



2012 AAU Baseball Grand Nationals 14U/ Underclassmen/ Upperclassmen

July 24 – 29, 2012

VENUES:

- Historic Terry Park
- Former Red Sox Spring Training sites City of Palms Park and Player Development Complex
- Lee County Sports Complex (Home of the Minnesota Twins Spring Training)
- Go to www.leeparks.org to see facilities

SPECIAL HOTEL RATES:

Call 1-888-529-6588 to find the best rates for hotels.



2012 AAU BASEBALL



AAU Nationals



14U – UNDERCLASSMEN - UPPERCLASSMEN

TERRY PARK, CITY OF PALMS PARK, PLAYER DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX,
JET BLUE COMPLEX

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 each of the Lee County facilities. *Please be sure to print a copy of each membership card as these are necessary for entrance to the amusement park for Opening Ceremonies.*

Membership can be obtained at www.aabaseball.org, then click on Join AAU Today.

DATES:

14U: July 24-29, 2012

Underclassmen: July 24-29, 2012

Upperclassmen: July 24-29, 2012

(Check-in and Coaches' Meeting for all age groups July 23, 2012)

ENTRY FEE:

\$850 for a minimum 7-games scheduled for **14U** and **Underclassmen**, *weather permitting*. **Upperclassmen** have a minimum of 5 games *weather permitting*. If paying by credit card, a \$25.50 convenience fee is added. Includes tournament patches. It is not required that patches be affixed to the uniform. All tournament registration is online. Visit www.aabaseball.org or click <http://www.aabaseball.org/Events/NationalEvents/NationalChampionships.aspx>

ENTRY DEADLINE:

Wednesday, July 4, 2012 at 11:59 PM ET. Register early for this popular event. Once the entry deadline passes, teams on the waitlist will be cleared. Teams who have not completed their online registration will be removed if the event is full. Team registration is not complete until your roster has been uploaded and entry fees submitted. **An Intent to Participate does not hold a slot for your team.**

QUALIFYING:

See the AAU Rules Handbook at www.aabaseball.org for qualifying methods.

TEAM CHECK-IN:

A person listed as bench personnel shall register the team at the appointed check-in time below. This is a mandatory requirement. All team registration shall occur

at **The Lee County Sports Complex, 14100 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL, 33912**. The phone number for the tournament director is 239.533.7432. 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 Baseball department at the 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.*

Each team shall present an **"ELIGIBILITY BOOK"** for review at check-in. The **"ELIGIBILITY BOOK"** must contain:

1. Copy of the team AAU Online Roster to be used at the event.
2. Copy of each athlete's Proof of Age.
3. List of AAU membership numbers for all athletes and bench personnel. It is not necessary to print each individual AAU membership card.

The **"ELIGIBILITY BOOK"** may be held at registration for review or requested to be seen by a member of the AAU Staff at any time during the tournament. Always have your Eligibility Book with you during your games. Any book held for review shall be returned to the team. Failure to have proper documentation at registration or during the event may result in athlete or team disqualification.

Credentials and player gifts will be distributed at team check-in. If you have a team administrator (general manager, team mom, team dad, etc.) and they have an AAU number, please bring a copy of their AAU membership card. Limit one per team.

CHECK-IN SCHEDULE:	14U	3:30 - 4:30 PM	Monday, July 23
	Underclassmen	4:30 - 5:30 PM	Monday, July 23
	Upperclassmen	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Monday, July 23

COACHES MEETING:	14U	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Monday, July 23
	Underclassmen	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Monday, July 23
	Upperclassmen	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Monday, July 23

The coaches meeting will be held at the **Lee County Sports Complex Minor League Dining Room, 14100 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL, 33912**. There will be directional signs on the road leading you to the building.

Per AAU rules, if a team does not send a coach to the coaches' meeting or make alternate arrangements in advance if necessary, the head coach will be suspended for the first game following the missed meeting.

OPENING

CELEBRATION:

14U/ Underclassmen/ Upperclassmen Tuesday, July 24, 5pm-9pm
ZOOMERS AMUSEMENT PARK !

The theme for the Opening Celebration is “FUN”. **14U, Underclassmen** and their families please arrive at the recently opened “ZOOMERS” Amusement Park, **17455 Summerlin Rd. Fort Myers, FL, 33908** by 4:30 **pm**. The ceremonies will begin with an introduction and welcoming of each team followed by greetings from our Lee County Sports Authority & AAU. The **Upperclassmen** should arrive by 6:30 **pm**. Each group will have an official welcome as stated above. **For Opening Ceremonies, players and coaches must wear their team jersey/coaching shorts, but may wear swim trunks and beach shoes if they wish.** ZOOMERS offers laser tag, go-carts, mini golf, bowling, lazy river tubing, arcade games and much, much, more. Athletes will be admitted free and their admission will include food and beverage. Family members will be charged between \$5-\$10 depending on their height. For those who want to attend the ceremony but DO NOT want to partake in any of the rides etc., your admission will be FREE! Color-coded wristbands will be provided upon entry. Please bring your swim gear and towels if you want to take advantage of the water related activities. **Athletes and coaches must have their AAU cards with them.** If you have a team flag bring it! Additional food will be available for purchase. Sorry no outside food or drink. Visit www.zoomersamusementpark.com

SCHEDULES and FORMAT:

14U and Underclassmen:

Every attempt will be made to post schedules one week before the first day of competition. Games will begin daily at **8:00** a.m., *including on the day of the Opening Celebration*. Each team will play at least one pool play game prior to the Opening Celebration. 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 (one or more age groups may begin on day 4), semi-finals and the championship game will be played on day 6. The format and schedule are subject to change due to weather, field needs, or number of teams in the event.

Each team will be scheduled a minimum of seven games. Teams will be placed in pools of four (4) or (5). In the event of uneven teams, it is possible that one or more pools may have five (5) teams while others have four (4). In this instance, either not all teams will play each other, or all teams will play each other giving that pool one more pool game. The National Executive Committee will make the decision. To group teams according to their exhibited skill level, after the first round of pool play 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. The next round of pool play in teams' new division will determine the seeding for single-elimination. All teams will advance to the single-elimination round.

Upperclassmen:

Every attempt will be made to post schedules one week before the first day of competition. Games will begin daily at **8:00** a.m., *including on the day of the Opening Celebration*. Each team may play at least one pool play game prior to the Opening Celebration. Pool competition will be on days 1 and 2, or possibly on days 2 and 3. Double-elimination will begin on day 3 or 4. The format and schedule are subject to change due to weather, field needs, or number of teams in the event.

Each team will be scheduled a minimum of five (5) games. Teams will be placed in pools of four (4) or five (5). In the event of uneven teams, it is possible that one or more pools may have five (5) teams while others have four (4). In this instance, either not all teams will play each other, or all teams will play each other giving that pool one more pool game. The National Executive Committee will make the decision. The decision is at the sole discretion of the Baseball Executive Committee. To group teams according to their exhibited skill level, after pool play 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 unless there are Wild Card positions added. Pool play results will also determine the seeding for double-elimination. All teams will advance to the double-elimination round.

FACILITIES:

Lee County Sports Complex
14100 Six Miles Cypress Parkway
Fort Myers FL 39912

Terry Park
3410 Palm Beach Blvd.
Fort Myers FL 33916

Zoomers (Opening Celebration)
7330 Gladiolus Drive
Fort Myers FL 33908

Player Development Complex
4301 Edison Ave
Fort Myers FL 33916

City Of Palms Park
2201 Edison Ave.
Fort Myers FL 33901

Jet Blue Park
11500 Fenway South Drive
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

- UNIFORMS:** 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. Baggy basketball shorts, shorts that extend well below the knees, and the like will not be allowed. Coaches' shorts with team logos or similar *will* be allowed. The key is that coaches are expected to have a professional and neat appearance. 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. Whether a coaches' attire is appropriate is solely a judgment call by the tournament director and may not be appealed.
- 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.
- If worn, 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.
- BASEBALLS:** Official AAU Rawlings baseballs will be provided for all Nationals games.
- 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).
- An abbreviated handbook with tournament rules is posted at <http://www.aubaseball.org/Events/NationalEvents/NationalChampionships.aspx>. It is strongly recommended that coaches print this abbreviated version and have it with them at all times during the Grand Nationals.
- Games will be seven (7) innings in length.
- The 10-run/15-run rule will be in effect for all games.

The time limit 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, the score is tied at the end of seven innings with the batter who is seventh in the batting order making the final out for the visiting team. At the top of the 8th 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 Gold, Silver, or Bronze games in bracket play.

The NFHS speed-up rule/courtesy runners rule is in effect at all National Championships.

In the **14U** Nationals, 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.

There are no pitching restrictions in the **Underclassmen** or **Upperclassmen** divisions.

TIEBREAKER RULES:

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, no pool play games will be considered.

Overall win-loss record

a) Head-to-head competition, *provided all teams* have played each other

- b) 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)
- c) Most runs scored in round for which standings are being determined (all games in that round are considered; not just games between tied teams)
- d) Random draw

Note¹ : If there are teams in an uneven pool, for that pool only, tiebreakers will be based on winning percentages, head-to-head **if** all teams have played each other, **average** number of runs given up per game, and **average** runs scored per game. When one or more pools have uneven teams, to determine seeding for the final round, all teams' figures will be converted to winning percentage, head-to-head (if applicable), average runs given up and average runs scored.

Note²:

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. It is also possible that in these conditions, games may roll to the following day, teams may play more games in one day than originally scheduled, and single-elimination may have to begin on a day that pool play has just finished. The entire rain policy can be found in the AAU Rules Handbook.

EXTREME WEATHER REFUND POLICY:

For a tournament with seven minimum games scheduled, **100%** refund/credit will be given if the tournament is canceled before it begins. If one game is started, there will be a **75%** credit toward a future AAU National Championship. If two

games have been started there will be a **50%** credit for a future AAU Nationals. If three games have been started, there will be a **25%** credit for a future AAU Nationals. If four or more games are started, there will be **no** refund or credit. Note that these credits apply to the tournament entry fee only and not to spectator tickets. The AAU has no control over refund/rain check policies of individual venues.

ELIGIBILITY:

The National Championship will be subject to monitoring by the National Baseball Executive Committee.

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.

Any questions pertaining to the eligibility of a player or team shall be directed to the Tournament Director or his/her designee in attendance. All claims of an ineligible player must be accompanied by proof, and will be determined by the National Chair, Senior Sports Manager, and AAU Director of Sports.

PLAYER AGE DETERMINATION:

AGE GROUP	BORN ON /AFTER
14U	May 1, 1997
Underclassmen	May 1, 1994
Upperclassmen	May 1, 1992

Proof of age is required for participation in AAU and must be produced upon request. Acceptable forms of birth documents are listed in the AAU Rules Handbook. No other forms will be accepted.

PLAYER ROSTER:

Rosters are limited to a maximum of 20 players for **14U**, 25 players for **Underclassmen**, and 30 players for **Upperclassmen**. A team advancing from a qualifier shall be allowed to add or replace up to five (5) players on the roster with which the team qualified, provided it does not exceed the roster maximum. All National Championship rosters must be filed online at least seven days prior to the event.

COACHES: Each team is entitled to a maximum of **three (3) bench personnel (head coach and assistants) and (1) one scorekeeper/assistant coach**. Each individual must be a registered as an AAU non-athlete. Only those coaches/scorekeepers filed on the online roster will be permitted on the field or in the dugout.

TEAM ADMINISTRATOR: Each team may have one rostered team administrator (business manager, team mom, team dad, travel coordinator, etc.). One rostered team administrator will receive credentials but will not be allowed on the field of play or in the dugout.

BATPERSONS: No more than two (2) bat-persons may be registered by each team. Each bat-person should be between the ages 8-18 at the time of the tournament and registered as an AAU non-athlete. If a batperson is younger than 8 years old, s/he must have served as a batperson throughout at least one season. Batpersons must wear helmets when in live playing areas.

AWARDS and CEREMONIES: Award ceremonies will be held for 1st-8th place teams in each the Diamond and Gold divisions. These ceremonies will commence immediately following each game that determines 1st through 8th place. Teams will receive their medals or trophies after their game on the infield of the field they just played on. Photos will be permitted.

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

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.

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.

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: Spectator admission is required for all events at Lee County facilities. Daily admission will be available for \$15.00 per adult and \$10.00 per child (ages 3-9). Tournament passes are available for \$40 per adult and \$20 per child. Tickets/Tournament passes are available at team check-in and at the entrance to each facility. Advance ticketing is not available.

COOLER POLICY: 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. Lee County is not responsible for personal items that are lost or stolen.

SHELTER POLICY: Covered seating is available at all Lee County fields. Pop-up tents/shelters are allowed but must be down the foul lines back from the bleacher line of view.

TRANSPORTATION and PARKING:

Teams are responsible for their own transportation to and from the Lee County Facilities. Teams are also responsible for their own transportation to/from any off-site venues. Transportation is not provided to/from offsite venues.

Parking at each of the Lee County facilities is complimentary. Please plan to arrive early.

HOUSING: The AAU makes every effort to provide the best quality experience for athletes, coaches and families that participate in AAU events. The AAU and the Lee County Sports Organizing Committee 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.leecountysportshousing.org when making hotel reservations, or call 1.888.529.6588. Please avoid making reservations using other online travel engines.

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about AAU Baseball, or for Registration and rule information, visit <http://www.aubaseball.org>, then under **Play Ball/Get Involved**, click **About AAU**, or contact:

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

Local Site Information:

Lee County Parks and Recreation
Jesse Lavender
Pro-Am Athletic Coordinator
jlavender@leegov.com
239.533.7428

Lee County Parks and Recreation
Zoran Viskovic
Pro-Am Athletic Coordinator
zviskovic@leegov.com
239.533.7432

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. It is also recommended coaches print a copy of these rules and bring them to the Grand Nationals, or have internet access while at the event. Complete rules can be found at www.aubaseball.org under the AAU Rules/Info tab, or by clicking on this link:

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

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.

- This event is sanctioned by the Amateur Athletic Union of the U. S., Inc.
- All participants must have a current AAU membership.
- AAU membership may not be included as part of the entry fee to the event.
- AAU membership must be obtained before the competition begins except where the event operator has a laptop available with an internet connect. Participants are encouraged to visit the AAU web site www.aausports.org to obtain their membership.