

V. **Technical Coach**

- A. You must be an AAU member.
- B. You must complete the PCA training online for all coaches.
- C. You must follow the AAU Baton Twirling Rules that have been set forth.
- D. You must wear the designated Gray coach's polo in order to be in the practice area and on the competition floor at the AAU Baton Twirling Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games. If you choose to wear the Black designated coach's polo you may only be in the practice area and NOT on the competition floor.
- E. You are responsible to inform all of your athletes, parents, and siblings of the rules which have been set forth for all athletes.
- F. You should set examples of good sportsmanship.
- G. You will be the voice for any of your individual, team, or corps' athletes if a question, concern, or violation of rules is necessary.
- H. Must complete the required test over the rulebook.

VI. **Format/ Scheduling**

- A. Please refer to the Contest Directors packet.

VII. **Entry Procedures**

- A. Locally it will be up to the contest director. Directors please see Directors Packet.
- B. District Qualifiers must make certain that every athlete has their AAU membership up to date. Directors please see Directors Packet.
- C. AAU Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games: Your entry must be completed online and all entry fees sent to the AAU. You must also send a copy of what you are entering for the AAU National/AAU Junior Olympic Games to the National Chair.

VIII. **Placement**

- A. When one judge is being utilized, the final score will be used for placement of the athletes.
- B. If a tie occurs, a duplicate award will be given for that place and the next place will be skipped. (Example: If there is a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place: 2(two) second place awards will be given out and there will be no 3<sup>rd</sup> place given and then proceed with 4<sup>th</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place).
- C. When more than one judge is utilized for a category, the final score will determine the placement from each judge. The **placement** from each judge will then be added together. Whichever athlete or team has the lowest combined placement points will then determine the winner.
- D. **ALL TIES** will be broken by averaging the total scores from the preliminary round and the final round.
- E. If a tie remains after the above method has been applied; the tie remains and duplicate awards will be given for that place and the next place will be skipped. (Example: there is a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place: 2 (two) second place awards will be given out and there will be no 3<sup>rd</sup> place given and then proceed with 4<sup>th</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place).

## DEFINITION OF PENALTIES

I. **Break**

- A. Unintentional stop of baton inhibiting the flow & continuity of a routine.
- B. 0.1 will be assessed for each violation.

II. **Slip**

- A. Unintentional slide of baton in hand inhibiting the flow and continuity of a routine.
- B. 0.1 will be assessed for each violation.

- III. **Off Pattern**  
A. If baton is not perpendicular to the floor when vertical or parallel to the floor when flat either side-to-side or front to back. If NOT then the baton is considered in between patterns making it an off pattern twirl.  
B. 0.1 will be assessed per violation.
- IV. **Unison**  
A. When teams and corps perform like skills at the same speed, tempo of music, use of body, legs, arms, hands, and feet.  
B. 0.1 will be assessed if one or more athletes are out of sync for each violation.
- V. **Alignment/Bearing**  
A. This is the arrangement or position of athletes in lines or other relative positions  
B. 0.1 will be assessed for each violation
- VI. **Out of Position**  
A. When a skill is performed outside of the designated area before attempting to get back within the designated area.  
B. 0.1 per violation will be assessed.
- VII. **Out of Bounds**  
A. This is when an individual athlete or an entire team steps across the boundary lines either marching or retrieving a baton or piece of equipment.  
B. 0.1 will be assessed for each violation.
- VIII. **Overtime/Under time**  
A. This is being over the maximum time allotted for a routine or being under the minimum time allotted for a routine.  
B. 0.1 per second will be assessed either way.
- IX. **Marching and Maneuvering**  
A. This includes alignment, bearing, precision, and phasing errors.  
B. 0.1 per violation will be assessed.
- X. **Corners**  
A. This is the ability of the athlete to execute proper corners in Basic and Military Strutting  
B. 0.1 will be assessed per occurrence
- XI. **Drop**  
A. Any equipment that hits the floor due to loss of control. This includes batons, flags, pom-poms, etc.  
B. 0.5 will be assessed per drop no matter what category.
- XII. **Two-Hand Catch**  
A. Any release of a baton that is caught with both hands, or forearms.  
B. 0.5 will be assessed per violation no matter what category.

**XIII. Fall**

- A. Unintentional floor contact in which the athlete's body hits the ground.
- B. 0.5 will be assessed per occurrence.

**XIV. Failure to Retrieve Baton**

- A. When an athlete drops their baton and fails to retrieve it within a reasonable time
- B. 0.5 will be assessed per violation

**XV. Off Beat/Phasing**

- A. When an athlete is not on beat with the music.
- B. Any off beat violation that has not been corrected within four counts will be considered an Out of Step violation.
- C. 0.5 will be assessed per violation.

**XVI. Out of Step**

- A. When an athlete is not on the left foot with the odd number beat of the music.
- B. 0.5 will be assessed per violation.
- C. Any out of step violation that has not been corrected within four counts will be a major violation.
- D. 2.0 will be assessed for a major out of step violation.

**XVII. Omitted Required Elements**

- A. When an athlete leaves out a particular movement or does not complete a required formation in a routine.
- B. Examples: In Basic/Military March- Not doing Parade Rest; Taking 6 steps instead of 8 per leg.
- C. Not doing a Salute in X-Strut.
- D. 0.5 will be assessed per violation.

**XVIII. Salute**

- A. A salute is done with a baton in the right hand with the back of the right hand touching the hollow of the left shoulder with the right elbow level with the top of shoulder, palm out, fingers together and the shaft of the baton is vertical with the ball of the baton facing upward. Feet position is optional.
- B. 0.5 for Improper Salute (if required) violation.
- C. 1.0 for Failure to Salute (if required) violation.

**XIX. Courtesy Pose**

- A. A courtesy pose can be done in any fashion. It is simply a pose indicating to the judge that you are ready to begin your routine/performance.
- B. 1.0 will be given for this violation.

**XX. Failure to Parade Rest**

- A. This is when an athlete feet are shoulder width apart; baton carriage is optional. This is executed before the athlete comes to attention in struts.
- B. 1.0 will be given for each violation

**XXI. Floor Pattern**

- A. This is when the athlete fails to execute the correct floor pattern in strutting
- B. 2.0 will be given for each violation

**XXII. Gymnastics**

**A. Exceeding Gymnastic Skills**

- 1. This is when a soloist or team executes more than the allowed 2 gymnastic moves per routine.
- 2. 2.0 will be assessed per move.

**B. Unsafe Gymnastics**

- 1. This is when an athlete executes any or all of the following:
  - a. Gymnastics moves with props in hand which are considered dangerous or unsafe.
  - b. Gymnastic moves with poms in hand.
  - c. Gymnastic moves on top of equipment/props.
  - d. Gymnastic moves as dismounts from equipment/props.
  - e. Gymnastics that are not allowed.
- 2. 2.0 will be assessed for each violation.

**XXIII. Exceeding Skills in Status Level**

- A. This is executing more spins, illusions, or elbows under a toss in which the hips and shoulders go beyond the starting point under a piece of equipment in the status level that restricts the skill.
- B. Example: An athlete performs a three spin backhand catch under the right leg facing left side in the Novice status. This is a violation.
- C. 2.0 will be assessed per violation.

**XXIV. Intentional Delay of Contest**

- A. If the athlete, team, or corps does not appear in a reasonable amount of time (no more than 5 minutes without an explanation to the National Chair), then the judge, employed for the competition (at the National AAU Junior Olympic Games Competition- National AAU Baton Twirling Committee), may assess a penalty.
- B. 2.0 will be given for this violation.

**XXV. Rosin/Powder/Sports Enhancing Product**

- A. Rosin/powder is a ground chalklike substance used to soak sweat from hands and is **NOT** permitted.
- B. A sports enhancing product is any substance that can be applied (wet or dry) to the athlete's hands, feet, or body that would affect their overall performance.
- C. 2.0 penalty will be assessed if used.

**XXVI. Failure to Provide Roster**

- A. A list of athletes, with name, age, team or corps status, and music selection must be turned in at prior to Preliminaries and Finals.
- B. This must be turned in when the team is on the ready line.
- C. 2.0 will be assessed for failure to provide roster for prelims and finals.

**XXVII. Failure to Provide Proof of Age**

- A. This is when an athlete (soloist or team) cannot provide proof of age if asked.
- B. 2.0 will be assessed for each athlete that cannot provide proof of age.

**XXVIII. Use of Scenery/Backdrop Not Permitted**

- A. An individual, team, or corps using scenery, backdrops, props not permitted during the performance of the routine.
- B. 2.0 will be assessed for each violation.

**XXIX. Prop Violation**

- A. An individual, team, or corps using equipment not permitted during the performance of the routine.
  - 1. Example: Athlete uses 3 batons in solo dance twirl when only one is allowed. Athlete would receive a 4.0 penalty (one penalty for each additional baton used).
- B. 2.0 will be assessed for each violation.

**XXX. Use of Additional Member**

- A. An individual, team, or corps using too many members during the performance of the routine.
- B. 2.0 will be assessed for each violation.

**XXXI. Performance not suitable**

- A. If the judges view the performance as a routine that is not specifically constructed for the category in which an athlete, team, or corps is performing, then a penalty will be given by each judge.
- B. 2.0 will be assessed per judge.

**XXXII. Floor Damage**

- A. This is when an individual, team, or corps does something to ruin the finish, nick or destroy the floor in any major way in which repairs must be made.
- B. Responsibility will fall on the individual, team, or corps who did the damage.
- C. 2.0 will be assessed if this occurs.

**XXXIII. Containers**

- A. Any container being used as decoration or for holding equipment can be no higher than 36" when holding equipment.
- B. 2.0 will be assessed per violation.

**XXXIV. Backdrops**

- A. Any visual embellishment to enhance or convey the theme of the routine can be no higher than 12' (twelve feet).
- B. 2.0 will be assessed per violation.

**XXXV. Failure to Retrieve Baton Before Leaving Competition Area**

- A. This is when an athlete exits the performance area and leaves their baton/equipment behind.
- B. 2.0 penalty will be assessed

**XXXVI. Use of Prohibited Materials**

- A. This is when an athlete or team would use any item that is not allowed in their routines (pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, dangerous material, or inflammable liquids, auxiliary power source such as electric, battery, or transistor etc.).
- B. 2.0 penalty will be assessed per violation

**XXXVII. Violation of Rule/Tradition/Etiquette**

- A. This is when an athlete or team violates any rule, part of a rule, or violating any tradition, custom, or breach of contest etiquette for which there is no specific rule provided
- B. 2.0 penalty per violation or disqualification at the discretion of the chief judge.

**XXXVIII. Failure to Turn In Music**

- A. This is then the athlete or team fails to turn in music by the requirement deadline or in the required format.
- B. 2.0 penalty will be assessed.

## PENALTY CHART

### I. Penalty Chart

PENALTIES	DEDUCTIONS
Breaks/Slips	.1 Each
Off Pattern	.1 Each
Unison	.1 Each
Alignment/Bearing	.1 Each
Out of Position	.1 Each
Out of Bounds	.1 Each
Overtime/Under time	.1 Each
Marching & Maneuvering	.1 Each
Corners	.1 Each
"Twirling" During X-Strut	.1 Each
Drops	.5Each
2-Hand Catch	.5Each
Fall	.5Each
Failure to Retrieve Baton	.5 Each
Off Beat/Phasing	.5Each
Out of Step	.5 Each/2.0 Major Violation
Omitted Required Elements	.5Each
Improper Salute	.5Each
Failure to Salute/Courtesy Pose	1.0 Each
Failure to Parade Rest	1.0
Floor Pattern	2.0 Each
Exceeding Gymnastic Skills (per move)	2.0 Each
Unsafe Gymnastics (per move)	2.0 Each
Exceeding Skills in Status Level	2.0 Each
Intentional Delay of Contest	2.0
Rosin/Powder/Any Sports Enhancing Material	2.0
Failure to Provide Roster	2.0
Failure to Provide Proof of Age	2.0 Each Athlete
Use of Scenery/Backdrop Not Permitted	2.0 Each
Prop Violation	2.0 Each
Use of Additional Member	2.0 Each
Performance Not Suitable	2.0 Per Judge
Floor Damage	2.0 Each
Container w/props >36"	2.0 Each
Backdrops >12'	2.0 Each
Failure to Retrieve Baton Before Leaving Competition Area	2.0
Use of Prohibited Materials	2.0 Each
Violation of Rule/Tradition/Etiquette	2.0 Each
Failure to Turn in Music	2.0