

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.

- D. In case of a tie in the final qualifying position, **ALL** individual athletes or teams tied for the final position will become eligible to compete at the AAU Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games.

III. **Allowable Changes Of Team Or Corps Members**

- A. For the AAU Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games, a team or corps may substitute for the original qualifying member if an injury or sickness occurs.
- B. This can only be done if it does not change the status level or age division.
- C. The number of original qualifying members may be reduced as long as the number of members does not fall below the minimum number of members needed for the size of the group that qualified.

IV. **Eligibility**

- A. AAU competitions are open to all athletes regardless of race, creed, color, sex, competitive status, or affiliation with other twirling organizations.
- B. All athletes, coaches, and officials (judges) must be an AAU individual member.
- C. Coaches must have a current AAU membership and gray polo to be allowed on the competition floor.
- D. Membership for AAU runs September 1st through August 31st. Your competition age is determined by your actual age on December 31, of the current AAU Junior Olympic Games Baton Twirling National Championships. **Your age for 2018 AAU Junior Olympic Games will be your age as of December 31, 2018.**
- E. Age limit for the AAU Junior Olympic Games Baton Twirling National Championships is limited to age 22 (typical age of an undergraduate).
- F. Anyone over the age of 23 may compete in an adult division at local meets or licensed AAU competitions; however, an Adult division will not be offered at the AAU Baton Twirling AAU Nationals/AAU Junior Olympic Games.
- G. Athletes are encouraged to attend open practice meets and open licensed meets.
- H. All athletes, teams, and corps may compete in **ONE** AAU District Championships and **ONE** AAU Regional Championships.
- I. An individual athlete, team, or corps that wishes to compete in the AAU Junior Olympic Games Baton Twirling National Championships must qualify at an AAU licensed District or licensed Regional Competition, and placing in one of the eligible positions per category during the current competitive season.
- J. Teams and Corps must qualify in the AAU District where their club is a registered member.
- K. U.S. citizens living outside of the USA along with Foreign athletes, should qualify in the nearest AAU licensed District or licensed Regional Competition and place in one of the positions per category during the current competitive season.
- L. A part-time twirling teacher may compete as long as they are not over 25 years old.
- M. Judges and full-time teachers are NOT permitted to compete in the competition.
- N. All entry forms need to be accurately completed and received by deadline dates.
- O. No late entries will be accepted.

V. **Residency**

- A. You are by birth or naturalization a citizen of your country.
- B. U.S. citizens living in the USA must register in the AAU District where they reside.
- C. An athlete subject to joint legal custody arrangements, whose guardians live in different AAU Districts, has the right to register in either AAU District.

- D. A bona fide student at an educational institution may be considered a resident of the AAU District in which the institution is located.
- E. U.S. citizens residing outside of the USA must register in the closest AAU District.
- F. All U.S. citizens who are current AAU member athletes are eligible to compete and win local, District, Regional, and/or National Championships.

VI. Foreign Athletes

- A. Athletes who are not U.S. citizens may participate in all AAU Baton Twirling events.
- B. Foreign Athletes living in the USA may register in the closest AAU District where they reside.
- C. Foreign athletes living outside of the USA may register at the closest AAU District or in the AAU District where they are first participating in will take place.
- D. Foreign athletes must become current members in order to be eligible to compete.

VII. Uniforms

- A. Uniforms and costumes shall be done in good taste.
- B. Uniforms and costumes should be age appropriate.
- C. Fake hair pieces are allowed but should be secured tightly in hair.
- D. Jewelry should be minimal. No rings or facial piercings should be worn.
- E. Make-up or a bandage should cover tattoos.

VIII. Order Of Appearance

- A. Athletes will appear in the order indicated by the contest director.
- B. Athletes must report to the lane in a timely manner.
- C. If an athlete, team, or corps has not checked in by the final checked-in athlete, team, or corps, the division will be officially closed and not reopened.
- D. Order of appearance may be adjusted with the permission of the contest director and judge to facilitate efficient flow of the competition.
- E. Individual athletes, teams, and corps are allowed 5 minutes and no more than 10 minutes between performances.

IX. Mishaps

- A. A mishap is defined as any incident hindering the performance of an individual athlete, team, or corps. (i.e. baton breaking, end flying off, uniform/costume tearing, illness, etc.).
- B. An athlete may substitute with another baton, but no extra time will be allowed for the substitution.
- C. Timing will continue if a mishap occurs, and an overtime penalty will be assessed.
- D. A chief judge, in consultation with the director of the contest, may take appropriate measures in case of a safety/illness emergency caused by interference of an athlete performing in another lane.
- E. If an electrical failure occurs, the contest will be stopped and resume when the situation has been corrected. Individual athletes, teams, or corps performing at the time of this mishap will be permitted to start over but any penalties up to the point of the mishap will stand.

X. Adjusting To Conditions

- A. Conditions vary with each facility; therefore, all individual athletes, teams, and corps must adjust to the facilities provided for the competition