

AAU Baton Twirling Rulebook

PREAMBLE

The AAU Baton Twirling National Committee has been established in order to promote the benefits of participation in athletics and hereby adopts these rules & regulations for the advancement of that purpose.

The following will be in addition to the AAU Code Book, and will be the governing rulebook for the AAU program in Baton Twirling. Rules not specifically covered in this book shall be addressed by the National Committee, and in those cases the ruling of the AAU National Baton Twirling Committee will be final.

Knowledge of the rules and regulations addressed in this rulebook is the responsibility of the individual athlete, coach, parent, and contest director.

SPORT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

I. CONTEST DIRECTOR'S PAPERWORK

- A. If you would like to host a District or Super Regional competition, contact the AAU National Headquarters at (407) 934-7200 and ask for the AAU Baton Twirling Sports Manager or contact the National Chair listed on the AAU website at www.aausports.org for approval.
- B. A director's packet will be sent or you can print it from the website.
- C. Contest Director's must offer ALL Baton & Dance Events that are qualifying events for the AAU Junior Olympic Games. A list of required events will be available for all contest directors.
- D. **All directors will be required to submit a copy of your entry booklet to Candice Dowdy, AAU National Baton Chair, and to Andrea Keane, AAU Baton Twirling Sports Manager when you apply for your contest license. This brochure MUST be in PDF format and will be posted online.**
- E. Following the completion of your contest the following items must be sent in for all District and Regional Championships.
 1. A copy of your license.
 2. An alphabetic listing of all athletes participating in spreadsheet format (using either excel or google sheets) and also in PDF format. This must include the AAU Membership numbers of all athletes along with their names, emails, and phone numbers.
 3. A reporting form listing all winners, final scores, and results for each division in spreadsheet format (using either excel or google sheets) and also in PDF format.
 4. Templates will be available for both the Alphabetical listing and the result reporting forms.
 5. Hand-written results will not be accepted.
 6. All Athlete listings and Result reporting forms should be submitted via **email** within seven (7) working days of the competition to the:
 - a. National Chair (Candice Dowdy) at candicedowdyaa@gmail.com and to
 - b. The AAU National Headquarters (Attn: Andrea Keane, Baton Twirling Sports Manager) akeane@aausports.org
- F. Failure of contest director to submit paperwork will result in:
 1. A penalty fee of **\$100.00** will be assessed to the Contest Director.
 2. If Contest Director does not comply, Licensing for future contests may be denied.

II. POLICIES

- A. Each year the AAU Baton Twirling National Executive Committee evaluates the rules of competition in order to determine if changes to the rules would create a better competition experience for **ALL** of the AAU Baton Twirling Athletes. All events offered are considered.
- B. Technical Coaches with a registered Baton Twirling Club have the ability to suggest changes to the Baton Twirling National Executive Committee.
- C. All suggestions must be submitted to National Chair in writing or via email (candicedowdyaau@gmail.com) by July 1. The National Chair will then forward to the entire board for voting.
- D. All suggestions will be considered and will be voted on by the Executive Committee.
- E. Any rule change that is passed, by the AAU National Executive Committee, will then become part of the next year's competing rulebook.
- F. The AAU has the luxury to consider or reject any changes and will look at each suggestion independently.

III. MEDICAL

- A. An athlete rendered unconscious or apparently unconscious during a competition shall not resume participation that day without written authorization from a physician or athletic trainer.

IV. PETITIONS

- A. Petitions concerning participation, eligibility, and qualifying will be addressed on an individual basis.
- B. Please send complete information to the National Baton Twirling Chair.
- C. Petitions concerning the rules should be sent to the National Baton Twirling Chair (candicedowdyaau@gmail.com).
- D. The entire AAU Baton Twirling Executive Committee will address all petitions.

V. GOOD CONDUCT

- A. While attending a competition all athletes, parents, spectators, and coaches are expected to conduct themselves as a gentleman or lady.
- B. Good sportsmanship and dedication to the advancement of baton twirling as a sport should be evident.
- C. Conduct unbecoming may result in disqualification or suspension.
- D. Anyone who disrupts a contest/event may be asked to leave.

VI. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- A. Athletes and spectators must maintain the highest levels of sportsmanship. An athlete or spectator whose conduct is determined to not measure up to these standards shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.
- B. Officials must maintain the highest standards of professionalism. An official whose conduct is determined to not measure up to the high standards shall be subject to disciplinary action enforced by the Executive Committee.

VII. FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOTAPING

- A. The use of flash photography is **PROHIBITED** in the competition area and could result in an automatic disqualification.
- B. Videotaping is allowed; however, limited to:
 - 1. Parents videotaping own child.
 - 2. Teachers videotaping own students.
 - 3. Group directors or designated personnel videotaping own team or corps.
- C. No tripods, extension cords or artificial lights may be used.
- D. No videotaping is permitted from the competition floor.
- E. No videotaping is allowed directly behind or around judges' or contest officials tables.
- F. No judging is permitted by video replay.
- G. If caught videotaping other athlete's performances, you will be asked to delete the video(s) in front of the Baton Twirling Sports Manager and could result in disqualification of the athlete.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. No contest official, relative, coach, or parent may officiate on a division in which their child or student is an athlete in the division.
- B. No parent, coach, or other judge may approach a judge who is actively judging.
- C. Any questions, concerns, or complaints need to be given to the contest director by a registered coach.
- D. It is the responsibility of the athletes and coaches to properly stretch and warm-up prior to practice or a competition.
- E. Coaches or parents may NOT accompany their athlete to the starting area.
- F. Coaches MUST wear an official Gray coach's polo to be allowed on the competition floor (practice and performance areas).
- G. Parents or spectators are NOT allowed to be in the practice area unless you are wearing an official Black polo.
- H. Those wearing official Black polo's are not permitted on the competition floor; however, only if you are accompanying an athlete in the Challenger divisions are you allowed.
- I. Birth certificates, baptism records, adoption/foster care records, and/or a driver's license are all acceptable as "proof of age". Please be able to provide proof of age at registration or at any other time during the contest.
- J. If unable to produce one of the mentioned above, for the contest director/chief judge when questioned about age, a 2.0 penalty will be added to each event in question.
- K. Any athlete, team, or corps violating any rule, part of a rule, or violating any tradition, custom, or breach of contest etiquette for which there is no specific rule provided shall be assessed a 2.0 penalty per violation or disqualification at the discretion of the chief judge.
- L. All publicity spoken, printed, or on clothing must be accurate with the rightful name of the event, age division, status level and classification.
- M. Athletes must use designated practice areas if provided by contest Director.

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

I. Responsibilities/Disqualification/Suspension

- A. It is the responsibility of each athlete, parent, and coach to make certain that all statements concerning residence, age, and status level are factual and accurate.
- B. Any falsification on the part of an athlete, parent, or coach may lead to disqualification or permanent suspension from AAU Baton Twirling.
- C. It is the responsibility of the athletes, parents, and coaches to know the rules and abide by what has been set forth. Any violation may be subject to disqualification or permanent suspension from AAU Baton twirling.
- D. In an **Emergency** situation (i.e. Flat tire, ER visit, etc) Immediate contact to the Baton Sports Manager Andrea Keane at (407) 489-3662 or National Baton Chair- Candice Dowdy at (407) 617-9358.
- E. If contact is not made prior to the start of the contest, a 2.0 penalty will be assessed to the athlete's score sheet.
- F. If contact has been made and the contest starts, the first event that the athlete is in will be held for 15 minutes. A FINAL CALL from the announcer will be given. You will then have 5 minutes to report to your lane.
- G. If you have not reported by the end of the 5 minutes after the Final call, the event in that lane will be closed and NOT reopened.
- H. Once you show up you may continue with the rest of the events thereafter, without any penalties being assessed.

II. Qualification Procedure

- A. The only way that an athlete, team, or corps may compete at the AAU Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games by qualifying at an AAU District or Regional Championships.
- B. The athlete, team, or corps must place in a qualifying position in order to become eligible to compete at the AAU Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games.
- C. Districts that do not host a District/Super Regional event will allow an athlete, team, or corps to compete "at large" at a neighboring AAU District.