

2012 AAU BASEBALL

AAU Grand Nationals

ESPN WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS COMPLEX - ORLANDO, FLORIDA

ADDITIONAL VENUES AS NEEDED

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.

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

DATES: 9U and 10U: June 18-23, 2012 (Check-in and Coaches' Meeting June 17, 2012)
11U, 12U, 13U: June 24-30, 2012 (Check-in and Coaches' Meeting June 23, 2012)

ENTRY FEE: \$850 for a minimum 7-games scheduled. 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: Friday, June 1, 2012 at 11:59 PM ET. Register early for this popular event. The 2011 Grand Nationals sold out in March of 2011. 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 **AAU National Office, 1910 Hotel Plaza Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, FL, 32830**. The phone number to the National Office is **407.934.7200**. 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:	9U	4:30 - 5:30 PM	Sunday, June 17
	10U	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Sunday, June 17
	11U	3:30 - 4:30 PM	Saturday, June 23
	12U	4:30 - 5:30 PM	Saturday, June 23
	13U	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Saturday, June 23

COACHES MEETING:	9U	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Sunday, June 17
	10U	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Sunday, June 17
	11U	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Saturday, June 23
	12U	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Saturday, June 23
	13U	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Saturday, June 23

The coaches meeting will be held at the AAU National Office, 1910 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830.

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

CEREMONIES:	9U / 10U	Monday, June 18	Behind Champion Stadium
	11U / 12U / 13U	Sunday, June 24	Behind Champion Stadium

All players and coaches must be assembled by 7:00 p.m. for staging. Proceed through the main entrance turnstiles, directly across the concourse, and down the stairs.

Any players assigned special roles in the ceremony must be present at 6:00 p.m. for rehearsal on the playing field (Enter the field at the 1st base dugout).

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.

Teams may bring team trading pins to exchange during the staging period before Opening Ceremonies and during the week. 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 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.

SCHEDULES and FORMAT:

Every attempt will be made to post schedules one week before the first day of competition. Games will begin daily at 7:30 a.m., *including on the day of Opening Ceremonies*. Each team will play at least 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 (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, broadcast schedules, or field needs.

Each team will be scheduled a minimum of seven games. 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. 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.

- 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 short, 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.
- 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.aabaseball.org.
- BASEBALLS:** Official AAU Rawlings baseballs will be provided for all Grand 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.aabaseball.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.
- 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.

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
9U	May 1, 2002
10U	May 1, 2001
11U	May 1, 2000
12U	May 1, 1999
13U	May 1, 1998

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. 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 20 players. All Grand National 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 proceed to the medal ceremony in the designated area of the main complex concourse just outside the stadium seating level. 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 ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. Daily admission will be available for \$15.50 per adult and \$10.50 per child (ages 3-9). Tournament passes will be available with pricing announced at a later date. Tickets/Tournament passes are only available at the box office upon arrival at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. Advance ticketing is not available.

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.

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

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 purchased. 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. Teams are also responsible for their own transportation to/from any off-site venues. Transportation is not provided to/from offsite venues.

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, or call 407.939.7810. 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.

Deeply discounted Walt Disney World theme park tickets are available for those guests who are attending AAU Baseball events. For information about park tickets, contact Disney Sport Travel at 407.939.7810.

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.

NEW ERA NATIONAL YOUTH BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT:

In the 12U age group 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 tournament is to determine the "best of the best" in youth baseball. The national 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 emerges. In the four-year history of the event, the AAU has won either the 10U or 12U division three out of four years. The fourth year, the AAU was the runner-up in the championship game. Clearly, you'll find the best competition at the AAU Grand Nationals. Effective 2012, the NYBC will no longer feature a 10U division, but will double the number of teams in the 12U. In addition to the winners of each organization's national championship, each of the eight programs will be assigned one region from which to select one team.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit <http://www.aabaseball.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

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.aabaseball.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.