as provided by this National Policy I.

C. Mediation

1. As a pre-condition to pursuing any civil dispute against the AAU, the parties agree to first submit their dispute to non-binding mediation. The AAU shall select and pay for the mediator. Mediation will be conducted within 30 days of a Party requesting mediation or, if the Parties agree, at a later date. The Applicant/Member requesting the mediation must attend the mediation in person. Attendance by telephone or by electronic means is not allowed. Each party will pay their own costs to attend the mediation.

2. Mediation will be conducted at a location designated by the AAU in the State in which the Applicant/Member resided on the date of the alleged wrongdoing or at a location which is mutually agreed by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all mediations will proceed in the continental United States. Mediations for Applicants/Members that resided outside of the continental United States on the date of the alleged wrongdoing will be conducted in Orlando, Florida.

3. A request for mediation must be made in writing and sent by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to "Mediation Request, PO Box 22409, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830". The mediation request will include a summary of the dispute, the name and contact information of the Applicant/Member seeking relief against the AAU, the amount of relief sought, the state in which the Applicant/Member resided on the date of alleged wrongdoing, the identity of any witnesses and copies of any relevant documents.

4. Should the Applicant/Member seeking relief against the AAU be unable to attend a mediation because of illness and/or injury, the mediation request must detail the basis of an inability to attend the mediation. The AAU will have the option of waiving the mediation or having the Applicant/Member examined by a physician of its choosing to certify that the Applicant/Member is unable to attend a mediation because of illness and/or injury. Should the physician not certify that the Applicant/Member is unable to attend a mediation because of illness and/or injury, the Applicant/Member will have failed to comply with a pre-

condition to bringing a civil dispute against the AAU and such civil dispute will be dismissed with prejudice.

5. Civil disputes brought before a request for mediation has been received shall be dismissed for failing to comply with this pre-condition.

6. A request for mediation does not extend the one-year statute of limitations for bringing a civil dispute.

D. <u>Binding Arbitration.</u>

1. **BY APPLYING FOR AAU MEMBERSHIP (OR HAVING A THIRD PARTY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE AAU ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT), OR UPON ENTERING ANY AAU EVENT, THE APPLICANT/MEMBER AND THE AAU AGREE TO SUBMIT ALL CIVIL DISPUTE(S) ARISING OUT OF OR DURING THE TERM OF MEMBERSHIP TO BINDING ARBITRATION ADMINISTERED BY THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCATION ("AAA") IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CONSUMER ARBITRATION RULES. THE ARBITRATION HEARING SHALL BE HELD IN NEW YORK, NEW YORK BEFORE ONE (1) ARBITRATOR.**
2. **DEPOSITION(S), REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS ARE STRICTLY DISCOURAGED AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED WITHOUT AN ORDER FROM AAA; AND, IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED, A REQUEST FOR ANY SUCH ORDER, IF ANY, SHALL ACCOMPANY THE FILING OF THE APPLICABLE PARTY'S FIRST SUBMISSION TO AAA OR SUCH REQUEST SHALL BE WAIVED AND/OR DENIED. A LIST OF WITNESSES AND ALL EXHIBITS TO BE INTRODUCED AT THE HEARING WILL BE EXCHANGED AT LEAST TWENTY (20) DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING. THE PARTIES AGREE THAT THE BINDING ARBITRATION SHALL BE IN LIEU OF ANY LITIGATION BY AND BETWEEN ALL OF THE PARTIES RELATED TO THE DISPUTE.**

3. **THE PARTIES DECLARE THAT IT IS THEIR CLEAR AND UNMISTAKABLE INTENT FOR THE ARBITRATOR TO DETERMINE ANY AND ALL QUESTIONS OF ARBITRABILITY, IF ANY. ANY OBJECTION TO THE ARBITRATOR'S JURISDICTION, INCLUDING ANY OBJECTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE EXISTENCE, SCOPE OR VALIDITY OF THE ARBITRATION AGREEMENT SHALL BE DECIDED BY THE ARBITRATOR.**

4. **THE PARTIES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN LEGAL FEES, COSTS AND COST OF WITNESSES. THE PARTIES WILL SHARE EQUALLY THE ARBITRATOR'S FEES AND COSTS. THE PARTIES WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO SEEK AND THE PARTIES COVENANT NOT TO SEEK, ANY PUNITIVE OR EXEMPLARY DAMAGES.**

E. <u>Other Legal Matters</u>

1. **THE TIME LIMIT (STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS) FOR BRINGING ANY CIVIL DISPUTE AGAINST THE AAU SHALL BE ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE ALLEGED WRONGDOING.**

2. **SHOULD ARBITRATION NOT BE PERMITTED OR SHOULD THE AAU AND ALL PARTIES MUTUALLY AND EXPRESSLY AGREE TO NOT PROCEED TO ARBITRATION, THEN THE PARTIES AGREE TO WAIVE A JURY AND AGREE THAT ANY LEGAL ACTION BETWEEN THE PARTIES SHALL BE COMMENCED EXCLUSIVELY IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK. SHOULD THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK NOT HAVE SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION, THEN IT IS AGREED THAT ANY LEGAL ACTION BETWEEN THE PARTIES SHALL BE COMMENCED EXCLUSIVELY IN COURT LOCATED IN NEW YORK COUNTY, NEW YORK.**

3. **The Parties agree that New York law will apply to any civil dispute.**

4. **THE APPLICANT/MEMBER AGREES TO NOT BE A MEMBER AND WAIVES ANY RIGHT TO BE A MEMBER OF ANY CLASS ACTION (OR PURPORTED CLASS ACTION) IN WHICH THE AAU IS NAMED AS A DEFENDANT. NO CLASS ACTION SHALL BE BROUGHT AGAINST THE AAU.**

5. **IF ANY PORTION OF THIS MEMBERSHIP POLICY IS DECLARED INVALID OR UNENFORCEABLE, THE REST OF THIS MEMBERSHIP POLICY SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.**

F. Indemnification/Assumption of Risk.

1. The member, applicant and/or participant releases and forever discharges, and covenants not to sue the Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S., Inc. ("AAU"), AAU's Districts (formerly known as Associations), the Host (of the Event), Local Organizing Entity, and if applicable owners and lessors of premises upon which the activity takes place, (the foregoing collectively, including without limitation, the AAU, hereinafter for convenience referred to as the « Releasees »), together with the respective administrators, members (including all categories), volunteers, participants, sponsors and advertisers, together with the insureds, and the parent related, affiliated, subsidiary companies, and affiliated committees, as well as the officers, directors, agents, attorneys, employees, representatives, successors and assigns of each of the Releasees entities, and any other party indemnified and held harmless by the AAU (each considered one of the Releasees herein) from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages of the Member, Applicant, and/or Participant, caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the action, inaction or negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, including but not limited to negligent rescue operations, negligent security, travel and recreation operations and activities; and further agree that if despite this release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity policy, the Member, Applicant and/or Participant or anyone on behalf of the Member, Applicant and/or Participant, makes a claim against any of the Releasees, the Member, Applicant and/or Participant and/or his/her parent or guardian will indemnify, save and hold harmless each of the Releasees from any litigation expenses, attorney's fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which may be incurred as the result of such a claim. [Rev. 10/06]

2. The Member, Applicant and/or Participant understand that : (a) athletic activities involve risks and dangers of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis, and

death (« Risks ») ; (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by the Member, Applicant, and/or Participant's own actions or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the activity, the condition in which the activity takes place, or the negligence of others ; (c) there may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to the Member, Applicant, and/or Participant, or not readily foreseeable at this time ; and the Member, Applicant, and/or Participant accepts and assumes all risks and all responsibility for losses, costs, and damages the Member, Applicant, and/or Participant incurs as a result of participation in the activity.

G. Administrative Remedies.

1. Applicant agree(s) to comply with all the provisions of the AAU Code, and the rules and regulations of the AAU Sports and activities. Further, applicant acknowledge(s) that the AAU Code establishes a process by which disputes with the AAU or any entity of the AAU shall be adjudicated. Applicant agree(s) to submit any dispute or claim to the AAU Judiciary, to exhaust all administrative procedures thereunder, and to abide by the final resolution of the matter. The applicant acknowledges that the AAU is not a state actor, and that the due process, which is applicable to all disputes concerning the AAU is the AAU Code and which includes its Policies, as set out herein.

2. Members who do not follow the Administrative Procedures of the AAU shall be denied membership in the AAU.

3. Administrative remedies are exhausted upon the entry of an order from the National Board of Appeals.

H. Membership Limitations

1. All persons who apply to the AAU for an adult or non-athlete membership must give consent to the AAU to conduct a criminal background check.

2. Sexual Misconduct. It is the policy of the AAU to deny membership in the AAU to any individual for whom there is reasonable cause to believe that they have engaged in sexual misconduct. For the purposes of this policy, reasonable cause shall exist when:

a. Criminal or civil charges have been filed against an individual alleging sexual misconduct.
b. The individual has been convicted of a crime involving sexual misconduct.
c. Written allegations of sexual misconduct against the individual of reasonable probative value have been submitted to the AAU; or
d. The individual has been accused of sexual misconduct and the accusations have reasonable probative value.

3. Criminal Misconduct.

a. It is the policy of the AAU to deny membership in the AAU to any individual who has been convicted of a felony, or who has pending felony charges, or who has a substantial criminal history but no felony conviction. For the purposes of this policy, a person has a substantial criminal history when the membership background check

yields a negative report using criteria approved by the Compliance Department, and the Chair of the National Board of Review.

b. Any person denied membership in the AAU pursuant to this policy may seek a review or reconsideration pursuant to the applicable procedures under the AAU Code.

4. Application for Policy Exception.

a. Any person who has been convicted of a felony, or any offense of sexual misconduct or who has been denied membership due to a negative report on the membership background check may not apply for membership except directly through the National Office Compliance Department. The President of the AAU shall appoint one or more members of the AAU (Reviewer) to determine whether the application should be accepted. The criteria used by the Reviewer are whether the best interests of the AAU are served by accepting the application.

b. Decisions of the Reviewer may be appealed to the National Board of Review; however, appeals do not stay the action of the Reviewer unless an Order for Stay is issued by the Board of Review Chair.

I. Misrepresentation.

1. Information provided to the AAU by the applicant/member shall be correct in every material aspect, including but not limited to street address, birth date, social security number (for adults and non-athletes), phone numbers, etc.

2. If an applicant/member fails to disclose a conviction for a felony or sexual misconduct or submits a membership application containing material information that is false (for purposes of this Policy any information as to conviction of a felony or any sex offense, as well as the applicant's name, address, date of birth, social security number shall be considered to be material, and if misrepresented, shall constitute fraud), then any membership acquired has been fraudulently obtained and is void. When the AAU has reasonable cause to believe that a membership has been fraudulently obtained, it may void the membership without notice or hearing and require that further application be made through the National Office as provided by this policy. Any person denied membership in the AAU pursuant to this Policy may seek a review or reconsideration pursuant to the applicable procedures under the AAU Code.

J. **Sport Agents, Agencies and Representatives.**

Any person who is a registered sports agent or a representative or employee of a sports agent or agency, or any person who has received compensation or consideration of any kind directly or indirectly from a sports agent or agency, is prohibited from involvement in the AAU throughout the entire fiscal year (September 1 through August 31) during which any such compensation or consideration is received except as specifically set out herein.

Violation of this policy may subject a club and/or athletes affiliated with the agent to penalties set out in the Code.

An agent, employee or representative of an agent may apply in writing to the AAU for an exception to this policy. If, in the sole discretion of the AAU, it is determined that the interests of the AAU are best served, an exception may be granted. The exception may only be granted

by the majority vote of the Board of Review. The exception must be in writing and is subject to reconsideration at any time and may be revoked by the Board of Review.

K. **Agency.** Membership in the AAU does not create an agency relationship. The authority of any member providing services to the AAU is limited to the terms of the agreement for services. The AAU does not organize clubs, or teams, and does not select coaches or club managers. Members shall not represent themselves to be agents of the AAU without specific written authorization from the National AAU. Acts of an AAU member not related to a licensed AAU event are not authorized by the AAU and therefore no agency relationship is created thereby.

L. Waiver/Release/Authorization to Use Likeness Names, Voice and Words. By submitting a membership application to the AAU, the applicant authorizes the AAU including without limitation, the Releases defined in Section C.1. hereinabove, in perpetuity, without compensation, reservation, or limitation, to allow the reproduction, dissemination, and/or publication of the applicant's name, nickname, image, voice, signature, facsimile, biological information, photograph, and/or likeness for media coverage, public relations, or any other purpose whatsoever, which may involve the use of photographs, films, and/or videotape recording and/or any other form of media, whether currently in existence or not, and understand that the AAU retains title, exclusive and unlimited rights to all internet streaming files including live and archived games, interviews, and events broadcast to the Internet. The AAU is under no obligation to exercise the rights herein granted. The applicant understands and agrees that he/she will not receive any payment for the possible commercial use of his/her name or likeness. [Rev. 10/06]

M. Notice of Claims. Any member of the AAU, who has knowledge of a claim, potential claim, or litigation against the AAU, shall notify the AAU in writing as soon as reasonably practical by forwarding notice of such claim to the National AAU at its home office, attention: Director of Compliance and AAU General Counsel.

N. Participation Without Modification. As a condition of membership, athletes agree to the following:

1. In consideration of the applicant's participation in any activity of the Amateur Athletic Union of the U. S., Inc. ("AAU"), the applicant for themselves, or on behalf of the minor as parent or guardian, representative, assigns, and next of kin, acknowledges and understands the nature of athletic activities and that they involve certain risks. It is further acknowledged and agreed that the experience and capabilities of the applicant are such that the applicant is qualified, in good health and in proper physical condition to participate in such activity – as is, without modification, accommodation, or special personnel.

2. The AAU is not a place of public accommodation**.**

3. Issues regarding gender identification shall be directed to the AAU Compliance Department. For a copy of the AAU's transgender policy, please contact the National Office.

O. Cooperation with AAU Bodies and Committees. All members of the AAU are required to cooperate with AAU bodies whether it is an investigation, an insurance claim, or other inquiry in the AAU.

II. MEMBERSHIP DATA.

A. All registration/contact information including but not limited to names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, fax numbers, birth dates of the AAU membership "membership database" is the exclusive and proprietary property of the National AAU and shall only be utilized in accordance with the AAU Privacy Policy.

B. Access to AAU Membership Data. This information may be utilized in accordance with the AAU Privacy Policy as follows:

1. The President and/or Executive Director may authorize the National Staff to use membership data in the scope of their employment.

2. National Sport Chairs may use or authorize the use of the membership data of their respective sport.

3. District Governors may utilize, or may authorize, the use of their District's membership data for the conduct and promotion of only AAU District business.

4. District Secretaries and District Registrars may use District membership data in the exercise of their duties as defined by the AAU Code.

5. District Sport Directors may send information to membership within their sport only after receiving the written approval of their District Governor.

6. Persons with access to membership data may elect to distribute information through the AAU National Office after receiving written approval from the District Governor.

C. District Governors. If the Governor of the District wishes to distribute information to the District members in behalf of his/her club, that distribution shall be approved by the majority of the District Officers.

D. National Sport Chairs, District Governors, District Secretaries, Officers, Board Members, Employees, and District Registrars shall not disclose any membership data to non-AAU entities.

E. Violation of Policy. Any person who inappropriately uses AAU membership data, for any unauthorized reason shall be in violation of the Code and subject to disciplinary action.

III. FINANCIAL PRACTICES.

A. UNPAID DEBTS/OUTSTANDING CHARGES/INSUFFICIENT FUND CHECKS. The AAU may cancel any contract or license, or deny membership, with any individual, group or entity which is not in good financial standing with the AAU. An individual, group or entity is not in good financial standing with the AAU if for more than 90 days the individual, group or entity has:

a. outstanding debt to the AAU;

b. outstanding charges to the AAU; or

c. given the AAU a check or other negotiable instrument that has been returned for insufficient funds and which remains outstanding.

d. Entities may make satisfactory arrangements for payment with the AAU, subject to approval of the National Officers.

B. PURCHASING GUIDELINES. All National Office Departments, Sports and Administrative Committees must adhere to the following guidelines when purchasing goods and/or services prior to obligating the Union for any expense. All purchases over $100 processed at the National Office will require a Purchase Order Form, despite the form of payment.

1. **Purchases under $500.00.** All individual purchases of goods and/or services made on behalf of the AAU must be submitted for approval to the appropriate National Office Department Director or authorized Sport Committee representative. The representative shall review the Purchase Order to ensure purchase is in accordance with the approved budget.

2. **Purchases between $500.01-$5,000.00.** The same procedure as set forth above for purchases under $500.00 is to be followed for purchases between $500.01 to $5,000.00, except that the Purchase Orders must be approved by the President, Treasurer, or Executive Director.

3. **Purchases in excess of $5,000.01.** The same procedure as set forth above for purchases under $5,000.01 is to be followed for purchases over $5,000.01, except that Purchase Orders shall include three (3) written competitive price quote proposals. The selection of the bid shall be on the basis of the best interests of the AAU. Approval is made by the President or National Treasurer.

C. SOLICITATION OF FUNDS. Any solicitation of funds upon the behalf of the AAU, resources or goods from business entities, national foundations or United States governmental agencies, must be approved by the majority of the National Officers. The following commission guidelines will be utilized in the case of new AAU sponsors and will not apply to bid fees in connection with national championships or similar AAU events, nor will they apply to current AAU sponsors or their renewals.

D. COMMISSION GUIDELINES.

1. **Commission Fees:** All commission fees are subject to negotiation with the President. Any commission fees shall be approved by the majority of the National Officers.

E. NATIONAL SPORT COMMITTEE FINANCES. Each National Sport Committee shall annually file a two-year fiscal budget with the Finance Committee by September 15th. The budgets are subject to review by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will review the budget prior to submitting it to Congress for approval. In order to receive reimbursement for any personal expenses, each National Sport Committee, will be required to submit a budget to the Finance Committee.

1. **Expenditures.** Reimbursement for travel and other expenses may be processed only after a Committee financial reimbursement policy has been adopted by the Committee and filed with the National Office. Any committee policy variances may be submitted to the National Treasurer for approval. The committee policy shall include the following:

   a. The type of expense(s) which may be reimbursed.

   b. The committee member's function(s) that shall be entitled to be reimbursed.

   c. The signatures which must be obtained within the committee for reimbursement authorization. A minimum of two signatures are required. Receipts for all expenses must be provided for any expenses paid through a credit card in excess of $25.00.

2. Any reimbursement shall be subject to the committee's available funds and shall have receipts attached for all expenditures in excess of $25.00. Receipts for all expenses must be provided for any expenses paid through an AAU issued credit card.

3. Deficit spending is not permitted without approval. Approval will be by a majority of the National Officers with specific amount approved. This agreement must be in written form and provided to the Finance Department.

4. AAU credit cards issued to the National Sport Chairs must be approved by a majority of the National Officers. The cardholder must sign a written agreement to be liable for any unapproved charges. A majority of the National Officers will revoke credit card privileges for a sport that has a negative balance. The card can only be re-issued by an agreement of a majority of the National Officers.

5. Procedure for compensating a National Sport Chair
   a. If a National Sports Committee's budget includes a compensated position and the National Sports Committee has approved the expenditure, a job description with payment terms and metrics of qualifications must be submitted to the National Officers.
   b. The Conflicts Committee will review the proposal.
   c. The proposal will then be reviewed by the Finance Committee.
   d. If approved by the majority of National Officers, an agreement with the person who is in the compensated position may be implemented.

F. AAU CREDIT. The following are credit policies and procedures to be utilized when extending credit to Districts, Local Organizing Committees, and other approved individuals or entities.

1. **Sales Terms.** AAU will offer terms of N/30 to qualified customers. Invoices not paid within 60 days will be assessed a late fee of 1.0% per month. Requests for special terms must be documented and approved in advance by the National Treasurer and Finance Chair.

2. **Assigning and Approving Credit Limits.** Credit limits will be based upon each customer's payment history and expected level of purchase. The Treasurer or his/her designee may approve credit limits assigned to each customer whose purchases exceed $1,000.00. Financial Services Department's discretion will be used on amounts below $1,000.00.

3. **Approving Orders.** Written approval from the President and National Treasurer is required if orders exceed the pre-approved credit limit or if the customer has past-due invoices outstanding for more than 60 days without written approval from the Treasurer.

   Items (awards, etc.) ordered by Districts must have the approval of the District Treasurer before the items will be shipped. Items will then be shipped.

4. **Re-evaluating Credit to Existing Customers.** Credit re-evaluations will be performed on all accounts regularly (annually). Reevaluations will also be performed on any account when payment activity or other circumstances indicate a need.

5. **Past-Due Accounts.** Statements will be mailed to past due accounts no more than bi-monthly. On seriously delinquent accounts phone calls will be placed. Phone calls generally will be used only late in the collection process.

6. **Authorizing Settlements and Write-Offs.** Offers allowing a delinquent customer to pay an account in installments or settling for less than the unpaid balances require the National Treasurer's advance written approval.

7. The National Treasurer must approve any write-offs of amounts considered uncollectible.

G. District Charter Late Fee. The District Charter application, District Charter fee, and Request and Consent form are due on August 1st annually. If the District Charter fee is not received as of this date, a $500.00 late fee shall be assessed to the District.

H. AAU Convention. All persons registered to attend the AAU Convention in any capacity, must stay at the hotel property/properties designated by the AAU, utilizing the hotel block as established for the Convention. Persons registered to attend the AAU Convention who do not comply shall pay an additional $600.00 Convention fee. Registered attendees who own property in the city in which the Convention is located are exempt from this policy if they demonstrate ownership of the property.

I. Travel. The AAU will not provide any AAU Officer, director, trustee, or key employees with first class or chartered travel.

IV. USE OF MARKS AND LOGOS.

A. AAU REGISTERED MARKS. The AAU name, mark, seal, logo, and other insignia (all "AAU marks") are protected through trademark registration and are defined as the intellectual property of the AAU. No person or entity may use the AAU's intellectual property without the prior and continued approval of the National AAU. Only those subordinates and affiliated organizations which are expressly authorized by the National AAU to use the intellectual property of the AAU as approved by the policy set and approved by the BOD shall use the marks. The National AAU may withdraw its approval to use its marks, at any time in its sole discretion. Members shall immediately comply with notice to cease and desist from the use of the AAU's intellectual property. The unauthorized use of any of the intellectual property of the AAU is a violation of this policy as well as the (Federal) Lanham Act and may subject the member/entity to penalties set out in the AAU Code. If granted approval/permission to use any of the AAU marks, the limited right to use the marks shall be non-exclusive and the user shall not acquire any ownership in or of such mark(s). These marks must not be used in promoting non-AAU events.

1. Only chartered Districts, District Sport Committees and National Sport Committees may use the AAU marks in their name.

2. There are three (3) levels of AAU club membership. Level 1 AAU member Clubs acquire no rights to use the AAU's intellectual property. Level 2 and 3 member Clubs are authorized to use AAU's registered marks only as follows:

a. For the purpose of promoting an AAU licensed event
b. For the purpose of promoting the club's AAU-related activities.
c. Neither members nor clubs may use the name AAU in their legal name, domain name, email or any other name without the express written consent of the National AAU.

B. USE OF OLYMPIC MARKS. No license of any athletic competition will be granted by the AAU for any event where the word "Olympic" or any derivative thereof is used in any advertisement or notice in any manner in connection with an AAU competition.

The Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S. Inc. has a limited license agreement with the United States Olympic Committee with regard to use of the terminology "Junior Olympics." The AAU does not grant the right to any subordinates, any affiliated organization, or any other entity to use the terminology "Junior Olympics" except as specifically authorized in writing by the National AAU.

V. AAU SPOKESPERSON.

A. The President of the AAU shall serve as the primary spokesperson for the organization. If the President is unavailable, then the staff member(s) designated by the President shall become the contact person. Designated staff members will contact the President, or act as the spokesperson if the President is not available.

B. Members of the AAU, including but not limited to coaches and/or volunteers, are not authorized to make statements on behalf of the AAU, or take any action(s) for the AAU, unless expressly and specifically authorized to do so by the President.

VI. TELEVISION/WEB STREAMING RIGHTS FOR NATIONAL EVENTS.

A. Rights. The television/web streaming rights for coverage of any AAU National Championship event or event approved by the National Sport Committee shall be owned solely and retained by the National AAU. Except for permitting live news coverage, no media agreements may be entered into or executed by any District, Sport Committee, Host Organization or local entity for any national event or event authorized by the National Sport Committee.

B. Guidelines for Allocation of Proceeds. In considering a contract for television coverage of a single sport national championship event, the net proceeds shall be allocated under guidelines developed by the National Officers and approved by the Board of Directors. Proceeds from national multi-sport events shall be fully retained by the National AAU.

1. All income shall be received by the National AAU for distribution as established herein. All agreements determining the amount of income to be derived from television and/or web streaming shall be contracted with National AAU and executed by the President and by the Secretary.
2. The gross proceeds, less all set-up, production and distribution costs incurred as a result of or in connection with the television shall be divided as follows:

   a. 45% shall be distributed between the national sports committee and the host club as determined by the national sport committee.
   b. 45% shall be retained by the AAU.
   c. 10% shall be distributed to the appropriate District.

VII. WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA.

A. Website Content. Information on AAU websites shall be limited to AAU business, programs and operations. Any AAU website that contains material content that is not about the AAU shall be in violation of this policy. If a District website is found to be in violation, staff shall notify the District of the violation. If the website is not corrected immediately the District is in violation of the Code and subject to disciplinary action.

1. **Website Control.** All websites controlled by the National Sport Committees, Districts and District Sport Committees must provide to the AAU Information Systems Department, the user name and passwords for access to the domain name and ftp hosting site. Any website found to have inappropriate material, logos, or content of any kind may be modified or shut down by the AAU Information Systems Department. The AAU shall have the discretion in determining whether the website content is appropriate.

2. **Club Information on Websites.** All club directories published on a website must be approved by the AAU National Office.

3. **Website Domain Name.** The AAU of the U.S., Inc. shall own all domain names created and used by the AAU, its Districts, the National Sport Committees and District Sport Committees. This means that the registration shall show the AAU as the registrant and administrator of the website and that the control and management of the website belongs to the AAU. The AAU has the right but not the duty to grant access back to the District, the National or District Sport Committee to manage the website.

B. Social Media.

1. National Sport Committee social media sites may be created by the National AAU. Upon appropriate approval, National Sport Committee designees may be eligible to update social media.

2. Districts and District Sport Committees may establish social media sites. The District or District Sport Committee must designate an individual to monitor the site for content. The AAU may require the District and/or District Sport Committee to remove content.

VIII. DEFENSE POLICY. It is the policy of the AAU to defend the National and District Officers, members and volunteers, or other appropriate persons from civil actions arising from their authorized activity on behalf of the AAU. This Defense Policy is conditional in the following particulars:

A. The entity seeking the defense must have complied with the provisions of the AAU Code while engaged in the activity.

B. The AAU will not defend any matter relative to drug testing. No license will be granted for an event that involves drug testing unless the National Sport Committee has first acquired, at its own expense, a liability insurance policy which designates the AAU as an insured, and which has been accepted by the Board of Directors in the exercise of its sole discretion.

C. The AAU may provide a defense under a "reservation of rights" in which the defense is conditioned upon the continued compliance with the AAU Code, and cooperation with the Officers, and Counsel of the AAU.

D. If any of the conditions of this Policy are not met, the AAU can deny or terminate the defense, and is entitled to recover any expenses incurred from making the defense.

E. If the AAU provides a defense for any person or entity (through its insurance carrier or otherwise), the National AAU shall have the absolute right in its sole discretion to conduct and/or direct the defense of the matter as it sees fit, including but not limited to the right to settle the case. The person or entity being defended herein grants to the AAU a limited power of attorney to execute any documents (as) necessary to carry out the content and intent of this policy. [Added 10/08]

IX. MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

A. In the event of emergency or catastrophic situations, the President of the AAU shall serve as the primary spokesperson for the organization. If the President is not available, then the person or persons designated by the President shall become the contact person and the designated person will communicate with the President, and act as spokesperson if the President is unable to do so.

B. In the event of an emergency, the following steps shall be followed:

1. Notify the President of the AAU or the President's designee if the President cannot be reached. The spokesperson will then notify all appropriate parties.

2. Coaches, officials, or other volunteers at all levels, are not to comment on the matter until advised by the national spokesperson.

3. In the event of an injury do not comment or speculate as to injury severity.

4. Refer all media inquiries and questions to the AAU spokesperson.

5. Refer all investigative questions to the AAU spokesperson. This includes questions concerning insurance, claims, etc.

6. Any written statement must be reviewed by AAU Counsel prior to release. The statement should be factual, contain no speculation, and be approved by the AAU spokesperson.

7. The following procedures should be used when investigating an accident or incident:
- **a.** Evidence should be preserved (i.e. faulty equipment, etc.) if possible
- **b.** Identify all witnesses. Obtain name, address and phone numbers.
- **c.** An accident description in the injured person's own words is extremely helpful.
- **d.** If an athlete is involved in a serious injury, his/her parents or legal guardian should be notified immediately. Sympathy and concern are important during any family contact.
- **e.** Notify the National AAU within 24 hours of any incident regardless of liability or severity. The spokesperson will notify the insurance carrier.

X. PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTRICT OFFICERS, DISTRICT SPORT DIRECTORS, OTHER DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE NATIONAL SPORT CHAIRS.

A. Credentialing at the AAU Convention meetings.

1. The Nomination and Elections Committee or their designee shall supervise all AAU elections including the credentialing process at the National Convention.

B. National Officers.

1. Qualifications. Nominees must be a member of Congress.

2. Nominations.

a. Only Governors, Districts and National Sport Chairs may nominate candidates for National Office. Nominations by the District must be reflected in the District's Board of Managers Biennial Meeting minutes.

b. Candidates may be nominated for not more than two offices. The application for office shall include disclosure of all offices for which the candidate is being nominated.

c. The National Secretary shall send notice and an application for office form to the Governors, Districts and National Sport Chairs by April 1st, the year before each election.

d. The deadline for nominations is August 15th prior to the meeting of Congress. The nominating party must submit the application along with a written acceptance by the nominee and a brief biography stating the nominee's qualifications for the office.

3. **Candidate Verification and Announcement of Candidates.** The Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee shall verify who is eligible to run for office. Any disputes about eligibility shall be decided by the National Board of Review. The National Secretary shall forward the names of the nominees and their biographies to all delegates to Congress on or before September 10th.

4. **Use of the AAU Database during Campaign and Campaign Materials.**

a. Except as set out below, the current officeholder (incumbent) shall not make use of any AAU mail list, database information, etc., for the purposes of running or campaigning for office.

b. Candidates who wish to distribute campaign information to current members of Congress may request assistance through the AAU Compliance Department. The Compliance Department will facilitate a maximum of three (3) electronic mail blasts (eblasts). To use the eblast system, the candidate shall electronically submit a copy of the material he/she wishes to distribute in a form established by the AAU Information Technology (IT) Department. The Compliance Department shall forward the material to the Nominations and Elections Chair who shall review the material submitted. The Nominations and Elections Committee has sole discretion to approve, or disapprove the content. Content may not include personal attacks against any other candidate or other derogatory comments or language. The Compliance Department is not responsible for spelling and/or grammatical content. The eblast process may take up to 10 working days to prepare and send. If this service for the candidate becomes controversial or contentious, the Nominations and Elections Chair has the sole right to not process the request. The decisions throughout the process are unappealable. The Nominations and Elections Chair is not required to keep a case file as to why the service was not provided. Candidates will be notified that the content was not approved and may correct and re-submit the content.

c. Materials (flyers, brochures, apparel, election novelty items, etc.) to be used for campaign purposes during the AAU Convention must be forwarded for approval to the AAU Compliance Department. The Compliance Department shall forward the material(s) to the Nominations and Elections Committee to review the material submitted and has sole discretion to approve, or disapprove the content. Content may not include personal attacks against any other candidate or other derogatory comments or language. Neither the Compliance Department nor the Nominations and Elections Committee is responsible for spelling and/or grammatical content. The decisions of the Nominations and Elections Committee throughout the process are unappealable.

The Nominations and Elections Chair is not required to keep a case file as to why the material was not approved. Candidates will be notified that the material was not approved and may re-submit revised materials.

5. **Elections.** Elections will be conducted under the supervision of the Nominations and Elections Committee. Electronic voting or written ballots may be used to conduct the election. If there is only one candidate for office, the vote for that office may be taken by a voice vote.

   a. Delegates must be seated in the designated area in order to vote.
   b. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a run-off will be held until a candidate receives a majority of votes. In the run-off election, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped.
   c. Election results will be sealed and stored at National Headquarters for a period of one year after elections.

6. **Election Procedures.** On Election Day the candidate(s) for office will be allowed a maximum of five (5) minutes to speak. Order of speeches for each office will be determined by draw.

C. District Officers.

1. **Qualifications.** Nominees must be a member of the Board of Managers.

2. **Nominations.**

   a. Only current Club Representatives, Officers, and District Sport Directors may nominate candidates for District Office.
   b. Candidates may be nominated for more than one office. The application for office shall include disclosure of all offices for which the candidate is being nominated.
   c. In the event that no eligible nomination has been submitted for a particular office of the District, the current office holder shall continue in office until the next Biennial Meeting, or until a Special Meeting is called to elect the successor. If the current office holder chooses not to continue in office, then there is a vacancy. The vacancy will be filled as prescribed in the Constitution with an appointment made by the District Executive Committee until the next Board of Managers meeting where an election will be held to fill the balance of the unexpired term. [Added 10/06]

3. **Nominee Verification.**

   a. The District Nominations and Elections Chair and the District Secretary shall jointly verify who is eligible to run for office. If the Chair and the Secretary do not agree, a ruling will be made by the AAU National Nominations and Elections Committee.
   b. For the Biennial Board of Managers meeting, the Nominations and Elections Committee shall compile the list of candidates for office and have copies of the biography and nomination form for each candidate for office available for all members of the Board of Managers.

c. The names of all persons disqualified from being a candidate must be reported to the National Nominations and Election Committee with a statement of the basis for disqualification.

d. The National Nominations and Elections Committee may designate a district representative to help supervise the electoral process.

4. **Use of the AAU Database during Campaign and Campaign Materials.**

a. The current officeholder (incumbent) shall not make use of any AAU mail list, database information, etc., for the purposes of running or campaigning for office.

b. Candidates who wish to distribute campaign information to current members of the Board of Managers may request assistance through the AAU National Office. The Compliance Department will facilitate a maximum of one electronic mail blast (eblast). To use the eblast system, the candidate shall electronically submit a copy of the material he/she wishes to distribute in a form established by the IT Department. The District Nominations and Elections Committee Chair shall review the material submitted and has sole discretion to approve, or disapprove the content. Content may not include any personal attacks or other derogatory comments or language. Neither the Compliance Department nor the District Nominations and Elections Committee is responsible for spelling and/or grammatical content. The eblast process may take up to 10 working days to prepare and send. If this service for the candidate becomes controversial or contentious, the majority of the District Nominations and Elections committee has the sole right to not process the request. The decisions throughout the process are unappealable. The District Nominations and Elections Committee is not required to keep a case file as to why the service was not provided. Candidates will be notified that the content was not approved and may correct and re-submit the content.

5. **Election Procedures.**

a. On Election Day each candidate for office will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. Order of speeches for each office will be determined by draw. If there is only one candidate for office, the vote for that office may be taken by voice vote.

b. Order of elections is Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar. If the District has authorized additional officers, the order of election for the additional officers shall be as the District determines.

c. Elections will be conducted by written ballot under the supervision of the District Nominations and Elections Committee. If there is only one candidate for office, the vote for that office may be taken by a voice vote.

d. The District Nominations and Elections Committee shall determine the procedure for distribution of ballots.

e. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a run-off ballot will be held until a candidate receives a majority of votes. In the run-off election, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot.

f. For a run-off during the election, the announcement of the run-off candidates and the ballots will be given out simultaneously. There will be a different color ballot for the run-off election.

g. All ballots will be sealed and stored with the District Secretary, or at a place that the District Secretary designates for a period of one year after the election(s).

2. **District Biennial Meeting Notice.**

On or before February 10th of each year during which a District Biennial Meeting is required by the Constitution, the District Governor, with the approval of the Secretary, shall provide written notification to the National Compliance department of the date, time, and address of the meeting. The Compliance department at the AAU National Office shall forward a notice of the Biennial Meeting to each current Club Representative, current Officer, and District Sport Director. In non-election years, notices shall be sent no less than thirty (30) nor more than sixty (60) days before the District Biennial Meeting in April, May, or June. In election years, the notice shall be sent sixty (60) days prior to the District Biennial Meeting in April, May, or June. That notice shall be sent sixty (60) days prior to the District Biennial Meeting in April, May, or June. That notice shall include a notice of election and a "nomination for Office" form. The deadline for receiving nominations is thirty (30) days prior to the District's Biennial Board of Managers meeting. The nominating party must submit the application along with a written acceptance by the nominee and a brief biography stating the nominee's qualifications for the office. The nominating party shall indicate its category of membership on the District Board of Managers. All nominations which do not include the required information shall be considered incomplete and the candidate will not be eligible to run for office. Nominations shall be submitted to the National Compliance Department, and a copy to the District Nominations and Elections Committee Chair and the District Secretary.

D. District Sport Directors.

1. **Qualifications.** Nominees must be a current member of the District Sport Committee.

2. **Nominations.**

a. Only current Club Representatives and the current District Sport Director may nominate a candidate for the District Sport Director.

b. Sixty (60) days before the date of the Biennial Sport Committee meeting, if there are 5 clubs registered in the sport, the District Secretary shall send notice of the upcoming election, and a "Nomination for Office" form to the Club Representatives of the District Sport Committee and the current District Sport Director. If there are not 5 clubs registered with the sport in the District, the Governor shall appoint the Chair.

c. The deadline for receiving nominations is as of thirty (30) days prior to the date of the District's Sport Committee's Biennial meeting. The nominating party must submit the application along with a written acceptance by the nominee and a brief biography stating the nominee's qualifications for the office. The nominating party shall list current club and individual membership information on the nominating form. Nominations shall be sent to the District Secretary with a copy to Nominations and Elections Chair and the District Sport Director.

d. In the event that no eligible nomination has been submitted for the position of Sport Director, a vacancy is created. Unless the Sport Committee operating rules specifically provide for a method of filling the vacancy, the Director is appointed by the Governor, with the approval of the National Sport Chair. The position will again

be subject for election at the next Sport Committee Biennial Meeting, and the person elected shall complete the term. If the Governor and the National Sport Chair do not agree on the appointee, the National Officers shall make the decision on the appointee.

3. **Nominee Verification and Announcement of Candidates.** The Nominations and Elections Chair and the District Secretary shall jointly verify who is eligible to run for office. If the Chair and the Secretary do not agree, a ruling will be made by the AAU National Board of Review.

4. **Use of the AAU Database during Campaign.**

   a. The current officeholder (incumbent) shall not make use of any AAU mail list, database information, etc., for the purposes of running or campaigning for office.

   b. Candidates who wish to distribute campaign information to current year member club contacts may request assistance through the AAU National Office. The Compliance Department will facilitate a maximum of one electronic mail blast (eblast). To use the eblast system, the candidate shall electronically submit a copy of the material he/she wishes to distribute in a form established by the IT Department. The District Nominations and Elections Committee shall review the material submitted and has sole discretion to approve, or disapprove the content. Content may not include any personal attacks or other derogatory comments or language. Neither the Compliance Department nor the District Nominations and Elections Committee is responsible for spelling and/or grammatical content. The eblast process may take up to 10 working days to prepare and send. If this service for the candidate becomes controversial or contentious, the District Nominations and Elections Committee has the sole right to not process the request. The decisions throughout the process are unappealable. The Nominations and Elections Chair is not required to keep a case file as to why the service was not provided. Candidates will be notified that the content was not approved and may correct and re-submit the content.

5. **Election Procedures.**

   a. For Election Day, the District Governor, Secretary, or designee shall prepare written ballots (including run-off ballots) for the election of the District Sports Director's office and bring them to the meeting.

   b. On Election Day, if there is no quorum (5 club representatives in attendance), no election is held and the Governor shall appoint the Sport Director. If there is a quorum, the election shall proceed.

   c. The members present on Election Day shall elect by majority vote a "Voting Supervisor" to conduct the election and two other individuals to count the ballots under the supervision of the elected voting supervisor.

   d. Each candidate will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. Order of speeches will be determined by draw held by the Voting Supervisor.

   e. Elections will be conducted by written ballot. If there is only one candidate for office, the vote for that office may be taken by a voice vote. The District Nominations and Elections Committee may assist with the election procedure.

   f. The District Sport Committee operating rules shall determine the procedure for distribution of ballots.

g. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a run-off ballot will be held until a candidate receives a majority of votes. In the run-off election, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot.

h. For a run-off during election, the announcement of run-off candidates and the ballots will be given out simultaneously. There will be a different color ballot for the run-off election.

i. All ballots will be sealed, forwarded and stored with the District Secretary, or at a place that the District Secretary designates for a period of one year after the election.

E. Nomination for National Sport Chairs.

1. The Chair of a National Sport Committee is elected by the National Sport Committee at the AAU Convention in the same year that the National Officers are elected. If no nomination is received for a National Sport Chair or there is a vacancy for any other reason, the National Sport Chair shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the majority of the National Officers. All National Sport Committees shall follow the procedures adopted in this policy for the election of the National Sport Chair. Any Board of Directors action passed during the Board of Directors meeting the week of the Convention that affects the election process would become effective the next election cycle so all the policies for elections are met and all members have had a chance to run for the position of National Sports Chair.

2. **Qualifications.**

   a. Nominees must be both a member of Congress and the same National Sport Committee to be eligible to serve (elected or appointed) as National Sport Chair.
   b. Candidates may be nominated or appointed to serve as National Sport Chair for not more than two sport committees.

3. Nomination Form.

a. Only members of the National Sport Committee and the current National Chair may submit a nomination form for National Sport Committee Chair.

b. The National Secretary shall send notice and a nomination form to members of the National Sport Committee by April 1st, the year before the election is made.

c. The deadline to submit the nomination form is August 15th prior to the start of the National Sport Committee meeting. The nominating party must submit the nomination form along with a written acceptance by the nominee and a brief biography stating the nominee's qualifications for the position.

4. Announcement of Nominees. The National Secretary shall forward the names of the applicants and their biographies to all members of the National Sport Committee on or before September 10th.

5. Voting. The vote for National Sport Chair election shall be conducted by electronic voting or written ballot under the supervision of the Nominations and Elections Committee. If there is only one applicant for National Sport Chair, the vote may be taken by a voice vote.

6. Voting Procedures. The following procedures shall be adhered to:

a. Speeches. On the day of the vote, the candidates for National Sport Chair will be allowed a maximum of three minutes to speak. Order of speeches will be determined by draw.
b. Delegates eligible to vote must be seated in the designated area in order to vote.
c. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, a run-off will be held until a candidate receives a majority of votes. In the run-off election, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot.
d. All ballots will be sealed and stored at National Headquarters for a period of one year after the vote.

F. Zone Representative to Board of Directors

1. Qualifications. Nominee must be a member of Congress. To be eligible to serve as Zone Representative, the nominee must be a resident of the same zone.

2. Nominations.

a. Only Districts, District Governors and National Sport Chairs may nominate Zone Representatives. Districts and District Governors may only Nominate Zone Representatives from their same Zone. Nominations by the District must be reflected in the District's Board of Managers Biennial Meeting minutes.
b. The National Secretary shall send notice and a nomination form to Districts and Governors by April 1st, prior to the meeting of Congress.
c. The deadline for nominations is August 15th prior to the meeting of Congress. The nominating party must submit the nomination form along with a written acceptance by the nominee and a brief biography stating the nominee's qualifications for the office.

3. Candidate Verification and Announcement of Candidates. The majority of the Nominations and Elections Committee shall verify who is eligible to run for office. Any disputes about eligibility shall be decided by the National Nominations and Elections Chair. If the decision is challenged, it shall be decided by the National Board of Review. The National Secretary shall forward the names of the nominees and their biographies to all Governors and Districts within each Zone on or before September 10th. The Compliance Department will send one email to the applicable Zone Governors for candidates running to represent the Zones.

4. Elections.

a. Elections will be conducted under the supervision of the Nominations and Elections Committee. If there is only one candidate for office, the vote for that office may be taken by a voice vote.
b. Eligible delegates will vote for Zone Representatives within their same Zone.
c. Delegates must have a vote in Congress to be eligible to vote for a Zone Representative.

5. Voting Procedures. The following procedures shall be adhered to:

a. Speeches. On the day of the vote, the candidates for Zone Representatives will be allowed a maximum of three minutes to speak. Order of speeches will be determined by draw.
b. Delegates eligible to vote must be seated in the designated area in order to vote.
c. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a run-off will be held until a candidate receives a majority of votes. In the run-off election, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped.
d. Election results will be sealed and stored at the National Headquarters for a period of one year after elections.

G. District Governors' Council Chair and Vice-Chair

1. Qualifications.

a. Member of District Governors' Council

2. Nominations.

a. Only District Governors or District Board of Managers may nominate candidates for the District Governors' Council Chair. (A nomination by a Board of Managers must be shown in the District's Board of Managers Biennial Meeting minutes.) Candidates for the Chair position who are not elected are automatically nominated for Vice-Chair.
b. The National Secretary shall send notice and a nomination form to Districts and Governors by April 1st, prior to the meeting of Congress.
c. The deadline for nominations is August 15th prior to the meeting of Congress. The nominating party must submit the nomination form along with a written acceptance by the nominee and a brief biography stating the nominee's qualifications for the office.

3. Candidate Verification and Announcement of Candidates. The Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee shall verify who is eligible to run for office. Any disputes about eligibility shall be decided by the National Nominations and Elections Committee. If the decision is challenged, it shall be decided by the National Board of Review. The National Secretary shall forward the names of the nominees and their biographies to all Governors and Districts on or before September 10th.

4. Elections.

a. Elections will be conducted under the supervision of the Nominations and Elections Committee. If there is only one candidate for office, the vote for that office may be taken by a voice vote.

5. Voting Procedures. The following procedures shall be adhered to:

a. **Speeches.** On the day of the vote, the candidates for District Governors Council Representatives will be allowed a maximum of three minutes to speak. Order of speeches will be determined by draw.
b. Delegates eligible to vote must be seated in the designated area in order to vote.

c. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a run-off will be held until a candidate receives a majority of votes. In the run-off election, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped.
d. Election results will be sealed and stored at the National Headquarters for a period of one year after elections.

XI. BUSINESS PRACTICES.

A. The following business practices are required of the indicated entities.

1. The AAU shall have club membership programs with differing benefits;
2. AAU District members and Level 3 club members may be either non-profit corporations, or unincorporated non-profit entities that are subordinates of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc. and operate under the umbrella of the AAU 501(c)3 status; (this policy will be removed effective 9/1/24 and be placed in the limitation portion of the new club structure)
3. Each District must have its own EIN (Employer Identification Number);
4. The District Charter application, District charter fee, Website keys, District request and consent form, District location of assets report and directory report are due on August 1st annually.
5. All AAU Districts shall submit copies of (all of) their (IRS) 990 filings to the National AAU within ten (10) days of such filing(s); all such filing(s) shall be timely. If copies of applicable Form 8868 or Form 990 are not received by the National Office by January 15th each year, district payments will be forfeited until the district comes into compliance.
6. AAU District Sports Committee(s) operating a bank account must have its own EIN, if it is not using the District EIN;
7. Any funds paid to the District from the National AAU shall be used for the purpose of promoting and developing the AAU, enhancing AAU programs and administration of District operations. Any other purpose must be approved by the President and the majority of the officers. At a minimum, the AAU National Office shall retain fifty cents (.50) for each athlete registration in each District. These funds must be made available to the District Sport Committee/Director of the sport in which the registration was credited. The funds shall be used to develop/promote the sport in the District. The District Sport Directors shall request reimbursement or payment, via email, from the District National Office. For reimbursement, the receipts and reimbursement requests must be submitted no later than 60 days after the event or the request may be denied. Districts shall be liable for funds already received from the AAU National Office for their respective sports; (this policy will become effective 9/1/24)
8. No AAU District or Sport Committee shall own or lease a vehicle;
9. All District(s), District Sport Committee(s), and National Sport Committee(s) desiring to be recognized as a 501(c)3 under the AAU of the US' group exemption must annually file the required request and consent form;
10. Any AAU District Sports Committee(s) operating a bank account under the District's EIN must file a finance report to the District;
11. No District(s), District Sport Committee(s), National Sport Committee(s) will participate/operate charitable gaming without the express written consent of Board of Directors;

12. Any National AAU Sports Committee operating a National Championship event or any other event in the name of the committee and operating a bank account must have its own EIN;
13. No organization shall use the EIN number of the Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S. Inc.;
14. All subordinates/affiliated organizations must file a Form 990 with the IRS annually to coincide with the National AAU fiscal year (Sept. 1-Aug. 31). All subordinates/affiliate organizations must comply with state/local reporting requirements;
15. All subordinates/affiliated organizations must adhere to the AAU trademark policy; (this policy will be removed effective 9/1/24 and be placed in the limitation portion of the new club structure)
16. Level 3 clubs shall not conduct directly or indirectly any gaming. The term gaming includes: Bingo, Beano, lotteries, pull-tabs, pari-mutual betting, Calcutta wagering, pickle jars, punch boards, tip boards, tip jars, certain video games, casino games, sport betting, etc.; (this policy will be removed effective 9/1/24 and be placed in the limitation portion of the new club structure)
17. District representatives to Congress (delegates) and National Sport Committees representatives to Congress (delegates) must be finalized and submitted to the AAU on-site Office at the Convention no later than 8:00 p.m. the night before Congress meets. After this time no changes may be made.
18. At Board of Directors meetings and meetings held at the AAU National Convention, electronic voting may be used;
19. The President with the approval of the majority of the officers, the National Board of Directors or the National Board of Review may order an audit of any financials;
20. The AAU National Office will audit a minimum of 3 districts per year randomly. This does not change or obligate the AAU to audit any district or person at any time;
21. The AAU National Office will audit a minimum of 10 Club Level 3 programs per year randomly. This does not change or obligate the AAU to audit any district or persons at any time;
22. Expenses must be properly documented and verifiable. Expense reimbursements must be requested on an AAU official expense reimbursement form with attached receipts and submitted to the AAU Finance Department within 60 days of expense or event date unless circumstance dictates longer period;
23. Checks issued by the AAU will expire after 90 days;
24. The AAU may allow the National Officers and staff to develop a pilot program for a single sport membership option for AAU sports. The pilot program shall be evaluated on an annual basis upon which a report will be provided to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may recommend the program to Congress for adoption.
25. To qualify to be elected to congress the delegate must be a member in good standing at the time of the election or selections;
26. Unchartered District funds will be held by the National Office with 50% of these funds used for management of the district. Remaining funds will be given back to the district sports for programming and growth initiatives.

B. Any District(s) or National Sport Committee(s) in violation of this policy shall forfeit voting rights at meetings of Congress.

XII. EVENT LICENSING.

1. **Practice.** For the purpose of AAU event licensing, "practice is organized and/or regularly scheduled sessions supervised at all times by a registered non-athlete member of the AAU and

conducted for the purpose of preparing, training, instructing and conditioning only AAU member athletes for AAU licensed competitions. Tryouts and scrimmages are included as long as they meet all the requirements of the above definition.

2. **Management.** At all licensed AAU practice sessions or competitions, an AAU non-athlete member who is at least 18 years old, shall be physically present at the site at all times. (Non-athlete members must have completed a criminal background check.)

3. **Event License Categories.** Events that are Licensed by the AAU shall be categorized as one of the following :

   1. Practice.
   2. Preliminary
   3. Invitational
   4. League
   5. Demonstration/Clinic
   6. Multi-Sport/Sports Festivals
   7. Tournament Series
   8. District Championships
   9. National AAU Events
   10. National Sport Committee Events

      a. Championship Event
      b. Regional Event
      c. Super-Regional
      d. Grand Prix
      e. League
      f. Clinic/Demonstration
      g. Invitational
      h. International
      i. Other

4. **Event License Regulations.**

   1. An event license may list only ONE (1) event category per license application. Event license applications which list more than one category will be denied.

   2. A club must obtain appropriate membership in any District in which it wishes to license an event or conduct a practice or exhibition/scrimmage.

   3. All District Championship event licenses, when submitted, must include an AAU medal order form or the license may be denied/voided. Official AAU medals shall be awarded at the District Championship. The AAU National Office will provide new lanyards for any excess medals at no cost or re-purchase medals up to 15% of the original order. Athletics Championships events may use the Sports for All Forever medals at their District Qualifiers.

5. **National Championship Event Licenses**. The host organization awarded a National Championship event by the AAU must obtain the license for that event as of September 1st of the fiscal year the event is to be held. (The AAU fiscal year is September 1st through August

31st.) Exception: The National Sport Committee may choose to serve as the Host and license the event through its own Administrative club.

XIII. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

A. The AAU authorizes National Sport Committees to participate in international events in the U.S. and abroad subject to the following:

1. National teams may represent the AAU at events outside the United States.

2. AAU National Sport Committees may host international events.

B. International competition must receive prior approval from the National Registration Executive Committee.

XIV. SPORT COMMITTEES.

A. Sport Status. To qualify to have a National Sport Committee within the AAU, a sport shall have registered a minimum of 500 athletes during the previous membership year and have activity in four (4) or more chartered Districts. Sports which have not met these criteria are ineligible to conduct a National Championship event except as a part of the AAU Junior Olympic Games or other existing National Championship.

B. Procedure for Approval of New Sport Activity.

1. The organization or group representing the sport which wishes to be part of the AAU forwards a proposal to the President of the AAU, as well as to the Chair of the AAU Sport Council. The proposal should contain the following:

a. Express a desire for the AAU to offer the sport.
b. Provide the general rules of the sport. State whether the sport utilizes NGB rules or other nationally known organization rules.
c. Specify the age groups, divisions (youth, adult, senior, masters), age determining dates and other primary eligibility rules.
d. List of key personnel who should be involved in setting up the sport.
e. Current participation numbers and estimate of number of registrations anticipated (individual athletes, clubs, etc.). Projection of schedule of events should be provided as well. The minimum number of registered athletes for acceptance is an overall total of 500 members registered in the sport from at a minimum of 4 Districts. Sports that have not met this requirement may petition to the National Officers with a specific plan to reach requirements.

2. The AAU President or ranking official will present the proposal to the Sports Council, as well as the Insurance Committee for acceptance. If approved by the Council, the sport may receive probationary status for up to three years. Upon the completion of the probationary period, an evaluation should be made as to whether to recommend the sport for National Committee status.

3. The Sport Council makes a motion for Congress to approve the sport. With the approval of Congress, the new sport has National Committee status, which includes voting privileges as provided by the Code.

C. Special Meetings. The National Sport Committee may hold a Special National Sport Committee meeting in odd years subject to the following provisions:

1. The meeting is called by the Chair following approval of the National AAU.
2. The National AAU has the right to coordinate the meeting and pick the site for the meeting.

D. Sport Committee Meeting Order (Agendas). The Regular National Sport Committee meetings, Special National Sport Committee meetings, and National Sport Committee Special meetings shall follow the meeting order (agenda format) as established by Code (Bylaw 9.5).

E. Executive Committees. Each National Sport Committee shall have at all time on file in the AAU Compliance Office, a list of their Executive Committee members which shall designate which positions are elected or appointed.

XV. JUDICIAL PROCEDURES AND RULES

A. Introduction. Article III of the AAU Constitution establishes the structure of the Judiciary of the AAU. The responsibility of the Judiciary is to enforce the provisions of the Code, in a manner that provides fairness to members of the Union. With this purpose, the following procedures and rules are established and are applicable to the Judicial Bodies of the AAU.

B. Procedure during Hearings.

1. In hearings before an Infractions Committee, a Judicial Officer, a District Review Committee or National Board of Review hearings, the presiding officer will establish the order of presentation for the evidence. Usually, the complaining party will first present its case, and the defending party will then present evidence. Each party may be allowed an opportunity to ask questions of the witnesses. Committee members may question witnesses, and may comment on the evidence.

2. A party or witness may be represented by an attorney, or any other person chosen by them for that purpose.

3. The persons conducting the hearing are not required to be attorneys, and the parties are not litigants. Therefore, formal rules of procedure and evidence are not applied. The purpose of a hearing is to provide an opportunity for the presentation of facts in a fair and reasonable manner so that the hearing body can ascertain the truth, and determine appropriate remedies. Decisions will not usually be disturbed on procedural grounds if the above elements of protection are reasonably provided.

C. Infractions Committees and Judicial Officers. The proper administration of a sports event frequently requires an efficient and often quick determination of issues. The operating rules of each Sport Committee (National and/or District) may establish an Infractions Committee

or may permit the appointment of one or more Judicial Officers to consider violations occurring in the sport.

1. **Appointment.** The Judicial Officers or Infractions Committees acquire jurisdiction only if the Sport Committee has adopted a written operating rule establishing the jurisdiction of the Committee/Officers at an Biennial Meeting. The Officer can be the District Sport Director or any other AAU member. The sport rule(s) may provide that the Sport Director may appoint the Committee/Officers.
2. **Jurisdiction/Authority.** The Committee/Officers can conduct an inquiry as to violations (including sport rules, entry requirements and/or operating rules) relating to the sport.

3. **Proceedings.** The Officer (or designated Committee member) may investigate the matter by interviewing witnesses, examining documents, and/or reviewing circumstances. When possible, written statements should be acquired. The person(s) or club being accused shall be notified that a complaint has been made, and the nature of the complaint. The accused shall be given an opportunity to present evidence on its own behalf. A formal/evidentiary hearing is not required, but the Officer should maintain notes and records regarding the inquiry.

4. **Decisions.** Decisions should be in writing, and delivered to the affected parties. District level decisions must advise that appeals can be made to the District Review Committee. National Committee rulings can be appealed to the National Board of Review. Decisions are effective immediately unless a stay is issued by the appropriate appeal entity.

5. Infractions Committees and Judicial Officers in the field must act in a way that ensures the proper management of events, and Committee business. It is impractical to require these volunteers to be bound by a set of formal procedural requirements. However, it is essential to the proper function of the Infractions Committee/Officers that the parties accused receive reasonable notice of the charge, that an opportunity to be heard is provided, and that notice of the right to appeal is conveyed or delivered with the decision rendered. Decisions should not be reversed on procedural grounds if those elements of protection are reasonably provided.

D. District Review Committees

1. **Jurisdiction.** A matter can come before a District Review Committee by either a complaint, appeal, or upon the exercise of original jurisdiction.

   a. **Complaints.** Any person or club can file a complaint with the Review Committee. The Chair of the Committee shall review complaints to determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation has occurred and that there are some facts to support the allegation. If such finding is made, the Chair shall schedule the matter for a hearing by the Committee. If no reasonable cause is found the complaint may be dismissed. If the Chair does not find reasonable cause, the case will be considered anyway, upon the request of at least three (3) Review Committee members.

   b. **Appeals.**
      1. Any decision by a District Infractions Committee or Officer may be appealed to the District Review Committee.

2. Appeals must be in writing, received not more than 20 days after the decision is issued, and shall be delivered with an appeal fee of $100.00.
3. The notice of appeal shall be delivered to the District Secretary who will notify the Review Committee Chair of the appeal, and forward the appeal fee to the District Treasurer.

c. **Original Jurisdiction.** The Review Committee may exercise original jurisdiction to initiate a case when it finds reasonable cause to believe that a violation has occurred.

2. **Hearings.** The Review Committee Chair shall schedule hearings and notify the Committee members and parties to the case. Hearings shall be scheduled not more than 45 days from: a) the date that Notice of Appeal was received by the District Secretary, or b) from the date that reasonable cause is found on a complaint.

3. **Evidence.** The Chair shall preside at hearings, and shall rule on questions of evidence. The Chair may permit the introduction of any matter that is relevant to the facts of the case or the appropriateness of penalties. Evidence can be written or oral. Hearsay may be permitted. The Chair may make preliminary orders setting deadlines for submitting documents, witness lists or other appropriate parameters or limits to the evidence.

4. **Decisions.** Decisions must be in writing, and distributed to all affected parties within 20 days of the conclusion of the hearing. The Decision shall contain notice of the right to appeal to the National Board of Review. Any such notice shall be sent to the National Board of Review, c/o AAU, P. O. Box 22409, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830. Decisions are effective immediately unless a stay is issued by the National Board of Review.

E. **National Board of Review.** Matters are presented to the National Board of Review by appeal, upon the exercise of jurisdiction as established by Code, or by complaints filed directly with the Board.

1. **Complaints.** A complaint is a statement in writing that alleges a violation of the AAU Code or AAU sport operating rule. Complaints received by the National Board of Review may be dismissed for lack of reasonable cause, referred to any other judicial body for action, or assigned to one or more hearing officers. The Chair, or persons delegated by the Chair may investigate facts of any matter before setting a hearing or referring the case.

2. **Appeals.**

a. **Filing Requirements.** Appeals to the National Board of Review must be in writing and must be submitted within 30 days of the date of the Decision being appealed. An appeal fee of $250.00 (cashier's check or money order only) must be submitted with the appeal. The notice of appeal shall be delivered to and received by the National Office of the AAU within the appropriate time. The appeal fee will be refunded at the Chair's discretion.
b. Appeals can be dismissed for lack of reasonable cause, referred to one or more hearing officers, or scheduled for hearing before the Board. In each case the Chair may issue evidentiary orders and set deadlines appropriate to the case.

3. **Original Jurisdiction.** The National Board of Review may act on its own initiative to exercise jurisdiction over any matter or controversy arising within the AAU except the

acts of Congress. If the National Board of Review asserts jurisdiction, the matter is removed from the jurisdiction of any other judicial body.

4. **Hearing.** The Chair may schedule hearings, establish deadlines for submitting evidence, set parameters and limitations of evidence as appropriate.

5. **Evidence.** The presiding officer will rule on all evidentiary and procedural matters to allow the parties a fair opportunity to present relevant information to support their position. The presiding officer may permit only evidence relevant to the facts of the case or the appropriateness of penalties.

6. **Reinstatement**.
   a. Petitions to reinstate pursuant to Article III Section C.4 of the Constitution must be in writing and shall include all material which petitioner wishes to present for consideration.
   b. Petitions must be accompanied by a payment of $250.
   c. The Board of Review may choose to schedule a hearing or can render a decision upon the evidence in the file.
   d. After a decision is rendered, petitioner may not refile a petition for a period of three (3) years, unless the National Board of Review Chair finds special circumstances exist to permit an earlier petition.

7. **Decisions.** Decisions will be in writing and will be distributed as directed by the Chair. The Decision shall contain notice of the right of AAU members to appeal to the National Board of Appeals, c/o AAU, P. O. Box 22409, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830. Decisions are effective immediately unless a stay is issued by the National Board of Appeals.

F. Board of Appeals.

1. **Jurisdiction.** The Board of Appeals only considers appeals from Board of Review decisions.

2. **Notice of Appeal.** Appeals must be in writing, must recite the grounds for appeal as set out in the AAU Code, must be filed within 30 days of the decision date, must be accompanied by an appeal fee of $500.00 (cashier's check or money order only), and must be submitted to the National Office of the AAU.

3. The Board of Appeals will usually decide the appeal upon a review of the records. However, the Board may choose to seek additional information, schedule a hearing, interview witnesses, or take any other measures deemed helpful in arriving at a decision.

4. Decisions will be in writing, and will be distributed at the discretion of the Chair. Appeal fees may be refunded at the Chair's discretion.

5. The standard of review will be whether there is substantial evidence to support the decision of the Board of Review.

G. Interpretation and Application of the Code. The Chair of the National Board of Review may issue directives, interpretations, advisories, and orders to the judicial bodies or officers to assist in the proper application of the AAU Code.

XVI. RE-DISTRICTING PROCEDURES.

A. Any change in District territory requires an amendment to AAU Bylaws in accordance with Article I of the AAU Constitution.

B. Districts wishing to change their geographic boundaries must submit a request for Bylaw change to the National Headquarters to the attention of the National Secretary at least sixty (60) days before the Biennial Meeting of Congress. The request shall include :

1. The territory that the District wishes to annex or discard.

2. Any existing District which this annexation or discordance may impact.

3. Rationale for the request.

C. Upon receipt of a proposed change, the National Office shall notify the Chair of the Re-Districting Committee and the Governor of any District impacted by the proposal. Impacted Districts may respond in writing to the Chair of the Re-Districting Committee with a statement of their support or opposition to the proposal.

D. The Re-Districting Committee deliberates the proposal and presents its recommendation to the Legislation Committee. As part of its deliberations the Re-Districting Committee may request a representative of all involved parties to appear before them.

E. A District, after attempting to annex territory which is assigned to another chartered District, whose proposal fails, may not make a similar proposal for re-districting for at least four (4) years.

XVII. DISTRICT MANAGEMENT.

A. Credentialing Eligible Voters at District Board of Managers and Sport Committee meetings:

1. Reports from the AAU database are not disputable.

2. The District Registrar and Secretary must validate club designation forms changing the club representative.

B. District Filing of Minutes. District minutes shall be submitted electronically using email. This applies to Board of Managers, Executive Committee and Sport Committee minutes.

XVIII. EVENT POLICIES.

A. Schedule Changes. Participants in AAU events acknowledge that the dates and/or times (schedule for events) may change.

B. Age Group/Skill Levels/Weight Classes and other as Defined by the Event Flyer/Sport Committee Rules. Participants in AAU events acknowledge that events may be subject to change.

C. The AAU or event operators may take action in the event of fighting, threats, abuse (physical and verbal) and disruptive behavior. Anyone involved in such incidents, including but not limited to athletes, non-athletes, parents, spectators, officials, vendors, or other event attendees, at an AAU licensed event may be removed from the event. In addition the athlete(s) or teams associated with the persons involved in the incident may be disqualified from the licensed event. Further, the AAU and/or Event Host reserve(s) the right, in their sole discretion to remove or deny entry of/to any participant, coach, and/or spectator from any Event (site/venue), practice or meeting.

D. Handguns or other weapons are not permitted on the premises of AAU licensed events except for law enforcement officers in the exercise of their duties. Exception: Equipment utilized in competition.

E. Medical Emergency. In the event of a medical emergency and in the event there is not a parent, guardian, or authorized person available, the event operator may (but is not required to) grant permission for emergency treatment/hospitalization if believed necessary.

F. National Championship Event Hosts. From the time a host organization submits a bid for a National Championship event, through the time the event is held, the host organization must maintain a club membership in the appropriate category for the entire year (365 days or 366 days in a leap year). If Host does not comply, the event may be removed.

G. District Qualifier Medals. AAU medals shall be used at any licensed district qualifying event. Medals must be purchased through the AAU medal program or the license shall be denied/voided. District Athletics Championships events may use the Sports for All Forever medals at their District Qualifiers.

H. Championship Contracts. Licensed national, regional, and zonal championships are the property of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc. The license to conduct these championships is granted by the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc. Only the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc., has the authority to contract to conduct licensed championships.

The Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc., will not award a championship license without a contract. The Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc., does not have any legal or financial obligation relating to any national, regional, and zonal championships without a contract.

XIX. Whistleblower Policy

This whistleblower policy is intended to encourage and enable directors, officers, employees and volunteers to report any action or suspected action taken by or within the AAU that is illegal, fraudulent or in violation of the AAU's policies.

A. **No Retaliation:** There shall be no retaliation against any director, officer, employee or volunteer as a result of such person who, in good faith, provides a report under this Policy.

B. **Reporting Procedure**: Reports should be submitted in writing to the Director of Compliance, who serves as the organization's compliance officer.

C. **Compliance Officer**: The AAU's Director of Compliance is responsible for ensuring that all written reports under this Policy are provided to the AAU's Audit Committee or AAU's Board of Directors.

D. **Confidentiality**: Reports under this Policy may be submitted on a confidential basis by marking the written report "Confidential". Such reports will be kept confidential to the extent possible.

E. **Handling of Reported Violations:** The AAU's Compliance Director will acknowledge receipt of the report to the person who submitted the report.

F. **Distribution:** This policy shall be distributed to all directors, officers, employees and volunteers who provide substantial services to the AAU.

XX. Document Retention Policy

It is and shall be the policy of the AAU and its subordinates that in regard to all documents, including but not limited to: hard copy, facsimile, and/or electronic media (or any other type of documentation, whether currently in existence or not) that all such documents, if related (or could reasonably be determined at the time of potential deletion/destruction to be related) to actual or potential litigation, shall be retained (i.e., not shredded, deleted, nor otherwise destroyed) during the pendency of any such litigation or during the statute of limitations for any such potential litigation. Litigation for the purposes of this Policy shall include both civil and/or criminal matters, whether federal or state.

Any and all documents not related to litigation shall be kept for at least the statutory required time or the time, if any, as set by the AAU Audit Committee, whichever is longer.

The National AAU may require such records/documents be forwarded for storage to the AAU National Office at its sole discretion.

XXI. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy

A. **Purpose**: This conflict of interest policy is intended to assure that the directors, officers, and key employees of the AAU act in the AAU's best interest and comply with applicable legal requirements including but not limited to, the requirements set forth in Section 715 of the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.

B. **Conflict of Interest Defined:** For purposes of this policy, a "conflict of interest" means, and will be deemed to exist in the following circumstances:

1. Outside Interests. Any transaction, agreement or any other arrangement between the AAU or any affiliate of the AAU in which a Related Party has a financial interest.

2. Gifts, Gratuities and Entertainment. A related Party accepts gifts, entertainment or other favors from any individual or entity that (i) does or is seeking to do business with the AAU or (ii) under circumstances where it might be inferred that such action was intended to influence or possibly would influence the Related Party in performance of his or her duties. This does not preclude the acceptance of items or entertainment of nominal or insignificant value that are not related to any particular transaction or activity of the AAU.

3. Defined Terms. The following terms have the following meanings when used in the Policy:

a. "Key Employee" means any person who is in a position to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of the AAU, as referenced in 26 U.S.C. Section 4958 (f)(1)(A) and further in CFR Section 53.4958-3(c), (d) and € or succeeding provisions.

b. ''Related Party" means (i) any director, officer, or key employee of the AAU of any affiliate of the AAU, (ii) any Relative of any director, officer or key employees of the AAU or any affiliate of the AAU and (iii) any entity in which any individual described in clauses (i) or (ii) has a thirty-five percent (35%) or greater ownership or beneficial interest or, in the case of a partnership or a professional corporation, a direct or indirect ownership interest in excess of five percent (5%).

c. "Relative", with respect to an individual, means his or her (i) spouse, ancestors, brothers and sisters (whether whole or half-blood), children (whether natural or adopted), grandchildren, great-grandchildren and spouse of brothers, sister, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren or (ii) domestic partners (as defined in Section 2994-A of the New York Public Health Law).

C. Disclosure Procedures:

1. Prior to a meeting of the Board of Directors or committee of the Board or of the AAU (a "Committee") involved a conflict of interest, a Related Party having a conflict of interest will disclose all the facts material to the conflict of interest to the chairman of the Audit Committee or, if he or she deems appropriate, the chairman of the board. Such disclosure may be made in person, telephonically, in writing (including via email or similar media).

2. Conflict of interest disclosures shall be filed not less than annually by electronic means. See the AAU's website at www.aausports.org in regard to details for filing.

2. The chairman of the Audit Committee of the board, as the case may be, will disclose the conflict of interest at the outset of any deliberations regarding the matter giving rise to a conflict of interest. Such disclosure must be reflected in the minutes of any such meeting at which the matter giving rise to such conflict of interest was discussed or voted on.

D. Recusal:

1. Any Related Party having a conflict of interest may not be present at or participate in the deliberation of such board, Committee or other meeting relating to a matter giving rise to such conflict of interest and prior to such discussions will recuse himself or herself from

such meeting. Further, a Related Party having a conflict of interest may not vote on any matter giving rise to such conflict of interest.

3. A Related Party having a conflict of interest may not attempt to improperly influence the deliberation or voting on a matter giving rise to such conflict of interest.

E. Review of the Policy; Delivery of Conflict of Information Form: (i) Each existing director of the Corporation will promptly, and annually thereafter complete, sign and submit and (ii) prior to his or her beginning to serve as a director, and annually thereafter, each new director will complete, sign and submit to the Secretary of the AAU a written statement identifying to the best of his or her knowledge, any entity or which such director is an officer, director, trustee, member, owner (either as a sole proprietor or a partner), or employee and with which the AAU has a relationship, and any transaction in which the AAU is a participant and in which the director might have a conflict of interest. Each year, the Secretary will provide the chairman of the Audit Committee with a copy of all completed information forms.

XXII. Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy

The AAU Athlete Protection and Youth Prevention Policy is adopted as National Policy. The President shall appoint an ad hoc committee to monitor the Policy to ensure it remains in compliance with federal and state regulations and the AAU Code. The committee may recommend amendments from time to time which become effective upon approval of the President. The Policy shall be set forth in Appendix F.

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. **AAU.** AAU means the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc., the entire national organization. The AAU is a national organization composed of affiliated Districts, authorized to work with sport-oriented groups, in the administration and development of sports at all appropriate levels.

2. **AAU Code.** The AAU Code is the collective reference to the Constitution, Bylaws, National Policies, National Sport Committee rules, and District Sport Committee rules and regulations.

3. **Amateur.** Amateur is one who engages in athletic competition or exhibition solely for the pleasure and physical, mental or social benefits derived therefrom and to whom the sport is an avocation.

4. **Approved Sport.** A sport which meets the requirements as established by policy.

5. **Athlete.** A person who participates in an AAU sports activity as defined by the AAU Sport Committee in regards to eligibility, rules, age, gender, etc.

6. **Attached.** An individual registered athlete becomes attached to an AAU club or team when the athlete participates as a club representative in a competition licensed by a District which includes two or more teams.

7. **Board of Directors.** The body which manages the business of the AAU between meetings of Congress.

8. **Board of Managers.** The governing body of a District.

9. **Charter.** An authorization of Congress to serve as the administrator of AAU programs in a District,

10. **Coach.** A person, who in behalf of a third party, instructs and/or leads one or more athletes. Coaches are chosen by said third party (parties) and not hired, selected, or appointed by the AAU. Coaches are not agents, employees, nor authorized spokespersons of the AAU.

11. **Congress.** The legislative body of the National AAU.

12. **District.** A group of clubs, organizations and individuals in a certain geographic area which has been chartered by Congress as a member of the AAU to provide administrative services for amateur sports and to foster AAU sport programs.
13. **District Executive Committee.** The body which manages the business of the District between meetings of the Board of Managers.

14. **Judicial Bodies.** A collective reference to the Board of Review, Board of Appeals, District Review Committee, and Infractions Committees.

15. **Licensed Event.** The written approval of the AAU to authorize registered athletes to participate in a specific competition or activity.

16. **Membership.** An agreement to participate under the rules, regulations, Code, policies and procedures of the AAU. Membership entitles participation; it does not create agency, or authorize member(s) to be spokesperson(s) on behalf of the AAU.

17. **Non-athlete.** A person who participates in the AAU in an administrative role such as an Administrator, Bench Personnel, Coach, Instructor, Manager, Official, Team Leader, Tournament Director, Volunteer or other who supports the sport's activity but does not compete as an athlete.

18. **Operating Rules.** Policies and procedures regulating the committee structure and conduct of events within the jurisdiction of the entity.

19. **Registrar.** A District officer responsible for the oversight of the District memberships and event licensing.

20. **Registration.** The process of becoming a member of the AAU. An individual is registered when he has completed the appropriate application, has passed the required background check where applicable or has successfully completed the exception process through the Board of Review, and has paid the required fee online or to the District Registrar or other authorized person.

21. **Reinstatement.** The return of all, or limited, rights of membership.

22. **Transfer.** A change in an athlete's attachment, or club affiliation, from one club to another.

23. **Unattached.** An AAU athlete who represents no club member.

24. **Union.** The Amateur Athletic Union of the United States Inc.

25. **Youth Athlete.** Members of the AAU under the age of 21 as determined by the National Sport Committee.

26. **Zone.** A geographical section of the AAU that includes all Districts within that area.

APPENDIX B

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Convention Committee
Gussie Crawford Committee
Life Membership Committee
Sullivan Committee
Volunteer Hall of Fame

APPENDIX C

LIST OF APPROVED SPORTS**

Aquatics (Youth Diving, Swimming, Water Polo)
Badminton
Baseball
Basketball (Boys)
Basketball (Girls)
Basketball (Men)
Basketball (Women)
Baton Twirling
Bowling
Cheerleading
Chess
Chinese Martial Arts/Kung Fu
Cricket
Dance
E-Sports
Fencing
Field Hockey
Fishing (from land-based platform – youth only)
Football (Flag, Tackle, 7-on-7, Football Cheer)
Futsal
Golf
Gymnastics (Gymnastics, Freestyle Gymnastics)
Hockey (Floorball, Ice, Inline & Roller)
Judo
Jump Rope
Karate
Lacrosse
Pickleball
Soccer
Softball
Sport Stacking
Strength Sports (Powerlifting, Weightlifting)
Surfing
Table Tennis
Target Shooting
Taekwondo
Tennis
Track and Field (Cross Country, Multi-Events, Track and Field)
Trampoline and Tumbling
Volleyball
Wrestling

**** Sport may be limited to a specific age or category of competition.**

APPENDIX D

ZONE ALIGNMENT

Zone A: New England, Adirondack, Niagara, Connecticut, Metropolitan, New Jersey, Middle Atlantic, Maryland, Potomac Valley, Western Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Lake Erie

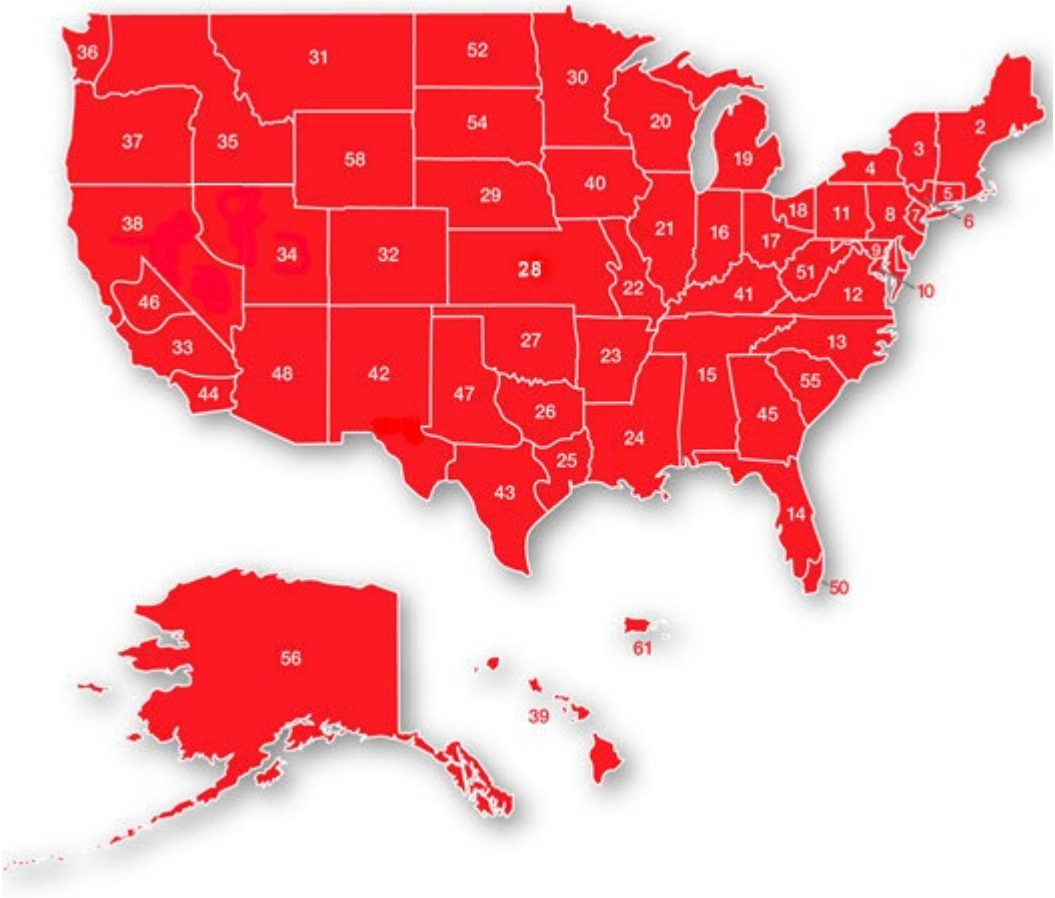
Zone B: North Carolina, Southeastern, Southern, Gulf, Southwestern, Kentucky, South Texas, Georgia, West Texas, Florida, Florida Gold Coast, West Virginia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico

Zone C: Michigan, Wisconsin, Central, Ozark, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri Valley, Nebraska, Montana, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, Indiana

Zone D: Hawaiian, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Inland Empire, Pacific Northwest, Oregon, Alaska, Southern Pacific, Central California, Arizona, Pacific Southwest, Pacific

APPENDIX E

MAP OF DISTRICTS



2 New England
3 Adirondack
4 Niagara
5 Connecticut
6 New York Metropolitan
7 New Jersey
8 Middle Atlantic
9 Maryland
10 Potomac Valley
11 Western Pennsylvania
12 Virginia
13 North Carolina
14 Florida
15 Southeastern
16 Indiana
17 Ohio
18 Lake Erie
19 Michigan
20 Wisconsin
21 Central
22 Ozark
23 Arkansas
24 Southern
25 Gulf
26 Southwestern
27 Oklahoma
28 Missouri Valley
29 Nebraska
30 Minnesota
31 Montana
32 Colorado
33 Southern Pacific
34 Utah
35 Inland Empire
36 Pacific Northwest
37 Oregon
38 Pacific
39 Hawaiian
40 Iowa
41 Kentucky
42 New Mexico
43 South Texas
44 Pacific Southwest
45 Georgia
46 Central California
47 West Texas
48 Arizona
50 Florida Gold Coast
51 West Virginia
52 North Dakota
54 South Dakota
55 South Carolina
56 Alaska
58 Wyoming
61 Puerto Rico

APPENDIX F

Amateur Athletic Union

ATHLETE PROTECTION AND ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

Updated October 12, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Introduction……4

Protecting Youth Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Act of 2017 5

Chapter 1: Screening Adult Non-Athlete Members (Coaches, Event Organizers, Volunteers, Staff) 6

Membership Limitation 7

Membership Applicant Background Screening 7

Affirmative Duty to Disclose.....7

Chapter 2: Athlete Protection Prohibited Conduct 9

Commitment to Safety 10

Overview.....10

Application 10

Prohibited Conduct.....11

Membership Limitations and Criminal Conduct 11

Child Abuse 11

Sexual Abuse.....11

Peer-to-Peer Child Sexual Abuse 11

Misconduct (Emotional and Physical).....11

Emotional Misconduct 12

Physical Misconduct.....12

Sexual Misconduct 13

Bullying 15

Harassment.....15

Hazing.....16

Additional Forms of Misconduct 17

Willfully Tolerating Misconduct 17

Retaliation 17

Intentional False Allegations 17

Violations of Chapter 3: Abuse Prevention Policies for Managing Training and Competition 17

Chapter 3: Abuse Prevention Policies for Managing Training and Competition 18

Education and Training 19

Supervision of Athletes 20

Physical Contact with Athletes 21

Electronic Communications and Social Media Guidelines 22

Locker Rooms and Changing Areas 24

Travel 24

Health Care Workers and Athletic Training 25

Out-of-Program Contact and Gifts 25

Chapter 4: Reporting and Responding to Abuse and Misconduct Violations 26

Reporting Guidelines 27

Reporting Procedures 27

Confidentiality 28

How Reports are Handled 28

Violations 29

Judiciary and Administrative Remedies 29

Appendix 30

Definitions 31

FAQs 33

Sample Guidelines – Locker Rooms and Changing Area 34

Sample Guidelines – Travel.....36

PCA Double-Goal Coach Job Description 41

AAU Athlete Protection Reporting Form 42

AAU ATHLETE PROTECTION AND ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) is committed to improving the development, safety and welfare of athletes and participants involved in sport. There are a lot of reasons to play sport – at any level. As a life-long activity, people often play sport to have fun and spend time with friends. Sport also encourages a healthy lifestyle, builds self-confidence and teaches many other skills.

The safety and welfare of all athletes and participants is paramount to the AAU. In 2012, the AAU published the AAU Youth Protection Policy for the development, implementation and internal review of effective athlete welfare and misconduct prevention strategies for AAU leadership and its members. The policy has been modified as needed.

This policy, now known as the AAU Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy, identifies types of prohibited conduct including child abuse, sexual abuse, emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, bullying, harassment, hazing and additional misconduct. All forms of misconduct are intolerable and in direct conflict with the AAU Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy.

All members are responsible for knowing the information contained in the policy. The policy can change and be updated at any time and is effective immediately.

Protecting Youth Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Act of 2017

The Protecting Youth Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Act of 2017 was signed into law in February 2018. This Act includes the following requirements for all amateur sports organizations that are engaged in interstate or international commerce or activities.

Mandatory Reporting: All adult members interacting with youth athletes are mandatory reporters. Any suspected child and sexual abuse must be reported within **24 hours** to the appropriate law enforcement agency. *Refer to Chapter 4 for additional reporting information*.

Prevention Policies: Establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and adult. *Refer to Chapter 3 for additional prevention policies.*

Prevention Training: Offer and provide consistent training to all adult members who are in regular contact with youth athletes. *Refer to Chapter 3 for additional prevention training information.*

Retaliation: Prohibit retaliation by the applicable organization against any individual who makes a report. *Refer to Chapter 2 for additional information.*

Chapter 1:

Screening Adult Non-Athlete Members

(Coaches, Event Directors, Volunteers and Staff)

CREATING A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 1

SCREENING ADULT NON-ATHLETE MEMBERS (COACHES, EVENT ORGANIZERS, VOLUNTEERS, STAFF)

MEMBERSHIP LIMITATIONS

The AAU has the following National Policy (Membership Limitations H.)

1. All persons who apply to the AAU for an adult or non-athlete membership must give consent to the AAU to conduct a criminal background check.

2. **Sexual Misconduct.** It is the policy of the AAU to deny membership in the AAU to any individual for whom there is reasonable cause to believe that they have engaged in sexual misconduct. For the purposes of this policy, reasonable cause shall exist when:

   a. Criminal or civil charges have been filed against an individual alleging sexual misconduct.
   b. The individual has been convicted of a crime involving sexual misconduct.
   c. Written allegations of sexual misconduct against the individual of reasonable probative value have been submitted to the AAU; or
   d. The individual has been accused of sexual misconduct and the accusations have reasonable probative value.

3. **Criminal Misconduct.**

   a. It is the policy of the AAU to deny membership in the AAU to any individual who has been convicted of a felony, or who has pending felony charges, or who has a substantial criminal history but no felony conviction. For the purposes of this policy, a person has a substantial criminal history when the membership background check yields a negative report using criteria approved by the Compliance Department, and the Chair of the National Board of Review.
   b. Any person denied membership in the AAU pursuant to this policy may seek a review or reconsideration pursuant to the applicable procedures under the AAU Code.

4. **Application for Policy Exception.**

   a. Any person who has been convicted of a felony, or any offense of sexual misconduct or who has been denied membership due to a negative report on the

membership background check may not apply for membership except directly through the National Office Compliance Department. The President of the AAU shall appoint one or more members of the AAU (Reviewer) to determine whether the application should be accepted. The criteria used by the Reviewer are whether the best interests of the AAU are served by accepting the application.

b. Decisions of the Reviewer may be appealed to the National Board of Review; however, appeals do not stay the action of the Reviewer unless an Order for Stay is issued by the Board of Review Chair.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT BACKGROUND SCREENING

AAU adult members interacting with youth (coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff) must consent to, and pass, a formal applicant screening process before becoming a member of the AAU. The comprehensive background screen has been enhanced for the 2024 membership year.

Annual background screening includes the following checks: national Criminal Registry, National Sex Offence Registry, social security number verification and seven county criminal check.

AFFIRMATIVE DUTY TO DISCLOSE

If, during the course of employment or membership in the AAU, an AAU member (coach, event organizer, volunteer, and staff) is accused, arrested, indicted or convicted of a criminal offense against a child, it is the duty and responsibility of the AAU member to notify the AAU National Office.

Chapter 2:

Athlete Protection Prohibited Conduct

CREATING A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 2

ATHLETE PROTECTION PROHIBITED CONDUCT

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

OVERVIEW

In the event that any AAU member (coach, event organizer, volunteer, and staff) observes inappropriate behaviors, suspected physical or sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct, it is the personal responsibility of each person to immediately report (same day) his or her observations to local law enforcement and the AAU National Office.

The AAU is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for athletes' physical, emotional and social development and ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct.

AAU members (coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff) should not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse allegations as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities. Instead, it is the responsibility of each person to immediately report suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse to the local law enforcement authorities and the AAU National Office.

The AAU recognizes that the process for training and motivating athletes will vary with each coach and athlete, but it is nevertheless important for everyone involved in sport to support the use of motivational and training methods that avoid misconduct, whether that misconduct is between adult and athlete, or athlete to athlete.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to:

- AAU non-athlete members (coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff)
- AAU athletes and participants

Coaches, event organizers, volunteers, staff members, athletes and participants shall **refrain from child physical or sexual abuse; bullying, harassment and hazing; and emotional, physical and sexual misconduct.**

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

1. Membership Limitations and Criminal Conduct

Please refer to the Membership Limitation section on page 7 of the Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy or the National Polices Section H of the AAU Code Book.

2. Child Abuse

Child abuse is as defined in Section 203 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. § 20341) or any applicable state law.

3. Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse includes sexual contact with a child that is accomplished by grooming, deception, manipulation, force or threat of force, regardless of the age of the participants, and all sexual interactions between an adult and a child, regardless of whether there is deception, or the child understands the sexual nature of the activity. "Grooming" describes the process whereby a person engages in a series or pattern of behaviors with a goal of engaging in sexual misconduct. Grooming is initiated when a person seeks out a vulnerable minor. Once selected, offenders will then earn the minor's trust, and potentially the trust of the minor's family. After the offender has engaged the minor in sexually inappropriate behavior, the offender seeks to maintain control over him/her. Grooming occurs through direct, in-person and/or online contact. Child sexual abuse involves any sexual activity with a child where consent is not or cannot be given.

Sexually abusive acts may include non-contact sexual acts such as verbal acts, sexually suggestive electronic or written communications, exposure or voyeurism.

Peer-to-Peer Child Sexual Abuse
Sexual contact between minors also can be abusive. Approximately 1/3 of all child sexual abuse occurs at the hands of other children and the obligation to report extends to peer-to-peer child sexual abuse. Whether or not a sexual interaction between children constitutes child sexual abuse turns on the existence of an aggressor, the age difference between the children, and/or whether there is an imbalance of power and/or intellectual capabilities.

4. Misconduct (Emotional and Physical)

Misconduct refers to conduct and behaviors that are considered harmful to the psychological and physical health of athletes and other participants, regardless of age. Forms of misconduct described below – emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, sexual misconduct, bullying, harassment and hazing– are considered misconduct regardless of intent.

A. Emotional Misconduct

(1) A pattern of deliberate, non-contact behavior that has the potential to cause emotional or psychological harm to an athlete. Non-contact behaviors include:
   a. Verbal cts
   b. Physical intimidation
   c. Acts that deny attention or support
   d. Stalking
(2) Any act or conduct described as emotional abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. child abuse, child neglect).

Exception
Emotional misconduct does not include professionally accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, discipline or improving athletic performance.

Examples
Examples of emotional misconduct prohibited by this Guideline include, without limitation:

(1) **Verbal Acts.** A pattern of verbal behaviors that (a) attack an athlete personally (e.g., calling them worthless, fat or disgusting) or (b) repeatedly and excessively yelling at a particular participant or participants in a manner that serves no productive training or motivational purpose.
(2) **Physical Intimidation.** A pattern of physically aggressive behaviors, such as (a) throwing sport equipment, water bottles or chairs at, or in the presence of, participants; or (b) punching walls, windows or other objects.
(3) **Acts that Deny Attention and Support.** A pattern of (a) ignoring an athlete for extended periods of time or (b) routinely or arbitrarily excluding participants from practice.
(4) **Stalking.** An intentional conduct directed at a specific person that caused the person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or to experience substantial emotional distress. This includes cyber stalking by using electronic means including but not limited to internet, social media, texts and other similar forms of contact.

B. Physical Misconduct

(1) Contact or non-contact behaviors that result in, have the potential to, or threaten to cause physical harm to an athlete or other sport participants; or
(2) Any act or conduct described as physical abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. child abuse, child neglect, assault).

Examples
Examples of physical misconduct prohibited by this Guideline include, without limitation:

(1) **Contact offenses**. Behaviors that include: (a) punching, beating, biting, striking, choking or slapping an athlete; (b) intentionally hitting an athlete with objects or sporting equipment; (c) providing alcohol to an athlete under the legal drinking age (under U.S. law); (d) providing illegal drugs or non-prescribed medications to any athlete; (e) encouraging or permitting an athlete to return to play pre-maturely following a serious injury, such as a concussion, and without the clearance of a medical professional; (f) prescribed dieting or other weight-control methods (e.g., weigh-ins, caliper tests) without regard for the nutritional well-being and health of athlete.
(2) **Non-contact offenses**. Behaviors that include: (a) isolating an athlete in a confined space (e.g., locking an athlete in a small space); (b) forcing an athlete to assume a painful stance or position for no athletic purpose (e.g. requiring an athlete to kneel on a harmful surface); (c) withholding, recommending against or denying adequate hydration, nutrition, medical attention or sleep.

Exceptions
Physical misconduct does not include professionally accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline or improving athlete performance. For example, hitting, punching, and kicking are well-regulated forms of contact in combat sports, but have no place in swimming.

C. <u>Sexual Misconduct</u>

(1) Any touching or non-touching sexual interaction that is (a) nonconsensual or forced, (b) coerced or manipulated, or (c) perpetrated in an aggressive, harassing, exploitative or threatening manner.
(2) Any sexual interaction between an athlete and an individual with evaluative, direct or indirect authority. Such relationships involve an imbalance of power and are likely to impair judgment or be exploitative.
(3) Grooming: Grooming is the process whereby a person engages in a series or pattern of behaviors with a goal of engaging in sexual misconduct. Grooming can occur through direct, in-person, and/or online contact.
(4) Any act or conduct described as sexual abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, rape)

Note: An imbalance of power is always assumed between a coach and an athlete.

Sexual misconduct includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, sexual bullying, sexual hazing and any other sexual intimacies that exploit an athlete. **Minors cannot consent to sexual activity with an adult**, **and all sexual interaction between an adult and a minor is strictly prohibited.**

Examples
Examples of sexual misconduct prohibited under this Guideline include, without limitation:

(1) **Touching offenses.** Behaviors that include:
   (a) fondling an athlete's breasts or buttocks
   (b) exchange of reward in sport (e.g., team placement, scores, feedback) for sexual favors
   (c) genital contact
   (d) sexual relations or intimacies between participants in a position of trust, authority and/or evaluative and supervisory control over athletes or other sport participants

      i. ***Authority and Trust.*** Once the unique coach-athlete relationship is established, the authority and trust on the part of the coach over the athlete shall be assumed, regardless of age. Accordingly, sexual interaction or intimacies between a coach and an athlete or other participant are prohibited, regardless of age, both during coaching and during that period following coaching when the imbalance in power could jeopardize effective decision-making.

      ii. ***Imbalance of Power.*** Factors relevant to determining whether there is an imbalance of power include, but are not limited to: (a) the nature and extent of the coach's supervisory, evaluative or other authority over the athlete being coached; (b) the actual relationship between the parties; (c) the parties' respective roles; (d) the nature and duration of the sexual relations or intimacies; (e) the age of the coach; (f) the age of the athlete or participant; (g) and whether the coach has engaged in a pattern of sexual interaction with other athletes or participants.

(2) **Non-touching offenses.** Behaviors that include:
   (a) sexually-oriented comments, jokes, or sexual innuendos made to or about an athlete, or other sexually harassing behaviors
   (b) a coach discussing his or her sex life with an athlete
   (c) a coach asking an athlete about his or her sex life
   (d) coach requesting or sending a nude or partial-dress photo to athlete
   (e) exposing athletes to pornographic material
   (f) sending athletes sexually explicit or suggestive electronic or written messages or photos (e.g. "sexting")
   (g) deliberately exposing an athlete to sexual acts
   (h) deliberately exposing an athlete to nudity (except in situations where locker rooms and changing areas are shared)
   (i) sexual harassment; specifically, the sexual solicitation, physical advances, or verbal or nonverbal conduct that is sexual in nature, and
      i. is unwelcome, offensive or creates a hostile environment, and the offending individual knows or is told this

ii. is sufficiently severe or intense to be harassing to a reasonable person in the context

(3) Other inappropriate conduct (touching and/or non-touching):
(a) intimate relationships,
(b) intentional exposure of private areas and
(c) inappropriate physical conduct.

D. Bullying

(1) An intentional, persistent and repeated pattern of committing or willfully tolerating physical and non-physical behaviors (verbal, social, cyberbullying) that are intended, or have the reasonable potential, to cause fear, humiliation or physical harm in an attempt to socially exclude, diminish or isolate the targeted athlete(s), as a condition of membership
(2) Any act or conduct described as bullying under federal or state law

Exceptions
Bullying does not include group or team behaviors that (a) are meant to establish normal team behaviors, or (b) promote a team environment. Bullying also does not include verbal admonitions to encourage team members to train harder and to push through a difficult training regimen.

Examples
Examples of bullying prohibited by this Guideline include, without limitation:

(1) **Physical behaviors.** Behaviors that include (a) hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, kicking, choking, or slapping an athlete; (b) throwing at, or hitting an athlete with, objects such as sporting equipment.
(2) **Non-Physical behaviors (Verbal, Social, Cyberbullying).** Behaviors that include (a) teasing, ridiculing, intimidating; (b) spreading rumors or making false statements; or (c) using electronic communications, social media, or other technology to harass, frighten, intimidate or humiliate ("cyber bulling").

E. Harassment

(1) A repeated pattern of physical and/or non-physical behaviors that (a) are intended to cause fear, humiliation or annoyance, (b) offend or degrade, (c) create a hostile environment or (d) reflect discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance, superiority or power over an individual athlete or group based on gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender expression or mental or physical disability.
(2) Any act or conduct described as harassment under federal or state law.

Examples
Examples of harassment prohibited by this Guideline include, without limitation:

(1) **Physical offenses.** Behaviors that include (a) hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, kicking, choking or slapping an athlete or participant; (b) throwing at or hitting an athlete with objects including sporting equipment
(2) **Non-physical offenses**. Behaviors that include (a) making negative or disparaging comments about an athlete's sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, religion, skin color, or ethnic traits; (b) displaying offensive materials, gestures, or symbols; (c) withholding or reducing playing time to an athlete based on his or her sexual orientation.

F. Hazing

(1) Conduct, including physical, mental, emotional or psychological, that involves coercing, requiring, forcing or willfully tolerating any humiliating, unwelcome or dangerous activity that serves as a condition for (a) joining a group or (b) being socially accepted by a group's members.
(2) Any act or conduct described as hazing under federal or state law.
(3) Consent to the activity is not a defense to hazing, regardless of the perceived willingness to participant.

Exception
Hazing does not include group or team activities that (a) are meant to establish normative team behaviors or (b) promote team cohesion. Examples include, without limitation:

(1) allowing junior athletes to carry senior athletes' equipment into the locker room after practice
(2) encouraging junior athletes to arrive early and set up training equipment
(3) giving senior athletes first preference in team assignments, responsibilities, accommodations, facilities or equipment

Examples
Examples of hazing prohibited by this Guideline include, without limitation:

(1) requiring, forcing or otherwise requiring the consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs
(2) tying, taping or otherwise physically restraining an athlete
(3) sexual simulations or sexual acts of any nature
(4) sleep deprivation, otherwise unnecessary schedule disruption or the withholding of water and/or food
(5) social actions (e.g. grossly inappropriate or provocative clothing) or public displays (e.g. public nudity) that are illegal or meant to draw ridicule
(6) beating, paddling or other forms of physical assault
(7) excessive training requirements focused on individuals on a team

5. ADDITIONAL FORMS OF MISCONDUCT.

A. Willfully Tolerating Misconduct

(1) Violation to willingly tolerate any form or prohibited misconduct.
(2) Failure to report forms of misconduct may result in a violation of state law.

B. Retaliation

(1) Retaliation against any individual is prohibited when a good faith report of abuse is made.
(2) This includes before, during or after a report is made.
(3) Retaliation includes any adverse action, or threat of action, against any person relating to allegations, including but not limited to threatening, intimidating, harassing, coercing or dissuading anyone from reporting a violation.

C. Intentional False Allegations

(1) Anyone intentionally filing a false allegation of prohibited conduct may be subject to disciplinary action. False allegations are when the prohibited conduct did not occur and the reporter knows the events did not occur. This is different from unsubstantiated allegations.
(2) Intentionally making a false allegation may violate state criminal laws.

6. Violations of Chapter 3: Abuse Prevention Policies for Managing Training and Competition

This includes prevention policies for one-to-one interactions for meetings and training sessions, physical contact with athletes, electronic communication, social media, locker rooms and travel.

REPORTING
Although these guidelines are designed to reduce child sexual abuse and other misconduct, it can still occur. AAU members (coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff), and participants of the AAU shall follow the reporting procedures set forth in the AAU's Athlete Protection Policy. **The AAU does not investigate suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse, or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of such allegations, as a condition of reporting suspicions or allegations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities and the AAU National Office.**

Chapter 3:

Abuse Prevention Polices for Managing Training and Competition

CREATING A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 3

ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES FOR MANAGING TRAINING AND COMPETITION

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

All registered non-athletes will take the free AAU offered Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) educational course as part of gaining membership into the AAU.

This Double-Goal Coach training program will give all team administrators, club directors, and coaches the tools they need to help youth athletes improve. PCA's online course is filled with powerful coaching tools that are based on the latest research in sports psychology and reflect the "best practices" of elite coaches and athletes, including such PCA National Advisory Board Members as Los Angeles Lakers Head Coach Phil Jackson, Boston Celtics Head Coach Doc Rivers, Naismith Hall of Fame basketball coaches Dean Smith and Larry Brown, former Kansas City Chiefs Head Coach Herm Edwards, Olympic Gold Medal Gymnast Bart Conner, Olympic Gold Medalist and former WNBA star Ruthie Bolton and Olympic Gold Medalist swimmer Summer Sanders, just to name a few.

The PCA courses also include child abuse prevention training. PCA has teamed up with Kidpower, a nonprofit leader in abuse, bullying and violence prevention, to offer important resources for coaches, parents and youth sports leaders to help keep kids safe.

PCA Coach Training (Free to AAU Members): Please visit www.aausports.org and click on PCA Coaches Test, or click here.

Abuse Prevention Resources for Coaches, Volunteers, Parents and Athletes: Visit www.PCADevZone.org and KidPower - PCA (positivecoach.org).

SUPERVISION OF ATHLETES

During training and competition, the AAU strives to create two-deep leadership and limit one-to-one interactions to create a safe training environment and to protect athletes and participants. **One-to-one interactions must be observable and interruptible**, except in emergency situations.

ONE-TO-ONE INTERACTIONS

Appropriate one-on-one interactions with athletes

Individual Meetings
An individual meeting may be necessary to address an athlete's concerns, training program, or competition schedule. Under these circumstances, coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff members are to observe the following guidelines:

- Any individual meeting should occur when others are present and where interactions can be easily observed
- Where possible, an individual meeting should take place in a publicly visible and open area, such as the corner of a gym or pool deck
- If an individual meeting is to take place in an office, the door should remain unlocked and open
- If a closed-door meeting is necessary, the coach, staff member and/or volunteer must have another person in attendance and ensure the door remains unlocked

Individual Training Sessions
An individual training session(s) with an athlete or participant may also be desired or necessary. Under these circumstances, written permission of a minor athlete's parents or guardians is recommended in advance of the individual training session(s), and the AAU encourages parents and guardians to attend the training session.

Prohibited one-to-one interactions with athletes
Except as set forth above, minor athletes and participants should not be left unattended or unsupervised during AAU activities. Coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff members are prohibited from being alone with an individual athlete or participant in any room or building. Social activities and fundraising events shall not be conducted on a one-on-one basis. These activities should include the entire team.

PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH ATHLETES

Appropriate physical contact between athletes and coaches, event organizers, volunteers, or staff members is a productive and inevitable part of sport. Athletes are more likely to acquire advanced physical skills and enjoy their sport participation through appropriate physical contact. However, guidelines for physical contact must be set to reduce the potential for misconduct in sport.

APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT

The AAU adheres to the following guidelines in regards to physical contact with our athletes:

Common Criteria for Appropriate Physical Contact
Physical contact with athletes – for safety, consolation and celebration – has multiple criteria in common which make them both safe and appropriate. These include:

- the physical contact must take place in public
- there is no potential for physical or sexual intimacies during the physical contact
- the physical contact is for the benefit of the athlete, not to meet an emotional or other need of an adult

Safety
The safety of our athletes is paramount and in many instances we make the athletic space safer through appropriate physical contact. Examples include:

- spotting an athlete so that they will not be injured by a fall or piece of equipment
- positioning an athlete's body so that they more quickly acquire an athletic skill, get a better sense of where their body is in space, or improve their balance and coordination
- making athletes aware that they might be in harm's way because of other athletes practicing around them or because of equipment in use

Celebration
Sports are physical by definition and we recognize participants often express their joy of participation, competition, achievement and victory through physical acts. We encourage these public expressions of celebration, which include:

- greeting gestures such as high-fives, fist bumps, and brief hugs
- congratulatory gestures such as celebratory hugs, "jump arounds" and pats on the back for any form of athletic or personal accomplishment

Consolation
It may be appropriate to console an emotionally distressed athlete (e.g., an athlete who has been injured or has just lost a competition). Appropriate consolation includes:

- publicly embracing a crying athlete
- putting an arm around an athlete while verbally engaging them in an effort to calm them down ("side hugs")
- lifting a fallen athlete off the playing surface to encourage them to continue competition

PROHIBITED PHYSICAL CONTACT

Prohibited forms of physical contact:

- asking or having an athlete sit in the lap of a coach, administrator, staff member or volunteer
- lingering or repeated embraces of athletes that go beyond the criteria set forth for physical contact
- slapping, hitting, punching, kicking or any other physical contact meant to discipline, punish or achieve compliance from an athlete
- "cuddling" or maintaining prolonged physical contact during any aspect of training, travel or overnight stay
- playful, yet inappropriate contact that is not a part of regular training, (e.g., tickling or "horseplay" wrestling)
- continued physical contact that makes an athlete obviously uncomfortable, whether expressed or not
- any contact that is contrary to a previously expressed personal desire for decreased or no physical contact, where such decreased contact is feasible in a competitive training environment.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

As part of the AAU's emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between a coach and athlete must be professional in nature, open, transparent and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

As with any communication, the content of any electronic communication should be readily available to share with the athlete's family. For any minor athlete, any email, electronic text, social media or similar communication must copy or include the athlete's parents or guardians. This includes individual and team communications. If a minor athlete communicates with the adult first, if the adult responds, they must copy the athlete's parents or guardians.

FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TIKTOK, BLOGS AND SIMILAR SITES
Coaches may not have athletes join a personal social media page. Athlete members and parents can friend the official club/team page and coaches can communicate to athlete members through the site. All posts, messages, text, or media of any kind between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes.

TWITTER, INSTANT MESSAGING AND SIMILAR MEDIA
Coaches and athletes may "follow" each other. Coaches cannot "re-tweet" athlete message posts. All posts between coach and athlete must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

EMAIL AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS
Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. All email content between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Where the coach is a staff member and/or volunteer, email from a coach to any athlete should come from the club website email center (the coach's return email address will contain "@CLUB.com").

TEXTING AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS
Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes. All texts between coach and athlete must be professional and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

ELECTRONIC IMAGERY
From time to time, digital photos, videos of practice or competition, and other publicly obtainable images of the athlete – individually or in groups – may be taken. These photos and/or videos may be submitted to local, state or national publications, used in club videos, posted on club or club associated websites, or offered to the club families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. It is the default guideline of the AAU to allow such practices as long as the athlete or athletes are in public view, observable, and such imagery is both appropriate and in the best interest of the athlete and the club. No photos or imagery should be shared without consent of the minor's parent/guardian.

REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OR IMAGERY
The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches (photography or videography).

MISCONDUCT
Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by coaches, volunteers, administrators, officials, staff, parents or athletes are not acceptable and are considered violations of our Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

The AAU is concerned with locker room activities between minors, minors and adults, adults being alone with individual minors in locker rooms and changing areas, with non-official or non-related adults having unsupervised access to minor participants, and with inappropriate behavior among adults in locker rooms. Any one-on-one contacts with minor athletes in locker rooms and changing areas must be observable and interruptible.

As part of the AAU's commitment to safety, the AAU recommends its clubs to publish practices for locker rooms and changing areas. Clubs should include the following information in their Locker Rooms and Changing Areas Guidelines:

- **Supervision.** CLUB must have and describe its practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas
- **Prohibited Conduct.** CLUB's guidelines must prohibit hazing, bullying, harassment and other forms of misconduct, as set forth in the AAU's Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy.
- **User of Recording Devices.** CLUB's guidelines must prohibit the use of a device's recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras.
- **Meetings.** For individual meetings with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room, the AAU recommends that at least one additional responsible adult be with the coach.
- **Adults.** Adults must not change clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their private areas to minors. Adults must not shower with minors.

See Sample Guidelines in Appendix.

TRAVEL

As part of the AAU's commitment to athlete safety, the AAU recommends its clubs to have published practices for team travel. Team Travel is defined as overnight travel to a team activity that is planned and supervised by the CLUB. CLUB travel policies should be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the club.

Clubs should include the following in their Travel Guidelines:

- Travel and lodging must be observable and interruptible.
- Club travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the club.
- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete(s) (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling or spouse of that particular athlete).

- When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, the athlete must have his or her parents' (or legal guardian's) written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach.

See Sample Guidelines in Appendix.

HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND ATHLETIC TRAINING

Athletic training treatments, including massages or rubdowns) must be:

a. Observable and interruptible; and
b. Have another adult present; and
c. Have documented consent of the athlete's parent/guardian.
d. Be performed with the athlete fully or partially clothed with the breasts, buttocks, groin or genitals always covered.

OUT-OF-PROGRAM CONTACT AND GIFTS

Adults should not have out-of-program contact with minors without parent/guardian consent. This includes one-on-one or in a group environment.

Adults should not give personal gifts to minors. Acceptable gifts should be distributed to all athletes and serve as a motivational or educational purpose.

Chapter 4:

Reporting and Responding to Abuse and Misconduct Violations

CREATING A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 4

REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO ABUSE AND MISCONDUCT VIOLATIONS

REPORTING GUIDELINES

Any report of misconduct or suspicions of child physical or sexual abuse will be taken seriously and handled appropriately. Every AAU member (coach, event organizer, volunteer, and staff) must report suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse to both (a) **the appropriate law enforcement authorities** and to (b) the AAU National Office**.**

Mandatory Reporting: All adult members interacting with youth athletes are mandatory reporters. Any suspected child and sexual abuse must be reported within **24 hours** to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

The AAU does not investigate suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of such allegations as a condition for reporting to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

REPORTING PROCEDURE

To Whom to Report:

Reports must be made to the appropriate local law enforcement and the AAU National Office Compliance Department.

How to Report:

(a) **Contact local law enforcement to report child or sexual abuse.** Laws vary from state to state. Click below for state-by-state reporting information.

- State by State Reporting Numbers for child abuse and neglect

Additional Resources (no affiliation with AAU):

- Child Welfare Information Gateway
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)

(b) AAU National Office Compliance Department.

The AAU will take a report in a verbal or written form. Regardless of how you choose to report, it is helpful to the AAU for individuals to provide, at a minimum, (1) the name and contact information of the person making the report; (2) the type of misconduct alleged and the name(s) of the individual(s) alleged to have committed the misconduct; (3) date of the incident; (4) name of the alleged victim.

Online Reporting Form

Mail Reporting Form to:

Email: compliance@aausports.org

Mail: AAU National Headquarters, Attn: Compliance, PO Box 22409, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

By Phone: 833-SAFE-AAU (833-723-3228) weekdays during business hours (Eastern Time)

CONFIDENTIALITY

To the extent permitted by law, and as appropriate, the AAU will keep confidential the complainant's name on request, not make public the names of potential victims, the accused perpetrator or the people who made a report of child physical and sexual abuse to the authorities.

HOW REPORTS ARE HANDLED

Suspicions or Allegations of Child Physical or Sexual Abuse

Reporting to Law Enforcement and/or Child Protective Services

An independent investigation can harm youth and/or interfere with the legal investigative process. The AAU, its staff members and/or volunteers **do not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities**. As necessary, however, the AAU may ask a few clarifying questions of the minor or person making the report to adequately report the suspicion or allegation to law enforcement authorities.

Immediate Notification

When an allegation of child physical or sexual abuse is made against an AAU member (coach, event organizer, volunteer, athlete or staff member), the AAU may immediately notify the member that he

or she is ineligible to participate in any AAU activities. As necessary, the AAU may suspend (temporarily or indefinitely) or change the assignment of a staff member and/or volunteer.

All AAU members (coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff) are mandatory reporters. Failure to report to local law enforcement and the AAU National Office will subject the individual(s) to disciplinary procedures under the AAU Code.

VIOLATIONS

Upon receiving notification of a violation of the misconduct provisions of the AAU Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy, the Department of Compliance may refer the matter to the attention of the Chair of the National Board of Review. The Chair may:

a) When there is uncontroverted evidence of a violation, or pending charges, void or block the offender's membership.
b) Initiate a National Board of Review inquiry or complaint.

JUDICIARY AND ADMINSTRATIVE REMEDIES

Please refer to the following links for excerpts from the AAU Code Book for the judiciary and administrative remedies, judicial procedures, mediation arbitration and other legal matters.

Article III: Judiciary of the AAU and its Administrative Remedies

National Policy XV: Judicial Procedures and Rules

National Policy I.C: Mediation

National Policy I.D: Binding Arbitration

National Policy I.E: Other Legal Matters

National Policy I.G: Administrative Remedies

The AAU Code Book is available at aausports.org. Select About Us and Governance and Policies.

APPENDIX

Definitions, FAQ's, Sample Guidelines, PCA Information and AAU Report Form

DEFINITIONS

Child, children, minor and youth

Anyone under the age of 21. Here, “child,” “children,” “minor” and “youth” are used interchangeably.

Child abuse

The term “child abuse” has the meaning set forth in Section 203 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. § 20341) or any applicable state law.

Child physical abuse

- Non-accidental trauma or physical injury caused by contact behaviors, such as punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning or otherwise harming a child. Child physical abuse may also include non-contact physical misconduct as described in the Athlete Protection Policy.
- Legal definitions vary by state. To find guidelines concerning your state, visit the Child Welfare Information Gateway website at www.childwelfare.gov.

Child sexual abuse

- Child sexual abuse involves any sexual activity with a child where consent is not or cannot be given. This includes sexual contact with a minor that is accomplished by deception, manipulation, force or threat of force regardless of whether there is deception, or the child understands the sexual nature of the activity. Sexual contact between minors can also be abusive if there is a significant imbalance of power or disparity in age, development or size, such that one child is the aggressor. Sexually abusive acts may include sexual penetration, sexual touching or non-contact sexual acts such as verbal acts, sexually suggestive written or electronic communications, exposure or voyeurism.
- Legal definitions vary by state. To find guidelines concerning your state, visit the Child Welfare Information Gateway website at www.childwelfare.gov.

Misconduct

Conduct which results in harm, the potential for harm or the imminent threat of harm. Age is irrelevant to misconduct. There are six primary types of misconduct in sport: emotional, physical and sexual misconduct, bullying, harassment and hazing.

Participants

Participants are those who participate in a sport activity individually or through a particular club or organization. Participants may include athletes, coaches, officials or referees. Participants include (or may be) minors.

Grooming

Process whereby a person engages in a series or pattern of behaviors with a goal of engaging in sexual misconduct. Grooming can occur through direct, in-person, and/or online contact.

FAQ's

1. Do I purchase my membership first?

Yes, you can purchase your membership first or you can purchase your membership and the club membership at the same time. NOTE: The membership and club will be pending until the membership screening process is complete.

2. Do I have to pay extra for the background check?

There is no extra fee. Your background screening is included in your membership fee.

3. Will I be background screened yearly?

Yes. It is part of the membership application. Even with a multi-year membership, your background screen will be conducted annually.

4. I have a background check done through my job, club, or Governing Body every year. Can you use that information?

No. Federal Law does not allow organizations to share background screening information. We cannot use any other source or data for our background screening process. You must go through our screening process. The same process must be used for all our adult members.

5. I purchased a multi-year membership. My membership is good for two years. What happens now?

At the beginning of the membership year, any adult with multi-year memberships will have a background screen automatically conducted. Your membership status will be moved to pending until this process is completed.

6. If my membership is not approved what happens?

You can contact the AAU Compliance Department at 407-934-7200 for further instructions.

SAMPLE GUIDELINES

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

The following guidelines are designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas.

FACILITIES
The following is a description of our practice and competition facilities to allow athletes and their families to plan their use:

We practice at: LOCATION ADDRESS

This location has: DESCRIPTION SELECTION

Sample locker room descriptions:

(a) No locker room or changing facilities. Athletes will be expected to come dressed for practice and to change and shower at home.
(b) A changing area that is shared with the general public. As such, there are likely to be people who are not associated with ORGANIZATION in the changing area around the time of practice.
(c) A changing area and locker room dedicated to our athletes and teams.

Our home competitions will be held at: LOCATION ADDRESS(ES). The location(s) has (have): SAME DESCRIPTION SELECTION AS ABOVE.

When we travel for competition, the facilities may differ from location to location. We will work with the host team to provide as much information about the locker room and changing areas as early as possible, and post that information as soon as it's available.

MONITORING
CLUB has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., immediately before and following practices and competitions). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make athletes uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before athletes arrive, post staff members directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible. Staff members conduct regular sweeps

inside these areas as well, with women checking on female-designated areas, and men checking on male-designated areas.

-OR-

CLUB has staggered practices, with different groups arriving and departing throughout the day. It is therefore not practical to constantly monitor locker rooms and changing areas over this extended course of time. While we do not post staff members inside or at the doors of the locker rooms and changing areas, we do make occasional sweeps of these areas. Staff members conduct these sweeps, with women checking on female-designated areas, and men checking on male-designated areas.

Coaches and staff make every effort to recognize when an athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, we will check on the athlete's whereabouts.

Given the potential discomfort of having non-coaches and non-athletes in the locker rooms and changing areas, we discourage parents from entering those areas unless it is truly necessary. Under such circumstances, only a same-sex parent should go into a locker room and changing area.

If an athlete needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear (for example, a child under the age of eight), or an athlete's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach or an administrator know beforehand that he or she will be helping the athlete.

MIXED-GENDER TEAMS

If the team consists of both male and female athletes, both female and male privacy rights must be given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, CLUB has the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single dressing room before the game or team meeting. Once the game is finished, the players may come to one locker room and then the male and female players proceed to their separate dressing rooms to undress and shower (separately), if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the athletes will take turns using the locker room to change.

USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICES

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras increase the risk for different forms of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas. As a result, **THERE WILL BE NO USE OF A DEVICE'S RECORDING CAPABILITIES IN THE LOCKER ROOMS OR CHANGING AREAS**.

SAMPLE GUIDELINES

TRAVEL

Travel will be a standard aspect of our competitive season and CLUB has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce the risk of misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase athlete safety and improve the competitive experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

LOCAL AND TEAM TRAVEL

We distinguish between travel to training, practice and local competition ("local travel"), and team travel involving a coordinated overnight stay ("team travel").

Local Travel

Local travel occurs when CLUB does not sponsor, coordinate, or arrange for travel. For local travel, athletes or their parents/guardians (for minor athletes) are responsible for making all travel arrangements. In these instances, it is the responsibility of the athlete or their parents/guardians (for minor athletes) to ensure the person transporting the athlete maintains all safety and legal requirements, including, but not limited to, a valid driver's license, proper insurance, well maintained vehicle, and compliance with all state laws.

In an effort to minimize one-on-one interactions, CLUB staff members, coaches and/or volunteers, who are not also acting as a parent, should not drive alone with an unrelated athlete and should only drive with at least two other athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the athlete's parent or guardian in advance of travel. In any case where a staff member and/or volunteer is involved in the athlete's local travel, a parental release is required in advance. Efforts must be made to ensure that staff and/or volunteers are not alone with an athlete or participant, by, e.g., picking the athletes up in groups.

Coaches, staff members and volunteers who are also an athlete's guardian may provide shared transportation for any athlete(s). We encourage guardians to pick up their athlete first and drop off their athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement. We also recommend completing a shared travel declaration form signed by the parents/guardians of any minor athlete who is being transported as part of such a carpool arrangement.

Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when CLUB sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel so that our teams can compete locally, regionally, or nationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the athletes. However, no coach, staff

member, or volunteer will engage in team travel without the proper safety requirements in place, including valid drivers' licenses, proper insurance, well-maintained vehicles and compliance with all state laws. Drivers of vehicles should be age 21 or older.

CLUB makes efforts to provide adequate supervision through coaches and other adult chaperones.

Appropriate adult-to-adult ratios will depend on the age of your athletes and other participants. Evaluate your program to determine your supervisory needs.

For team travel, hotels and air travel will be booked in advance by CLUB. Athletes will share rooms, with 2-4 athletes assigned per room depending on accommodations. CLUB will also notify hotel management should any special arrangements be warranted. For instance, we will ask hotels to block pay per view channels and we will request an additional large room or suite so that our members and athletes may socialize as a group. Meetings do not occur in hotel rooms, and we will reserve a separate space for adults and athletes to socialize.

We encourage family members who wish to stay in the team hotel to do so. If family members do not stay in the team hotel, we encourage all athletes to call parents and guardians regularly and allow for any unscheduled calls by either the athlete or parent/guardian.

INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL (For Individual Sports)

The nature of our sport and competition structure means that individual athletes may sometimes need to travel overnight without other athletes. Under these circumstances, we encourage minimizing one-on-one time between a coach and athlete by:

1. Traveling with an additional coach or chaperone
2. Inviting parents/guardians to travel with their athlete (for athletes under age 20)

For individual travel, we attempt to provide alternative guidelines. Depending on the nature of the travel and competition, these guidelines may include:

1. Compressing the travel schedule to reduce the number of nights athletes are away from home
2. Providing regular organizational check-in phone calls to the traveling athlete and coach
3. Encouraging more frequent and unscheduled check-in phone calls initiated by parents/guardians (for minor athletes)
4. Complying with reasonable parental requests when a child is a way from home without a guardian

When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, *the athlete must have his or her parents' or legal guardian's written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach*.

TRAVEL NOTIFICATION

When possible, CLUB will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Notice will include the dates, location and duration of the competition. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within the club/team. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.

CLUB will post specific travel itineraries when they become available. These will include a more detailed, hour-by-hour itinerary as well as contact information for team travel chaperones.

MIXED-GENDER AND MIXED-AGE TRAVEL

CLUB is made up of male and female athletes across various ages. Athletes will only share a room with other athletes of the same sex and age group. Athletes will also be grouped by age and sex for the purposes of assigning an appropriate chaperone. We will make every effort to provide these groups at least one chaperone of the same sex. However, we rely on parents to serve as chaperones and may be limited in providing this match.

Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling or spouse of that particular athlete). Where an adult is registered both as a coach and an athlete member of CLUB, and is functioning primarily as a coach, he or she may share sleeping arrangements with another registered coach.

COACH AND STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

During team travel, coaches and staff members will help athletes, fellow coaches and staff members adhere to these guidelines, including, without limitation, the Travel Guidelines, Locker Rooms and Changing Areas Guidelines and Reporting Guidelines.

If a coach or staff member transports an athlete or other organization member in their private car for team travel, a copy of the coach's or staff member's valid driver's license is required.

When not practicing, training, competing, or preparing for competition, coaches and staff will monitor the activities of athletes, fellow coaches and staff during team travel. Coaches and staff will:

a. prepare athletes for team travel and make athletes aware of all expectations. Supplemental information will be given to parents/guardians of athletes who are considered inexperienced travelers, new or relatively new to team travel, or who are under the age of 14
b. familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before the initiation of team travel
c. conform to, and monitor for others' adherence, the Athlete Protection Policy and all guidelines during team travel
d. encourage minor athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents/guardians
e. help athletes be on time for all team commitments (as possible)
f. assist with team travel logistical needs (as possible)

g. support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary
h. ensure athletes are complying with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age bracket requirements
i. make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room with any adult apart from a family member; this includes coaches, staff and chaperones
j. not use drugs or alcohol in the presence of minors or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching duties
k. immediately report any concerns about physical or sexual abuse, misconduct, or guideline violations
l. notify parents before taking any disciplinary action against a minor athlete if the athlete is traveling without his or her parents.

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

Chaperones accompany team travel to ensure that the athletes, coaches, staff, and volunteers adhere to the CLUB's guidelines. While these include the travel guidelines, it also includes all other relevant policies contained in the AAU's Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy.

If a chaperone has not undergone a criminal background check, the chaperone will not be permitted to have any one-on-one interactions with athletes or other youth participants. If a chaperone has undergone a criminal background check, he or she may have appropriate one-on-one interactions as outlined in the AAU's Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy.

If a chaperone will be operating a private car for team travel, a copy of the chaperone's valid driver's license is required.

Chaperones will monitor the activities of all coaches, staff members, volunteers and athletes during team travel. Specifically, chaperones will:

a. familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before team travel
b. monitor for adherences to club guidelines during team travel
c. encourage minor athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents/guardians
d. help athletes be on time for all team commitments (as possible)
e. assist coaches, staff and other volunteers with team travel logistical needs (as possible)
f. monitor athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary
g. ensure athletes comply with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age bracket requirements
h. not use drugs or alcohol in the presence of minors or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their chaperone duties
i. make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room with any adult apart from a family member; this includes coaches, staff and chaperones

j. immediately report any concerns about sexual and physical abuse, misconduct or guideline violations to local law enforcement.

ROOM CHECKS

If the CLUB performs room checks during overnight travel, the one-on-one interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present during the room checks.

Double-Goal Coach® Job Description

TO: **All Coaches** DATE: _____

FROM: _____ RE: **What We Expect of You**

As coaches, you determine the kind of experience our athletes have with sports. We are committed to the principles of Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). We expect you to be a Double-Goal Coach, who strives to win (one goal), while pursuing the more-important goal of teaching life lessons through sports. PCA's Double-Goal Coach Job Description includes:

Model and teach your players to Honor the Game.

- Teach ROOTS – respect for Rules, Opponents, Officials, Teammates, and one's Self.
- Hold a parent meeting and distribute PCA's Parent/Guardian Letter to help parents Honor the Game.
- Appoint a parent to be "Culture Keeper" for the team.
- Drill Honoring the Game in practice.
- Seize teachable moments to talk with players about Honoring the Game.

Help players pursue mastery of their sport, not just scoreboard wins.

- Teach players the ELM Tree of Mastery (Effort, Learning, and bouncing back from Mistakes).
- Use a "Team Mistake Ritual" (like "Flushing Mistakes") to help players quickly rebound from mistakes.
- Reward effort, not just good outcomes. Recognize players even for "unsuccessful" effort.
- Encourage players to set "Effort Goals" tied to how hard they try.

Fill your players' Emotional Tanks.

- Use encouragement and positive reinforcement as your primary method of motivating.
- Achieve the "Magic Ratio" of five positive reinforcements to each criticism or correction.
- Use the "Buddy System" to teach players to fill each others' Emotional Tanks.
- Learn to give "Kid-Friendly Criticism," such as criticizing in private, asking permission, using the Criticism Sandwich, and avoiding criticism in non-teachable moments.

Have conversations with your players at every practice and game.

- Review Honoring the Game, the ELM Tree and the Emotional Tank throughout the season.
- Ask questions and encourage players to speak and contribute during team meetings.
- Use PCA's Talking Points e-mail series to guide discussions with your players.

Your adopting these philosophies and actions will contribute to a positive, character-building youth sports experience for all the children our organization serves. Thank you for all your time and effort!

For more Resources, visit: www.PCADevZone.org
For more information on Positive Coaching Alliance, visit: www.PositiveCoach.org

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AAU ATHLETE PROTECTION REPORTING FORM

REPORTING ABUSE

AAU requires reporting of sexual misconduct by any member and strongly encourages reporting of any concerns relating to the protection of youth athletes. AAU appreciates your willingness to report inappropriate behavior. By submitting this form, you are giving permission to AAU staff to contact you.

Out of respect for the importance of this issue and to encourage honest and effective reporting, knowingly making a false or vindictive report will not be tolerated.

PERSON BEING REPORTED

Provide as much information as possible about the person you are reporting.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Age or Approximate Age: _____ Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Club Affiliation (or None): _____

Position(s) this individual holds or held: ☐ Head Coach ☐ Assistant Coach ☐ Athlete ☐ Official

☐ Other _____

Primary Sport: _____

Date of Report: _____

ALLEGED OFFENSE INFORMATION *(Provide as much specific information as you are able.)*

Type of Offense *(select all that apply)*

☐ Criminal Conduct
☐ Child Abuse
☐ Sexual Abuse ☐ Peer-to-Peer Childe Sexual Abuse
☐ Emotional Misconduct (verbal acts, physical intimidation, acts that deny attention, stalking)
☐ Physical Misconduct (contact, non-contact)
☐ Sexual Misconduct (touching, non-touching, grooming)
☐ Bullying (physical, non-physical, verbal, social, cyberbullying)
☐ Harassment
☐ Hazing
☐ Other Prohibited Conduct: _____

Did Incident Occur at an AAU Licensed Event? * ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

If Yes, Enter Event Name & License # if known: _____

Location that the incident(s) took place:* (Enter City, State, Specific Location)

_____

Date(s) of Alleged Offense:*_____

Description of Alleged Offense ***(Include as much detail as possible. Attach additional pages as needed)***

Knowledge of victim(s) involved in the alleged offense:

☐ I am not aware of any victim(s) involved with the alleged offense ☐ I am aware of victim(s) involved

VICTIM OR VICTIMS

If you are the victim and wish to remain anonymous, please enter your name as Anonymous. You may also be unaware of who the victim is. In that case, please enter Unknown.

First Name:_____ Last Name:_____

Age or Approximate Age:_____ Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Club Affiliation (or None):_____

Additional Victims (*Fill this section out if additional victims are involved.)*

First Name:_____ Last Name:_____

Age or Approximate Age:_____ Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Club Affiliation (or None):_____

INDIVIDUAL(S) WHO MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

List anyone who may be able to provide additional information regarding the alleged offense. We will not identify you when we contact these individuals.

First Name:_____Last Name:_____

Phone #:_____Email Address:_____

Club Affiliation (if any):_____

First Name:_____Last Name:_____

Phone #:_____Email Address:_____

Club Affiliation (if any):_____

REPORT SUBMITTED BY

All reports are kept strictly confidential by AAU. A person reporting alleged misconduct should not fear any retribution and/or consequence when filing a report he/she believes is true.

First Name:_____ Last Name:_____

Phone #:_____Email Address:_____

Date:_____AAU Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Club Affiliation (if any):_____

Relationship to victim (if any):

☐ Self ☐ Parent/Guardian ☐ Other family member ☐ Friend/Acquaintance

☐ Club Member ☐ Coach or Volunteer ☐ Prefer not to say ☐ Other

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Enter any other information that you feel would be helpful to an investigation of the alleged offense you have reported. Attach additional documents as needed.

This form can be submitted to the AAU National Office via:

***Email**: compliance@aausports.org*
***Fax:** 407-828-0166*
***US Postal Service:** AAU, Compliance Department, PO Box 22409, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830*