

AAU Baseball Handbook

*Abbreviated**



‘Sports for All, Forever’

2012

**This is an abbreviated version of the official Handbook intended as a quick reference only. Omissions from this version do not release a coach from his responsibility to be aware of any and all AAU Baseball and AAU Code rules and policies. A copy of the complete AAU Handbook may be obtained at http://image.ausports.org/handbooks/baseball/baseball_handbook.pdf.*

AAU Baseball Rule Book & Regulations

I. SPORT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. **Tobacco Policy** - A coach, player, substitute, attendant, or other bench personnel shall not use tobacco or tobacco-like products within the confines of the field.

B. **Coaching Requirements** - All bench personnel who are not athletes must have a current AAU non-athlete membership and be listed on the team roster. The roster for non-athletes is limited to **three** coaches, **one** scorekeeper, and **two** bat boys (between the ages of 8 and 18). The scorekeeper and bat boys are optional personnel. The scorekeeper position may be used as a fourth coach. All rostered personnel will receive credentials for entrance into facility.

C. **Protest Procedures** –

1. Protests must be made verbally with the umpire by the offended team at the time of the play and before the next pitch.
2. A fee of \$100.00 cash (refunded if protest is upheld) must accompany the protest.
3. All decisions of the protest committee shall be final. The Site Director, Tournament Director, AAU Senior Sports Manager and/or National Chair shall comprise the protest committee for rule challenges.
4. Only decisions involving the misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule may be protested. No protest shall be allowed in matters involving solely the umpire's judgment.

D. **Eligibility Challenges** –

1. Any question pertaining to the eligibility of a team or individual at a National Championship shall be directed to the national committee representative assigned to the tournament. The National Baseball Chair, AAU Director of Sports, and AAU Baseball Senior Sports Manager shall decide on the eligibility of the player.
2. If a player is found to be ineligible prior to the start of the tournament, the player will be expelled from the tournament.
3. If a player is found to be ineligible after the tournament has begun, upon

discovery, that player and head coach will be expelled from the competition. All games in which the ineligible player participated in the most current round will be forfeited, the team will be placed as last seed in that round, and may be subject to future sanctions.

4. Coaches are responsible to see that their team meets all eligibility requirements.

E. Format/Scheduling -

1. Minimum seven games scheduled per team for 9U through Underclassmen.
2. Minimum five games scheduled per team for Upperclassmen.
3. *The exact format of each National Championship tournament, including – but not limited to - number of pools and number of teams in each pool, will be set by the Tournament Director and National Baseball Executive Committee depending on the number of entries in the tournament and other extenuating circumstances.*

9U Through Underclassmen:

1. First round of pool play: Teams in pools of four; first- and second-place teams at end of round one assigned to Diamond bracket. Remaining teams assigned to Gold bracket.
2. Second round of pool play: Determines seeding for final round.
3. Final round is single-elimination.
4. The winner of the 12U *Diamond* division will represent AAU in the New Era National Youth Baseball Championships. The NYBC will feature only 12U teams in 2012.

Upperclassmen:

1. First round of pool play: Teams in pools of four; first-and second-place teams at end of round one assigned to Diamond bracket. Remaining teams assigned to Gold bracket.
2. Seeding will be determined by results of pool play.
3. Final round is double-elimination.

TIEBREAKERS FOR ALL ROUNDS

Tiebreakers apply to each individual round, including final standings. When one round has completed, it will no longer be considered in the tiebreaker criteria once the next round has begun: i.e. when breaking ties at the end of the second round of pool-play (if applicable), the first round of pool-play will not be considered. When breaking ties in the bracket round beginning with fifth-place, neither the first nor the second round of pool play will be considered.

- a. Overall win-loss record
- b. Head-to-head competition, provided all teams have played each other
- c. Least number of runs allowed in round for which standings are being determined (all games in that round are considered; not just games between tied teams)
- d. Most runs scored in round for which standings are being determined (all games in that round are considered; not just games between tied teams)
- e. Random draw

Note:

When more than two teams are tied, each time a team breaks the tie the remaining teams revert back to criterion b and begin the process again.

If three or more teams are tied and if any one of the teams has not played all the other teams in the tie, criterion (b) will not be used.

If three or more teams are tied, all teams have played each other and head-to-head competition does not break the tie, all teams will continue to criterion (c). If one team breaks the tie in criterion (c) but other teams are still tied, those teams will revert to criterion (b). If the three (or more)-way tie is not broken with criterion (c), all teams continue to criterion (d). Once one team breaks the tie at any point, the remaining teams revert to criterion (b) and begin the process again.

II. ELIGIBILITY

A. Online Registration -

1. Registration (confirmation of participation) for National Championships and Super Showcases shall be via the AAU On-Line Registration System. Rosters and team photos must be uploaded by the deadline date.
2. Rosters will be frozen seven (7) days prior to tournament check-in unless written authorization from the National Baseball Chair or his representative is obtained.

Note: Teams must bring proof of age as described in III.C.2.d (page 14) for all rostered athletes to the National Championships. Birth certificates must be produced upon request from the National Championship staff.

B. Eligibility Requirements -

1. Players and teams must satisfy AAU individual player and team eligibility requirements as set forth in AAU Baseball rule III.C.2.a-f and all other eligibility requirements.

C. Tournament Check-In -

1. At least one coach for each team will check in the team at the National Championships at the designated time. If a team is unable to check in at that time, the team must contact the AAU National Office **prior to the event** to make alternate arrangements. *Failure to [to so] may affect your team's eligibility to participate in the National Championship. If a team does not send a coach to the all coaches' meetings, the head coach will be suspended for the first game following the missed meeting.*
2. All team members must be on the roster presented at the time of team registration. After seven days prior to the event, players may not be added to the roster or replaced without written authorization of the National Chair or his representative.
3. Even though a player(s) may not be physically present at time of team registration, the player(s) will still be eligible to play if the player(s) checks-in with AAU tournament officials prior to the start of the team's first game of the second round of pool play.

III. COMPETITION RULES

A. NFHS –

1. Unless otherwise stated in this handbook the rules of competition shall be those of the **National Federation of State High School Associations**.

B. Age Determination Date –

1. The age determination date is May 1 of the current (2012) season.

2. *Underclassmen* are defined as athletes in the graduating class of 2013 and younger.

3. *Upperclassmen* are defined as athletes in the graduating class of 2012 or previous provided the player meets the age determination criterion.

4. In the *Underclassmen* division only, eligibility to participate is based first on the age determination date. An athlete who does not meet the age determination date may qualify under the grade exception rule. The grade of the athlete is not a consideration if the athlete meets the age determination date, except **no** member of the graduating class of 2012 or previous may participate in the Underclassmen division. However, Underclassmen **may** participate in the Upperclassmen division. Each *Underclassmen* team is allowed a maximum of five (5) grade exception athletes. There are no grade exception provisions for the 8U through 14U age divisions.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>BORN ON /AFTER</u>	<u>GRADE EXCEPTION</u>
Upperclassmen	May 1, 1992	None
Underclassmen	May 1, 1994	Class of 2013 Class of 2014 Class of 2015

Note: Regardless of birthdate, **no member of the graduating class of 2012 or previous may participate in the Underclassmen division.*

<i>14U</i>	<i>May 1, 1997</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>13U</i>	<i>May 1, 1998</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>12U</i>	<i>May 1, 1999</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>11U</i>	<i>May 1, 2000</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>10U</i>	<i>May 1, 2001</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>9U</i>	<i>May 1, 2002</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>8U</i>	<i>May 1, 2003</i>	<i>None</i>

5. **Proof of Age** – See full Handbook for acceptable birth documents.

C. **Residency Requirements** -

1. See full Handbook for residency requirements.

D. **ROSTER Requirements** –

1. **9U through 14U**: Maximum of 20 players, 3 coaches, 1 scorekeeper, 2 bat boys/girls. Personnel not on the roster will not be allowed in the dugout.

2. **Underclassmen**: Maximum of 25 players, 3 coaches, 1 scorekeeper, 2 bat boys/girls. Personnel not on the roster will not be allowed in the dugout.

3. **Upperclassmen**: Maximum of 30 players, 3 coaches, 1 scorekeeper, 2 bat boys/girls. Personnel not on the roster will into be allowed in the dugout.

E. **Uniform and Equipment** –

1. Uniforms and equipment shall be pursuant to the rules published by NFHS with the following exceptions/additions:

a. In the 12U and younger divisions, metal cleats may **NOT** be worn.

b. *In the 13U and older divisions, metal cleats **MAY** be worn.*

c. *The official AAU patch and shield patch are optional.*

Preferred attire for coaches is the full baseball uniform. If coaches are not in full uniform, they must be in appropriate matching athletic attire consistent with the team uniform (i.e. collared shirts or team baseball jersey, coaches' dress shorts, such as golf shorts, khakis, chinos, etc.; baseball caps, and athletic shoes. Open-toed shoes are not acceptable). Athletic shorts, mesh shorts, etc. are not allowed. Only baseball caps may be worn on the field and must be worn with the brim in front. No hats other than baseball caps may be worn.

PENALTY - *If these requirements are not met, that particular coach(es) **will not** be eligible to participate until he is in compliance with the rule. Coach(es) not in compliance will not be allowed to take the field until they are properly attired.*

IV. PLAYING RULES

A. Pitching

1. **9u, 10u, 11u and 12u:** A player may pitch in a cumulative maximum of six (6) innings in consecutive calendar days after which that player must not pitch the next calendar day.
2. **13u and 14u:** A player may pitch in a cumulative maximum of ten (10) innings in consecutive calendar days after which that player must not pitch the next calendar day.
3. **Underclassmen and Upperclassmen:** No restrictions on number of innings pitched.
4. An "**inning pitched**" constitutes a pitcher being officially entered into the pitching position. The pitcher will be charged with pitching that inning even if that pitcher does not throw a pitch.
5. Upon reaching the applicable individual pitching limit, the pitcher is immediately removed as pitcher.

EXCEPTION: When a game is suspended in mid-inning and continued on a future day, the pitcher of record is charged with an inning pitched just prior to suspension. He will **not** be charged with an inning pitched for the continuation of that inning immediately upon resumption of the game.

PENALTY: *Upon discovery that the individual pitching limit has been exceeded, the pitcher is immediately removed and both the pitcher and head coach are ejected.*

- B. Head First Slide:** Headfirst slides will be allowed in all age groups.
- C. Bat Size:**
1. The 8u through 14u age groups shall not be limited by the High School Baseball Rules published by the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) regarding bat specifications. However, the AAU reserves the right to ban any bat at its sole discretion and without prior notice. Bat restrictions have not been mandated for the 2012 season.
 2. The Underclassmen and Upperclassmen divisions will follow the NFHS bat requirements.
- D. 10-Run Rule / 15-Run Rule (Mandatory):**
1. **9u - 12u:** The 10-run rule shall apply after four (4) innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.)
 2. **13u - Upperclassmen:** The 10-run rule shall apply after five (5) innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).
 3. In all age groups, the 15-rule shall apply after three (3) innings (2 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).
 4. The 10-run rule and 15-run rule shall apply in **all** National Championship games in pool play, bracket play, and medal games.
- E. Injuries Involving Blood:** A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual would not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is according to the umpire's judgment. The reentry rule would **not** apply to players in case of a bleeding injury. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual may participate.
- F. Ejection (Manager, Coach or Players):**
1. In all age groups, the first occurrence results in suspension for the rest of the game (removal from game site) in which ejection occurs, and for the next scheduled game.
 2. The second occurrence results in suspension for the remainder of the

tournament as well as possible further sanctions subject to the review of the National AAU Tournament Official.

3. If **all** coaches listed on the team's tournament roster are ejected during a game; then the team must forfeit upon the removal of the last coach.

G. Forfeit:

1. The National High School Federation rule shall apply and AAU tournament officials shall administer the rule so that any team which causes a forfeit will **not** benefit and may **not** advance to bracket play unless the tournament committee determines there were extenuating circumstances causing the forfeit.

2. The offended team shall be credited with a win, but runs scored and runs allowed will be based only on actual games played.

3. Teams or coaches who fail to compete in **all** scheduled games are subject to sanctions, which may include suspension from current and future national championship play.

4. Coaches may **not** mutually agree to end a contest without first receiving the approval of the respective AAU Baseball tournament committee representative.

H. Complete Game:

1. **8u - 12u:** Four (4) innings (3 ½ innings if home team is ahead).

2. **13u – Upperclassmen:** Five (5) innings (4 ½ innings if home team is ahead).

I. Called Game: See L. AAU Baseball Rain Policy

J. Last Half Inning: The bottom half of the last inning will **not** be completed solely for tie-breaker purposes once the home team has more runs than the visiting team in that inning.

K. DH (Designated Hitter) and EP (Extra Player): Available, and optional, for all games in all age groups.

1. At the beginning of a game, either the EP and and/or the DH may be elected.

2. The Designated Hitter (DH) provision as covered in the rulebook published by the National Federation of State High School Associations

(NFHS) applies.

3. The Extra Player (EP) is listed in the batting order and may assume any of the nine defensive positions (including pitcher) without being counted as a substitution.

4. Under all of the following options, there are never more than the standard nine defensive positions.

a. Use neither DH nor EP: Nine (9) players in the batting order and the same nine (9) players on defense.

b. Use only the DH, and not the EP: Nine (9) players in the batting order, one of which is replaced by another line up player on defense.

c. Use only the EP, and not the DH: Ten (10) players in the batting order, of which nine play on defense.

d. Use both the DH and EP: Ten players in the batting order. One of the nine (9) defensive players is replaced by the DH in that batting order. The DH can be removed during the game. The EP position may not be removed during the game.

5. The same number of players that are listed in the batting order to begin the game will continue throughout the game. If the game is started using an EP, the game must be finished using an EP.

6. Players not listed in the starting line-up may serve as substitutes.

7. In case of injury, the NFHS rule book applies **except** that if an EP is being used and injury prevents that slot in the batting order from being filled, an automatic “out” applies in that slot.

L. AAU Baseball Rain Policy

1. If rain occurs before games start for the day those early games are *usually* moved to the end of that day’s schedule

2. If rain occurs during a game, the game will be suspended and picked up from that point if game has not reached official status.

3. If game has reached official status see Official Status (Regulation Game) and Note below.

Official Status (Regulation Game):

12u and younger: Four full innings have been played, or the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in three, or three and a fraction, turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five turns at bat.

13u and older: Five full innings have been played, or the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four, or four and a fraction, turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five turns at bat.

NOTE: *If the game is suspended when the teams have not had an equal number of completed times at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; except that if the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.*

4. For all divisions, the umpire may suspend a game, but not declare the game complete, in order to hold discussions with AAU tournament officials.

5. *In the event of extended inclement weather, at its sole discretion the tournament committee may deem it necessary to alter the tournament format by shortening either the time limit for games and/or reducing the number of innings that will constitute an official game, or other means necessary to complete the tournament within the published dates.*

M. Time Limit for National Championships

1. **12u and younger:** No new inning shall begin after **1 hour and forty-five minutes**, unless the score is tied.
2. **13u and older:** No new inning shall begin after **2 hours**, unless the score is tied.
3. During pool play only, if the score is tied at the end of 6 innings for 12U and younger or 7 innings for 13U and older, or reaches its time limit, one extra inning will be played using the **international tiebreaker rule**.

International Tiebreaker Rule:

At the beginning of the extra inning, coaches will meet at home plate and indicate to the umpire where in their batting order they will begin. Each

team has the option of beginning anywhere in the batting order that was in place the previous inning. The previous two batters in the order will be placed on first and second base accordingly with no outs.

4. Once the tiebreaker begins, there is no re-entry of players.
5. If at the end of one extra inning with the international tiebreaker in place neither team scores, the game will end in a tie. Each team will be given one-half credit for a win and one-half credit for a loss.
6. The time limit will **not** apply in any medal games (Gold, Silver, Bronze) in National Championship play. No bracket games will end in a tie.

NOTE: *The above time limits may also be used for District Tournaments at the District Director's discretion.*

- N. Speed-Up Rule:** The NFHS speed-up rule/courtesy runners rule will be used at all National Championships, and may be used in other tournament levels at the discretion of the tournament director.

At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. The same individual runner may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher). Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be considered to have left the game when a courtesy runner is used. A player may not run as a courtesy runner and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning, unless an injury, illness, or ejection occurs and no other runners are available. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute. Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner may run.

- O. Re-Entry Rule:** Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, including a player who is the Designated Hitter or Extra Player (EP), provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.

P. Base Lengths and Pitching Distances:

- 1.) 9U Open Base – 65’ basepaths; 46’ pitching distance
- 2.) 10U Open Base – 65’ basepaths; 46’ pitching distance
- 3.) 11U – 70’ basepaths; 50’ pitching distance
- 4.) 12U – 70’ basepaths; 50’ pitching distance
- 5.) 13U and Older – 90’ basepaths; 60’ 6” pitching distance

Q. Leadoffs: Leadoffs are allowed in **ALL** AAU Grand Nationals competitions.

For more information on any rule or subject not covered in this document, refer to the complete AAU Baseball Handbook at http://image.aausports.org/handbooks/baseball/baseball_handbook.pdf. Coaches are responsible for knowledge of all rules in the complete AAU Baseball Handbook. This version is intended as a quick reference of the most common rules only.