AAU Baseball Handbook

2013

‘Sports for All, Forever’

NATIONAL SPORT COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 1 National Committee Structure and Procedures

Article 1- National Chair - The President of the AAU appoints the Chair from the recommendations of the National Sport Committee after approval of a majority of the National Officers.

Article 2- Executive Committee Composition - The National Baseball Chair shall appoint members-at-large to serve on the Baseball Executive Committee. The number of members on the Executive Committee, and the criteria for selection to the committee, removal from the committee, and filling vacancies on the committee are at the discretion of the National Chair.

Article 3- National Sport Committee Composition - The committee will consist of the National Sports Chair, the elected or appointed officers or committee chairs as defined by the sport's operating rules, the elected or appointed Sport Director of each district, or a representative designated by the District Governor, and one appointed representative from each affiliated member that registers members in the sport. The President may appoint up to five (5) members-at-large.

Article 4- Other Committee Positions - The National Baseball Chair shall create other committees as he deems appropriate. The number of members on each committee, and the criteria for selection to each committee, removal from any committee, and filling vacancies on any committee shall be at the National Chair's discretion. The National Chair may create committees as the need arises, and may disband committees for which a need no longer exists. The National Chair selects the members to serve on committees, and makes the committee assignments.

Article 5- Voting - Persons eligible to vote shall be the National Sport Chair, elected or appointed officers, chairs of committees as defined by the sport's operating rules, the elected or appointed District Sports Director or a representative from each affiliated member that registers members in the sport, and any members-at-large. Only representatives from districts which registered a minimum of .5% (a half percent) of the total number of athletes in that sport in the previous year shall be allowed to vote in the National Sport Committee meeting.

Section 2 Sport Committee Meetings

Article 1- National Sport Committee Regular Meetings - Regular Meetings of the National Sport Committee shall be in conjunction with the AAU Convention.

Article 2- Non-Regular Sport Committee Meetings - National Sport Committee may hold a Non-Regular National Sport Committee meeting in odd years subject to the following provisions:

a. The meeting is called by the Chair following approval of the National Office.

b. The National Office has the right to coordinate the meeting and choose the site for the meeting.

Article 3- National Sport Committee Special Meetings - Special meetings of a Committee are scheduled at the request of the Chair or upon written request of at least one half (1/2) of the committee members. The purpose of the Special meeting must be stated in the Notice for the meeting.

Article 4- National Sport Executive Committee Meetings - The National Chair shall determine the date and location of Executive Committee Meetings.

Article 5- Agenda Additions -

a. **Sport Committee Meeting Order (Agendas) -** The Regular National Sport Committee meetings, the Non-Regular National Sport Committee meetings, and National Sport Committee Special meetings shall follow meeting order (agenda format) as established by Code (Bylaw 9.5)

SPORT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Section 1 Event Registration -

Article 1- Registration (confirmation of participation) for National Championships and Super Showcases shall be via the AAU On-Line Registration System meeting all deadlines.

Article 2- To compete in a National Championship or Super Showcase, the team shall enter its roster, upload its team photo, and submit its tournament entry fee via this site. Registration is not finalized until the roster, photo, and entry fee have been completed. Coaches shall have birth documents on hand at all times during the event. Registration must be completed prior to the posted registration deadline, or when tournament sells out, whichever comes first. 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 for all rostered athletes to the National Championships. Birth certificates must be produced upon request from the National Championship staff.*

Article 3- To participate in National Championship, players and teams must satisfy all AAU individual player and team eligibility requirements.

Article 4- Participation in the Super Showcase is by invitation-only. Once a team accepts its official invitation, it must register via the AAU On-Line Registration System and follow all prescribed deadlines.

Section 2 Entry Procedures for National Championships –

Article 1 AGE GROUPS-

National Championships will be held in the age groups listed below.

- 9U 65' Open Base
- 10U 65' Open Base
- 11U
- 12U *(Diamond Winner of the AAU Grand Nationals will advance to represent AAU in the New Era Youth Baseball Championships)*
- 13U
- 14U
- Underclassmen
- Upperclassmen

Article 2 ELIGIBILITY-

- To participate in National Championship, players and teams must satisfy AAU individual player and team eligibility requirements.

Article 3 Proof of Age -

Proof of age is required for participation in AAU. 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.

Article 4 Residency Requirements -

- An athlete may elect to participate in their district of bona fide residence or a district which geographically adjoins that district.

NOTE: *In team sports, a maximum of 40% of a team's athletes may participate with a team from an adjoining district(s). The athlete must register through the Registrar of the district in which they reside.*

Article 5 State Residency Requirements -

- An AAU district comprised of complete or multiple states (such as the New England District) may choose to hold individual District Championships for one or multiple states (State Qualifier) to qualify teams for National Championships.
- The majority of players making up a team roster in these District Championships held for individual states must be residents of that state.

EXAMPLE: In a New England qualifier held for the state of Massachusetts, a team with 14 players must include a minimum of eight (8) from Massachusetts. The remaining six (6) players could be from any other state within the New England District, or a maximum of three (3) could come from districts that border the New England District.

Article 6 International Teams-

- Teams that do not reside in the United States may apply to the AAU Baseball Executive Committee for participation in National Championships.

Article 7 Tournament Check-In -

- 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 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. 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.*
- At the National Championships in all age groups, all team members must be on the roster presented at the time of tournament check-in. 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.
- 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) check-in with AAU tournament officials prior to the start of the team's first game of the second round of pool play.

Article 8 Qualification Procedure- Teams may qualify for advancement to National Championship play via one of the following:

QUALIFYING VIA THE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT(S)

a. Each district shall establish a method of qualifying teams for advancement to the National Championship:

Districts may conduct **ONE (unless the National Executive Baseball Committee approves more than one)** qualifying event and classify teams by Division (1 or 2), if applicable, based upon order of finish in that qualifier.

b. Each District shall submit to the AAU Baseball Executive Committee for approval an acceptable method of qualifying teams. The District or its Sports Director in conjunction with the AAU National Executive Baseball Committee shall determine the format

of and entry fee for, a District Qualifier. The format could be pool play, single elimination, double elimination or other.

c. Any team may enter a district qualifier provided they conform to AAU registration requirements as outlined in the AAU Code Book.

d. Districts with teams interested in qualifying for National Championships that are spread out over great distances are encouraged to hold local qualifiers prior to the district qualifier.

> ***EXAMPLE***: *The district could be divided into regions and only the top teams from each region would advance to the district qualifier.*

e. For the District Qualifier, add the total number of all teams competing in an entire age group to determine the number of National Championship entries:

<u>If a District Qualifier consists of:</u>

- Fewer than five (5) teams, only the gold medalist shall advance.
- Five (5) to seven (7) teams, the gold and silver medalist shall advance.
- Eight (8) to eleven (11) teams, the gold, silver and bronze medalists shall advance.
- Twelve (12) to fifteen (15) teams, the gold, silver, bronze and copper medalists shall advance.
- Sixteen (16) to twenty-three (23) teams, the gold, silver, bronze, copper and fifth place team shall advance.
- Twenty-four (24) or more teams, the gold, silver, bronze, copper, fifth and sixth place teams shall advance.
- If there are more than twenty-four (24) teams, one (1) additional team may advance for every ten (10) additional teams after the 24 team plateau has been reached.
- All other teams participating in a district championship are eligible for an at-large bid.

f. All district qualifiers must be completed no later than the Sunday **<u>three weeks</u>** prior to the start of that age group's National Championship. Any exceptions require prior approval of the AAU Baseball Executive Committee.

g. Teams must notify the appropriate National Championship of their intent to participate within **72 hours** of the completion of the qualifying event.

QUALIFYING VIA A SUPER REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

a. Teams may qualify to advance to the National Championship via a Super Regional qualifier.

b. The AAU Baseball Executive Committee may approve teams for advancement to national competition from inactive Districts (i.e. districts in which no district qualifier is held).

c. If a team qualifies for the National Championships via a Super Regional tournament, and then also places in the District Qualifier, the District shall receive an additional entry for the next highest place team.

> ***NOTE****: Teams that have become eligible for national competition* ***prior*** *to their respective District Qualifier shall not displace a team that has not otherwise qualified.*

- The roster of a team that has become eligible to advance to a national competition must conform to current AAU Code and AAU Baseball Handbook regulations.
- Teams becoming eligible to advance to a national competition via a Super Regional Qualifier and who wish to use the Super Regional as their National qualifying event, must notify the National Headquarters within **72 hours** of the completion of the Super Regional qualifier of their intent to participate in the appropriate National Championship, and submit to National Headquarters their roster from that Super Regional. A team advancing to a National Championship shall be allowed to add or replace up to five (5) players on its original Super Regional qualifying roster provided it does not exceed the maximum roster size for its age group. Added players are not required to have participated in the qualifying Super Regional, but each player must meet all other eligibility requirements.

  NOTE: The winner of the Super Regional shall advance directly to the National Championship. All other teams must validate their bid by participating in the District Championship, or playing in a total of three (3) Super Regionals and therefore earning an At-Large bid.

QUALIFYING VIA NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY OR LEAGUE PLAY

a. The AAU Baseball Executive Committee may allow a team(s) to advance to a National Championship via National League play or league play. Leagues interested in participating in the AAU Baseball National League should contact the AAU National Baseball Chair or Senior Sport Manager. Leagues interested in participating in district league play should contact their respective District Director.

QUALIFYING VIA PREVIOUS YEAR'S FINISH AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

a. National Championship teams that earn medals shall be entitled to advance to the next year's National Championship in the next higher age group.

b. If a team which qualified via its National Championship finish the prior year does ***not*** participate in its respective district qualifier, that team must receive **written approval** from the AAU Baseball Executive Committee before it may participate in the National Championships. In this situation, the AAU Baseball Executive Committee shall seek input from the District Sports Director.

> ***NOTE****: Teams that have become eligible for national competition* ***prior*** *to their respective District Qualifier shall not displace a team that has not otherwise qualified.*

c. If more than one division in an age group is held in two consecutive years, teams must remain within the same Division (1 or 2) the following year to receive an automatic entry, unless otherwise approved by the Baseball Executive Committee.

QUALIFYING VIA AN AT-LARGE ENTRY

a. In the event there is no district qualifier, Super Regional, or other qualifying event held in the local district in a particular age group, a team may attend Nationals via an At-Large entry.

OTHER QUALIFYING APPROACHES

i. The National AAU Baseball Executive Committee holds the right to employ other qualifying approaches.

ii. PARTICIPATING IN MORE THAN ONE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP -

Teams and players *may* compete in more than one National Championship for which they are eligible. Note, however, if a player's original team COMMITS (i.e. the team has completed its online registration process and has submitted its entry fee) to a National Championship, that player may not leave his current team to play for another unless an official AAU release form is submitted by his original club. Once his team is eliminated from National Championship play, that player may join a different team (in a different age group), provided all AAU eligibility requirements are met and the player's name is on the roster submitted at check-in of the player's second team.

Section 3 Eligibility-

Article 1 Membership -

- All **teams** must be registered under an AAU youth club with their AAU district and comply with the regulations of the AAU Code.
- All **participants**, whether athlete or non-athlete must be a current AAU member to participate in AAU events. Participants must become AAU members prior to participating in **any** AAU-sanctioned event. Note all adult non-athletes must clear a mandatory background check prior to being granted membership. Background checks may take up to 5-10 days so be sure to apply early.

- Basic membership applies to all AAU-sanctioned events. The Extended Benefit (AB) membership includes both AAU-sanctioned, and other organizations' events.
- To become a member of AAU and obtain your official membership card, please click on "JOIN AAU" at www.aausports.org.

Article 2 Amateur Status -

- All athletes must be amateurs as defined by the AAU Code.

Article 3 Age Determination Date -

- The age determination date for competitors will be May 1 of the current (2013) season. A player's age on May 1 of the current season is the youngest age group in which he may participate for that season.

- Underclassmen are defined as athletes in the graduating class of 2014 and later.
- Upperclassmen are defined as athletes in the graduating class of 2013 or previous and are no older than 19 as of May 1 of the current season.
- 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 2013 or previous may participate in the Underclassmen division. However, Underclassmen **may** participate in the Upperclassmen division.
- Each team is allowed a maximum of five (5) grade exception athletes.
- There are no grade exception provisions for the 8U through 14U age divisions.

AGE GROUP	BORN ON /AFTER	GRADE EXCEPTION
Upperclassmen	May 1, 1993	None
Underclassmen	May 1, 1995	Graduating Class of 2014, 2015, 2016

Note: Regardless of birthdate, **no member of the graduating class of 2011 or previous may participate in the Underclassmen division*

14U	May 1, 1998	None
13U	May 1, 1999	None
12U	May 1, 2000	None
11U	May 1, 2001	None
10U	May 1, 2002	None
9U	May 1, 2003	None
8U	May 1, 2004	None

NOTE: *Districts may sanction competition in younger age groups. However, a National Championship is not held in age groups younger than age 9U.*

Article 4 Roster Size –

- 8u – 14U: Rosters may consist of no more than 20 players, 3 coaches and 1 scorekeeper, or 4 coaches and no scorekeepers, and 2 bat boys/girls. Each team

may roster 1 team administrator. However the team administrator shall not be allowed in the dugout. Personnel not listed on the roster will not be allowed in the dugout.

- Underclassmen: Rosters may consist of no more than 25 players, 3 coaches, 1 scorekeeper, or 4 coaches and no scorekeepers, and 2 bat boys/girls. Each team may roster 1 team administrator. However, the team administrator shall not be allowed in the dugout. Personnel not listed on the roster will not be allowed in the dugout.
- Upperclassmen: Rosters may consist of no more than 30 players, 3 coaches, 1 scorekeeper, or 4 coaches and no scorekeepers, and 2 bat boys/girls. However, team administrators shall not be allowed in the dugout. Personnel not listed on the roster will not be allowed in the dugout. Restrictive

Article 5 Adding/Replacing Players when advancing to National Championships -

- A team advancing to a National Championship from any qualifier shall be allowed to add or replace up to five (5) players on its qualifying roster provided it does not exceed the maximum roster size for its age group. Added players are not required to have participated in a qualifier, but each player must be an AAU member and meet all other AAU eligibility requirements.

- A team member on the roster of a qualifying team that qualifies for, and COMMITS to, the National Championship may not be picked up by another team, unless approved by the AAU baseball Executive Committee.

Article 6 Host Teams -

- The local organizing committee that is host to a National Championship is allowed to enter a host team(s) provided that it meets all AAU membership requirements.
- A Host Team(s) may participate in AAU District Championships, but it is not required.
- The Host may select a team(s) as it wishes. It is not required to use any particular formula or criteria.

Article 7 WITHDRAWAL OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY- Deadline for withdrawal of a tournament will be the tournament entry deadline, or when tournament fills, whichever comes first. If a team does not give notification of withdrawal prior to the tournament deadline date, or prior to the tournament filling whichever comes first, the team will forfeit their entry fee.

Section 4 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.

Section 5 Sportsmanship –

At all AAU events, the Code of Sportsmanship shall be presented (verbally or displayed in written form):

I promise that I shall participate in this AAU (name of event)
Respecting and abiding by the rules which govern it
In the true spirit of sportsmanship,
For the glory of sport,
And the honor of my team.

Section 6 Code of Ethics –

AAU Baseball subscribes to the Code of Ethics set forth by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

SPORT OPERATIONS

Section 1 Current Year Rule Changes –

See appendix A.

Section 2 Event Operating Rules –

These rules shall apply to all AAU National Championships and are recommended for all AAU authorized events unless modified.

Section 3 Facilities/Competition Area –

The following are required for AAU National Championships and recommended for all other AAU tournaments: Approved fields (to include grass infields with pitching mounds for age 13U and older divisions), scoreboards on all fields, fencing around fields, covered dugouts, tarps for pitcher's mound and batter's box, bleacher seating, restrooms, and concessions area(s).

Article 1 Facility Support Equipment – The following are required for AAU National Championships and recommended for all other AAU tournaments: Public address system for each field, wireless internet access, laptop computers with Adobe Acrobat Pro and Microsoft Office, cellular phones and two-way radios, copy and fax machines, field-lining equipment and general field maintenance equipment, tables and chairs for scorekeepers, and awards table, and area for tournament headquarters office.

Section 4 Officials/Umpire Requirements -

Article 1- All tournament officials and umpires must have a current AAU non-athlete membership.

Article 2- National Championship umpires shall wear AAU caps while working the bases, but may use a plain black or navy cap when at the plate. Umpires may not display insignia of organizations other than AAU. If an umpire is not in compliance with these policies s/he will not be allowed on the field. Umpires are expected to project a professional appearance and demeanor at all times.

Article 3- Tournament officials are expected to project a professional appearance and demeanor at all times. Shorts or slacks may be worn with polo shirts, sport shirts, or AAU-insignia t-shirts. Gym shorts, jeans, or sweatpants are not appropriate attire. Athletic shoes, casual shoes, or dress shoes are required. Tournament officials or staff may not wear open-toed shoes.

Article 4- Umpires and tournament officials or staff may not use tobacco or tobacco-like products in the public view.

Section 5 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/girls (between the ages of 8 and 18). The scorekeeper and bat boys/girls are optional personnel. The scorekeeper position may be used as a fourth coach. Teams may also roster one team administrator, but the team administrator shall not be allowed in the dugout. All rostered personnel will receive credentials for entrance into facility(ies).

Section 6 Awards -

Article 1- Individual medals will be awarded to 1st - 8th place finishers at AAU National Championships. Team trophies will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place.

Article 2- ***At any authorized district qualifying event, AAU medals shall be used. Medals must be purchased through the AAU medal program or the sanction shall be denied/voided.***

Section 7 Protest Procedures -

Article 1- Protests must be made verbally with the umpire by the offended team at the time of the play and before the next pitch.

Article 2- A fee of $100.00 cash (refunded if protest is upheld) must accompany the protest.

Article 3- All decisions of the protest committee shall be final. The site director, tournament director, Umpire-In-Chief and AAU senior sports manager and/or national chair shall comprise the protest committee for rule challenges.

Article 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.

Section 8 Eligibility Challenges -

Article 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.

Article 2- If a player is found to be ineligible prior to the start of the tournament, the player will be expelled from the tournament.

Article 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.

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

Section 9 Format/Scheduling -

Article 1- The AAU Baseball National Championships will offer a seven-game guarantee for the 9U through Underclassmen age groups. A pool play system will be used in the National Championships for all age divisions. . If there are an uneven number of teams in the National Championship, it is possible that one or more pools may have more or fewer teams than

other pools. In this instance, not all teams in the pool may play each other, or some pools will play more games than the others. The first round of pool play shall determine whether a team will advance to the Diamond or the Gold bracket. The first- and second-place team in a pool will advance to the Diamond bracket. The remaining teams in the pool will advance to the Gold bracket. In the event of a five-team pool, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will advance to the Diamond bracket. This will group apparent team expertise together. The second round of pool play will determine a team's seeding in their bracket for the single-elimination round.

Article 2- In the Upperclassmen age group, there will be only one round of pool play. This round will determine Diamond and Gold divisions, as well as seeding. All teams will then advance directly to a double-elimination bracket.

Article 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 any extenuating circumstances.***

Section 10 Inclement Weather Refund Policy-

Every attempt will be made to complete the scheduled minimum number of games per team. However, in the event of extended, extreme, weather (as determined solely by the tournament committee), 100% refund will be given if the event is totally cancelled, 75% refund will be given if one game is played, 50% refund will be given if two games are played, and no refund will be given if three or more games are played.

Section 11 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.**

Example:
Teams A, B, and C all have the same win-loss record.

Team A beat Team B.
Team B beat Team C.
Team C beat Team A.

Team A gave up 11 runs in that round and scored 17 runs.
Team B gave up 13 runs in that round and scored 14 runs.
Team C gave up 13 runs in that round and scored 18 runs.

The seeding shall be:

#1 Team A as head-to-head competition did not break the tie and Team A gave up the fewest number of runs.
#2 Team B as Team B won against Team C in head-to-head competition even though it scored fewer runs than Team C.
#3 Team C as Team C lost to Team B even though Team C scored more runs than Team B.

PLAYING RULES

Unless otherwise stated in this handbook the rules of competition shall be those of the **National Federation of State High School Associations.** The *National Federation of State High School Associations Baseball Rule Book* is available online at www.nfhs.org. Only those rules contained in this handbook shall supersede the general rules of the national governing body.

Section 1 FORFEIT:

Article 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.

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

Article 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.

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

Section 2 COMPLETE GAME:

Article 1- 8u - 12u: Four (4) innings (3 1/2 innings if home team is ahead).

Section 3 CALLED GAME:

See Section 6.

Section 4 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.

Section 5 BAT PERSONS –

Bat persons must be between the ages of 8 and 18 and registered as AAU non-athletes. Bat persons younger than eight years of age must have written authorization from the National Baseball Chair or his representative.

Section 6 EXTRA PLAYER (EP) AND/OR DESIGNATED HITTER (DH)

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

Article 1- The Designated Hitter (DH) provision as covered in the rulebook published by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) applies.

Article 2- 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.

Article 3- Under all of the following options, there are never more than the standard nine defensive positions.

Article 4- Use neither DH nor EP: Nine (9) players in the batting order and the same nine (9) players on defense.

Article 5- 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.

Article 6- Use only the EP, and not the DH: Ten (10) players in the batting order, of which nine play on defense.

Article 7- 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.

Article 8- 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.

Article 9- Players not listed in the starting line-up may serve as substitutes.

Article 10- 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.

Section 7 AAU Baseball Rain Policy

Article 1-

If rain occurs during a game:

- The game will be suspended and picked up from that point if game has not reached official status.
- If game has reached official status see (c) and Note.

Article 2-

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 four 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.*

Article 3- For all divisions, the umpire may suspend a game, but not declare the game complete, in order to hold discussions with AAU tournament officials.

Article 4- 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.

Every attempt will be made to complete the scheduled minimum number of games per team. However, in the event of extended, extreme, weather (as determined solely by the tournament committee), 100% refund will be given if the event is totally cancelled, 75% refund will be given if one game is played, 50% refund will be given if two games are played, and no refund will be given if three or more games are played.

Section 8 TIME LIMIT (For National Championships only):

Article 1- 12u and younger: No new inning shall begin after **1 hour and forty-five minutes**, unless the score is tied.

Article 2- 13u and older: No new inning shall begin after **2 hours** unless the score is tied.

Article 3- 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.*

Section 9 Ties and Tiebreakers

Article 1- 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.

Section 10

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.

Section 11 Re-Entry Rule:

Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, including a player who is the Designed Hitter (DH) 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.

Section 12 Uniform & Equipment -

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

Article 1-

AAU BASEBALL OFFICIAL 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. Wearing the patch is not required.

For league play or tournaments other than the National Championships, optional AAU shield patches may be ordered from AAU National Headquarters. Teams are encouraged to wear these AAU shield patches so their players identify with playing in a quality national organization.

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.

The AAU shield patch may be affixed to the left sleeve of the uniform jersey, the left chest of the jersey, or the upper center back of the jersey between the shoulders.

NOTE: Individual districts may have additional rules in regards to the AAU Baseball patch.

Article 2-

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, golf shorts, khakis, chinos, etc., baseball caps, and athletic shoes. Open-toed shoes are not acceptable.) Athletic shorts, mesh shorts, etc. (other than shorts sold specifically as coaches' shorts) 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.

Section 13 Pitching-

8u: A player may pitch in a cumulative maximum of three (3) innings in consecutive calendar days after which that player must not pitch the next calendar day.

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.

Example 1: Day 1 (2 innings), Day 2 (2 innings), Day 3 (1 inning), Day 4 (1 inning) = 6 innings in consecutive calendar days. Therefore, Day 5 (must not pitch).

Example 2: Day 1 (3 innings), Day 2 (does not pitch, so innings reset), Day 3 (3 innings), Day 4 (3 innings) = 6 innings in consecutive calendar days, therefore, Day 5 (must not pitch).

13u: 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.

Example: Day 1 (4 innings), Day 2 (4 innings), Day 3 (does not pitch so innings reset), Day 4 (return to full pitching eligibility).

14U, **Underclassmen and Upperclassmen:** No restrictions on number of innings pitched.

Article 1- An **"inning pitched"** constitutes a pitcher being officially entered into the pitching position. The pitcher will then be charged with pitching that inning even if that pitcher does not throw a pitch.

Article 2-

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.*

Article 3- Balks:
In 8u - 10u (*closed base only*), balks will not be called.

Article 4- Head First Slide:
Headfirst slides will be allowed in all age groups.

Article 5- Bat Size: Bat restrictions have not been mandated for the 2013 season in the 8U-13U age groups. The 8u through 13u 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. The 14U, Underclassmen and Upperclassmen divisions will follow the NFHS bat requirements.

Article 6- 10-RUN RULE / 15-RUN RULE (MANDATORY):

a. **9u - 12u:** The 10-run rule shall apply after four (4) innings (3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.)
b. **13u - Upperclassmen:** The 10-run rule shall apply after five (5) innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).
c. In all age groups, the 15-rule shall apply after three (3) innings (2 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).
d. The 10-run rule and 15-run rule shall apply in **all** National Championship games in pool play, bracket play, and medal games.

Article 7- 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.

Article 8- EJECTION (Manager, Coach or Players):

- **a.** 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.
- **b.** The second occurrence during the same tournament results in suspension for the remainder of the tournament as well as possible further sanctions subject to the review of the District AAU tournament official for District and Regional competitions, or the National AAU Tournament Official for National Championships.
- **c.** 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.

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