

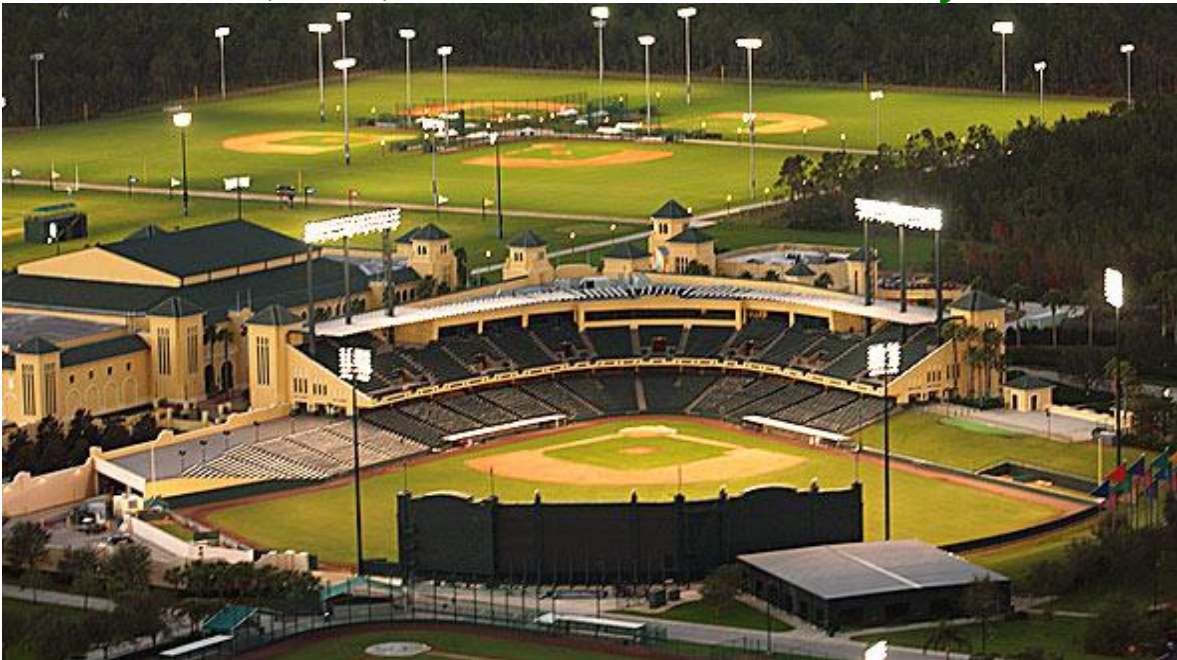
AAU BASEBALL GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Tournament Information Packet



**ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex
At Walt Disney World® Resort
Spring Training Home of the Atlanta Braves**

9U Open Base* and 10U Open Base*: June 20 – 25
11U, 12U, and 13U: June 26 – July 1



*Lead-offs and stealing allowed

Revised June 24, 2011

Tournament Entry Includes

- ALL GAMES PLAYED AT ESPN WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS*
- CHAMPIONSHIP T-SHIRTS FOR ALL ATHLETES AND COACHES
- TOURNAMENT PATCHES FOR EACH PLAYER AND COACH
- WIDE RANGE OF APPROVED HOST HOTELS AT SPECIAL RATES
- SPECIAL THEME PARK TICKET RATES
(WHEN PURCHASED IN ADVANCE)
- DISNEY FESTIVAL ATMOSPHERE
- OPENING CEREMONIES EXTRAVAGANZA RECOGNIZING ALL TEAMS
- PIN TRADING (OPTIONAL)

**DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY AT THE SAME COMPLEX THAT
HOSTS THE ATLANTA BRAVES**



2011 AAU BASEBALL GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Team Check-in:

9U	4:30 - 5:30 PM	Sunday, June 19	Best Western*
10U	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Sunday, June 19	Best Western*
11U	3:30 - 4:30 PM	Saturday, June 25	Best Western*
12U	4:30 - 5:30 PM	Saturday, June 25	Best Western*
13U	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Saturday, June 25	Best Western*

*Best Western Lake Buena Vista Resort Hotel
2000 Hotel Plaza Blvd.
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830
Mezzanine (M) Level
Florida Keys rooms

Team check-in is mandatory. At least one coach for each team will check in the team at the National Championships at the designated time. Players do not come to team check-in. If a team is unable to check in at their assigned time, the team must contact the AAU National Office **prior to the event** to make alternate arrangements. *Failure to check in at the designated time or to contact AAU Headquarters in advance to make alternate arrangements may affect your team's eligibility to participate in the National Championship.*

At team check-in, coaches must have with them the roster they submitted online, a copy of each team member's AAU memberships, and birth documents for all players. Player gifts will be distributed at team check-in.

Coaches' Meeting:

9U / 10U	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Sunday, June 19	Best Western*
11U / 12U / 13U	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Saturday, June 25	AAU National Office

Per AAU rules, if a team does not send a coach to all the coaches' meetings, the head coach will be suspended for the first game following the missed meeting.

Opening Ceremonies:

9U / 10U	Monday, June 20	Behind Champion Stadium
11U / 12U / 13U	Sunday, June 26	Behind Champion Stadium

At ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, behind Champion Stadium, all players and coaches must be assembled by 7:00 p.m. for staging. Any players assigned special roles in the ceremony must be present at 6:00 p.m. for rehearsal on the playing field. Opening Ceremonies begin promptly at 8:00 p.m.

Tournament passes will grant access to Opening Ceremonies (In order to avoid the long lines of friends and family buying tickets prior to the start of Opening Ceremonies, purchase tournament passes earlier in the day). Please bring a replica of your state's flag or team banner for the Opening Ceremonies.

Players must wear their full baseball uniform (jersey and baseball pants) at Opening Ceremonies, except cleats. Coaches will wear their coaching uniforms and be dressed alike.

Revised June 24, 2011

Teams may bring team trading pins to exchange during the staging period before Opening Ceremonies and during the week. Usually, the pins have a team, state or city logo. Trading pins are optional. AAU does not know how many teams will participate in this activity from year to year. Therefore, we recommend your team set a budget for pins, and distribute your budgeted number of pins equally among your players regardless of the number of teams participating in pin trading. Your players can then decide with which teams they personally want to trade. ESPN pin lanyards are available for purchase if you wish.

Competition:

9U / 10U

Monday, June 20 – Saturday, June 25

11U / 12U / 13U

Sunday, June 26 – Friday, July 1

Competition will begin daily at **7:30** a.m., *including on the day of Opening Ceremonies*. Each team will play one pool play game prior to Opening Ceremonies. The first round of pool competition will be on days 1 and 2, the second round will be played on days 3 and 4, single-elimination will begin on day 5, semi-finals and the championship game will be played on day 6.

Facilities:

ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at *Walt Disney World*[®] Resort in the Orlando, FL area.

Entry Deadline:

All entry information must be received no later than Wednesday, **June 1, 2011**. Please remember it is the responsibility of the Head Coach/Club Director to submit **all** necessary registration materials before the deadline. Once the deadline passes, teams on the waitlist will be cleared and teams who have not completed their online registration will no longer be eligible for the event if the tournament is full. Team registration is not complete until your roster and team photo have been uploaded. The Nationals director of the competition holds the right to reject entries that may be received after the entry deadline.

It is the sole responsibility of the head coach or club director – not the AAU's - to ensure all requirements are met.

Entry Fee:

\$750.00 per team; includes tournament patches. If paying by credit card, a \$22.50 convenience fee is charged.

AAU Membership:

All athletes, coaches, scorekeeper and bat-persons must hold a current AAU membership. In addition, all teams must hold a current AAU club membership. All athletes and non-athletes listed on the roster will receive credentials for entrance into the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

Mandatory Coaches Education:

The AAU National Office is happy to announce to its members, FREE Coaches' Education for all **AAU Non-Athletes**. This exciting program is **MANDATORY** for all AAU Non-Athletes and will be administered by **Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA)**. Please visit www.aausports.org and click on JOIN NOW in order to enter and take the MANDATORY AAU/PCA coaches educational course. Membership may be revoked from non-athletes who do not complete course prior to competition.

Format:

7-game guarantee. Teams will be placed in pools of four (4). In the event of uneven teams, it is possible that one or more pools may have five (5) teams. In this instance, not all teams will play each other. Day 1 of competition will be one pool play game. Day 2 of competition will be the remaining two pool play games in round one. After the three pool play games, the first- and second-place teams in the pool will be placed in the Diamond bracket. The remaining teams will be placed in the Gold bracket. This will group teams according to their exhibited skill level. Once teams are in their new pools with other teams from their bracket, the next three pool play games will determine their seeding for single-elimination. All teams will advance to the single-elimination round. On Day 3, the first two of the round-two pool play games will be played. On Day 4, the remaining pool play game will be played and teams will be seeded for single-elimination. On Day 5, the single-elimination round will begin. Day 6 will be the remaining single-elimination games and the Championship game for each bracket.

RULES OF PLAY:

The most current High School Baseball Rules as published by the National Federation of State High School Districts except where modified (see AAU Baseball Handbook: http://image.aausports.org/handbooks/baseball/baseball_handbook.pdf).

Games for 9U through 12U will be six (6) innings in length. 13U games will be seven (7) innings in length.

The 10-run/15-run rule will be in effect for all games.

The time limit for 9U through 12U shall be one (1) hour and 45 minutes unless the score is tied. The time limit for 13U will be two (2) hours unless the score is tied. There will be no new inning starting after the time limit expires if the game is not tied.

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**.

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.

For example, in an 11U game the score is tied at the end of six innings with the batter who is seventh in the batting order making the final out for the visiting team. At the top of the 7th inning the coach for that team may advise the umpire he chooses to start the extra inning with his number three batter. His number one batter would take second base, and his number two batter would take first base.

The opposing team will then advise the umpire where he will start his batting order.

Once the tiebreaker begins, there is no re-entry of players.

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.

The time limit will **not** apply in any medal games (Gold, Silver, Bronze) in bracket play.

The NFHS speed-up rule/courtesy runners rule will be used at all National Championships.

In the 9U through 12U divisions, 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.

In the 13U age group, 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.

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, 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.

Extended Inclement Weather

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.

The entire rain policy can be found in the AAU Rules Handbook.

Team Qualifications:

The National Championship will be subject to monitoring by the National Baseball Executive Committee, provided: (a) the team conforms with AAU registration rules for athletes and clubs as outlined in the AAU Code Book, and (b) the team has participated in their District Championship, if one is held, and (c) the team is certified jointly by the District Governor and District Baseball Chair, or (d) the team has been invited by the National Baseball Chair.

At the Grand National Championships in ALL AGE GROUPS, all team members must be on the roster filed 7 days prior to team check-in. Even though a player(s) may not be physically present at time of team check-in, the player(s) will still be eligible to play if the player(s) check-in with AAU Tournament Director prior to the start of the team's first (1st) game of the second (2nd) round of pool play.

If a player is found to be ineligible prior to the start of the tournament, the player will be expelled from the tournament. 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. Coaches are responsible to see that their team meets all eligibility requirements.

PLAYER AGE DETERMINATION:

AGE GROUP	BORN ON /AFTER
13U	May 1, 1997
12U	May 1, 1998
11U	May 1, 1999
10U	May 1, 2000
9U	May 1, 2001
8U	May 1, 2002

Proof of age is required for participation in AAU and must be produced upon request. Only the following manners are acceptable:

- A photocopy of the player's birth record from the state, county or municipal bureau of vital statistics of the place of birth. HOSPITAL RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED.
- A photocopy of the delayed registration of birth if the athlete's birth was not recorded on the day of birth, issued by the same bodies.
- Consular Service Form FS240, "Report on Birth", issued by the U.S. State Department.
- Immigration and naturalization forms I151 and I25 and Form No. 43R3117 issued by the U.S. Department of Justice.
- A valid passport, driver's license or Homeland Security card.

Player Roster:

Rosters are limited to a maximum of 20 players. A team advancing to an AAU National Championship from at least a three (3) team qualifier shall be allowed to add or replace up to five (5) players on its AAU District roster (to a team maximum of twenty).

Coaches:

Each team is entitled to a maximum of **three (3) bench personnel (head coach and assistants) and (1) one scorekeeper**. Each individual must be a registered as an AAU non-athlete. Teams that have four (4) coaches may use the scorekeeper position for their fourth coach. At the AAU Grand Nationals, scorekeepers will be provided. No more than three (3) coaches and one (1) scorekeeper, or four (4) coaches without a scorekeeper may appear on a roster or on the field.

Uniform & Equipment -

Uniforms and equipment shall be pursuant to the rules published by NFHS with any exceptions/additions implemented by the AAU.

Coaches' Attire:

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, coaches' dress shorts, such as golf shorts, khaki, 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.

AAU Patch:

Included in the National Championship entry fee will be patches for players and coaches. The patches may be worn on the uniform or kept as a memento of the event.

The AAU National Championship patch may be affixed to the left sleeve of the uniform jersey or over the left chest of a sleeveless uniform jersey. Players may also elect to wear the AAU shield (ordered online for \$1.00) on either the left sleeve of the uniform or the center back between the shoulders. Additional tournament patches may be ordered for \$3.00 at www.aubaseball.org.

Batpersons:

No more than two (2) bat-persons may be registered by each team, provided that each bat-person is between the ages 8-18 at the time of the tournament and is a registered as an AAU non-athlete. Bat-persons must wear helmets when in live playing areas.

Awards and Ceremonies:

Award Ceremonies will be held for all medal-winning teams. This includes 1st-8th place teams in the "Diamond Bracket" and 1st-8th place teams in the "Gold Bracket." These ceremonies will take place immediately following each medal game. Teams will be instructed to walk over to the medal ceremony by AAU/*Disney* representatives. Photos will be allowed.

Team trophies will be awarded to the top four (4) teams in each the Diamond and Gold brackets. Individual medals will be awarded to the top eight (8) teams in the Diamond and Gold brackets.

A Sportsmanship trophy will also be awarded to a team or individual that exemplifies the award during the tournament. The presentation of awards will be held immediately following the completion of the games for 1st through 8th place.

New Era National Youth Baseball Championship Tournament:

In the 10U and 12U age groups the winner of the Diamond Division Grand National Championship will represent the AAU at the New Era Youth Baseball Championship Tournament in Memphis,



Tennessee this August. This tournament is to determine the “best of the best” in youth baseball. The national 10U and 12U champions of AAU, AABC, Babe Ruth (the Cal Ripken division) Dixie, NABF, PONY, Super Series, and USSSA leave it all on the field and one champion per age group emerges. In the three-year history of the event, the AAU has won either the 10U or 12U division every year. Clearly, you’ll find the best competition at the AAU Grand Nationals.

Conduct:

Players’ and coaches’ conduct should be above reproach, both on and off the diamond. Any misconduct will result in disqualification from the championship without refund. Coaches listed on the official team roster will be responsible for the conduct of their players and fans for any damages incurred to the motel(s) or facilities used by their rostered players. Any player or coach who is ejected from a game will also be disqualified from that team’s following game. The second occurrence during the tournament results in suspension for the remainder of the tournament as well as possible imposition of further sanctions.

Protests:

Protests must be made verbally with the umpire by the offended team at the time of the play and before the next pitch. A fee of \$100.00 cash (refunded if upheld) must accompany the protest. All decisions of the protest committee shall be final. Only decisions involving the misinterpretation or misapplication of a specific rule may be protested. No protest shall be allowed in matters involving solely the officials’ judgment.

Deadline for withdrawal of a tournament entry will be the tournament entry deadline. If there is no notification of withdrawal prior to the deadline date, the head coach and/or team may be subject to sanctions, with due process.

Withdrawal of Tournament Entry:

Deadline for withdrawal of a tournament will be the tournament entry deadline. If a team does not give notification of withdrawal prior to the tournament deadline date the team forfeits their entry fee.

Spectator Admission and Length-of-Event Passes:

Spectator admission is required for all events at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. Daily admission will be available for \$14.50 per adult and \$10.00 per child (ages 3-9). A tournament pass is available for \$58 for adults and \$40 for children (ages 3-9). You may purchase your passes at the box office upon arrival at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

Cooler Policy:

Each guest may bring a single cooler of up to one gallon in size for personal use. Coaches may bring a single cooler into the facility of up to five (5) gallons for team use. No alcoholic beverages and/or glass containers will be permitted. Please also note that no lockable storage is available for cooler or other personal belongings. Disney is not responsible for personal items that are lost or stolen.

Taping Policy:

Taping is free if athletes bring their own tape and pre-wrap. Athletes that do not bring their own taping kit and are seeking preventative taping may purchase a taping kit (one roll each of pre-wrap and tape) at D-Sports between the hours of 10am-5pm. The receipt is taken to the trainer to receive the kit and to be taped. After hours, you may purchase the kit directly from the Athletic Trainer, but exact change will be required. Additional rolls of tape may also be. There is no fee for taping related to injuries sustained during competition, IF the injury has been evaluated and logged at the time it occurred by the Athletic Trainer.

Transportation and Parking:

Teams are responsible for their own transportation to and from ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. Parking at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex is complimentary. Please plan to arrive early. If the parking lot is full you may need to be shuttled to and from ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

Housing and Theme Parks:

The AAU makes every effort to provide the best quality experience for athletes, coaches and families that participate in AAU events. The AAU and Disney have carefully selected host hotels for your teams and athletes. These properties are ready to work with you providing the best accommodations at a great price. In order to complete your registration process, you will be required to use www.aautravelplanner.org when making hotel reservations. Please avoid making reservations using other online travel engines.

If your team will not be staying at one of the recommended properties, please complete a housing exemption form. Email Travel@aausports.org to request the Housing Exemption Form.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

AAU National Headquarters
Debra Horn
Senior Sport Manager
debra@aausports.org
407.828.3459

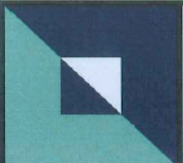
FOR COMPLETE AAU RULES:

Rules listed in this package are excerpts from the AAU Handbook. It is the responsibility of every coach to review the rules in their entirety prior to the Grand National Championships. Rules can be found at www.aaubaseball.org under the AAU Rules/Info tab, or by clicking on this link:

http://image.aausports.org/handbooks/baseball/baseball_handbook.pdf

NO GUARANTEE:

The AAU can not and does not guarantee the appearance and/or participation of specific participant(s) and/or teams (as applicable) in this event, nor can it guarantee the number of teams that will participate. The AAU has sanctioned (approved) this Event as an official AAU Event (competition), but the AAU is not and shall not be responsible for any participant's or spectator's expenses related to this Event (nor reimbursements for same) in case of dissatisfaction of any participant, friend, family, or spectator. This includes, but is not limited to, all travel, hotel (lodging), food, entry fees and/or any other expenses related to the event.



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT
YOUR CREDENTIAL**

The Sports Complex uses a biometric Ticketing system that will match your Credential to you - once a credential is used by an athlete, the athlete must use the same credential for the duration of the competition. Therefore, in order to insure access for competition, it is Critical that EACH ATHLETE WRITE THEIR NAME ON THE BACK OF THEIR CREDENTIAL so that credentials do not get mixed. By following this process, this will assist you in gaining access in an efficient manner.