

2. Penalties will be assessed for dropped batons or equipment, 2-hand catches, Falls, Breaks, Off Pattern, and Unison.
3. Penalty marks will also be given for failure to retrieve baton within reasonable time, or before leaving the performance area.
4. All other applicable penalties will also apply.

**G. National Colors**

1. A color guard is optional.
2. If the national colors are presented, they must be properly guarded by one athlete with a weapon.
3. Authorized weapons are rifles, simulated rifles, side arms (pistol), simulated side arms, sabers, or swords.
4. The distance of the guard should be no more than 3 (three) paces from the national colors.
5. If national colors are presented, they cannot side step, back step, to the rear, about face, or engage in dance steps.
6. The national colors shall not be lower than other flags. It may be equal to or higher than other flags.
7. National colors must be aloft and free.
8. The national colors may not be dipped or touch the ground.
9. If the national colors use an eagle as a finish piece, it must face forward.
10. National color carriers must not be armed, but must wear headgear.
11. No one may pass through the national colors and its guard.

## SPORTS OPERATION

**I. Event Operating Rules**

- A. The National Youth Championship rules and policies are the same as the District rules and policies.

**II. Facilities/Competition Area**

- A. Local: The facilities/competition area will be dependent on what is available.
- B. District and Regional: The facilities/competition area will be dependent on what is available. Each contest director should do their best to provide a facility that is adequate for competition.
- C. AAU Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games: The host city will provide different venues for different sports and the National Chair will choose the best options unless no choice is given.

**III. Equipment**

- A. Individuals, teams, and corps are responsible for having their own equipment.

**IV. Supportive Coach**

- A. This coach is one who gives moral and emotional support to the athlete such as a parent or family member.
- B. You must be an AAU member.
- C. You must follow the AAU Baton Twirling Rules set forth.
- D. You must wear the designated Black polo in order to be in the practice area at the AAU Baton Twirling Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games.
- E. You may NOT be on the competition floor at the AAU Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games. Only if you are accompanying a Challenger athlete to the lane may you be on the performance floor.
- F. You need to maintain responsibility that the athlete you are supporting also follows the rules set forth.
- G. You should set examples of good sportsmanship.
- H. If an athlete's technical coach is not at the AAU Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games, you may be the voice if a question, concern, or verification/violation of rules is necessary.

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.