

AAU Baseball Handbook



'Sports for All, Forever'

2010

AAU Baseball Rule Book & Regulations

PREAMBLE

The AAU Baseball National Committee has been established in order to promote the benefits of participation in athletics and hereby adopts these rules & regulations for the advancement of that purpose.

I. NATIONAL SPORT COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

A. National Committee Structure and Procedures

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

B. Sport Committee Meetings

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

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

II. SPORT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. **Event Registration** -

1. Registration (confirmation of participation) for National Championships and Super Showcases shall be via the AAU On-Line Registration System.
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. Optionally, birth certificates may be uploaded as well.
3. To participate in National Championship, players and teams must satisfy all AAU individual player and team eligibility requirements.
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.
5. Registration for the AAU Baseball National League (AAUBNL) shall be via the AAUBNL website: <http://application.aausports.org/nationalleaguebl/>. One may either type this address, or go to www.aabaseball.org>Events>National League and Championship Series.

- B. **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.

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.**

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

III. SPORT OPERATIONS

A. **Current Year Rule Changes** - There are no rule changes for 2010.

B. **Event Operating Rules** - These rules shall apply to all AAU National Championships and are recommended for all AAU sanctioned events unless modified.

1. **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).

2. **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.

3. **Officials/Umpire Requirements** -

- a. All tournament officials and umpires must have a current AAU non-athlete membership.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

- d. Umpires and tournament officials or staff may not use tobacco or tobacco-like products in the public view.
4. **Coaching Requirements** - All bench personnel who are not athletes must have a current AAU non-athlete membership and be listed on the team roster. The roster for non-athletes is limited to **three** coaches, **one** scorekeeper, and **two** bat boys (between the ages of 8 and 18). The scorekeeper and bat boys are optional personnel.
5. **Awards** -
- a. Individual medals will be awarded to 1st - 8th place finishers at AAU National Championships. Team trophies will be awarded to 1st - 4th place.
- b. ***Effective September 1, 2009, at any sanctioned district qualifying event, AAU medals shall be used. Medals must be purchased through the AAU medal program or the sanction shall be denied/voided.***
6. **Protest Procedures** -
- a. Protests must be made verbally with the umpire by the offended team at the time of the play and before the next pitch.
- b. A fee of \$100.00 cash (refunded if protest is upheld) must accompany the protest.
- c. All decisions of the protest committee shall be final.
- d. 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.
7. **Format/Scheduling** -
- a. The AAU Baseball National Championships will offer a seven-game guarantee. A pool play system will be used in the National Championships for all age divisions. Teams will be placed in pools of four. If there are an uneven number of teams in the National Championship, it is possible that one or more pools may have five teams. In this instance, not all teams will play each other. Only three pool play games in the first round will be played. 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 third- and fourth-place team in the pool will advance to the Gold bracket. This will group apparent team expertise together. There will be no Classic bracket. The second round of pool play will determine a team's seeding in their bracket for the single-elimination round.
- b. ***The exact format of each National Championship tournament, including – but not limited to - number of pools and number of teams in each pool, will be set by the Tournament Director and National Baseball Executive Committee depending on the number of entries in the tournament and other extenuating circumstances.***

TIEBREAKERS

Pool Play:

- a. When two teams in the pool have the same win-loss record:
 - The team which defeated the other is ranked higher. (HEAD TO HEAD)

- b. When three teams in the pool have the same win-loss record:
 - If one of the three teams is 2-0 in games against the other two teams, that team is ranked higher.
 - If all three teams are tied against each other, proceed to (c).

- c. The least number of runs allowed between the tied teams shall determine the ranking.
 - If two of the three teams are still tied, revert to (a) to rank those two teams.
 - If all three teams are still tied, proceed to (d).

- d. The least number of runs allowed in *all* pool games shall determine the ranking.
 - If two of the teams are still tied, revert to (a) to rank those two teams.
 - If all three teams are still tied, proceed to (e).

- e. The most runs scored between the tied teams shall determine the ranking.
 - If two of the teams are still tied revert to (a).
 - If all three teams are still tied, proceed to (f).

- f. The most runs scored in all pool games shall determine the ranking.
 - If two of the teams are still tied, revert to (a).
 - If all three teams are still tied, proceed to (g).

- g. The tied teams are based on a random draw.

Bracket Play Seeding:

- a. Overall win-loss record
- b. Head-to-head competition, **provided** all teams have played each other
- c. Least number of runs allowed in total pool play
- d. Most runs scored in total pool play
- e. Random draw

8. Entry Procedures for National Championships –

a. AGE GROUPS and FORMAT –

National Championships will be held in the age groups listed below. There will be only one division per age group at time of registration. After the first round of pool play (3 games), the first- and second-place teams will advance to the Diamond bracket, the third- and fourth-place teams will advance to the Gold bracket for single-elimination. There will be no Classic bracket.

- 9U 65' Open Base
- 10U 65' Open Base (*Diamond Winner will advance to represent AAU in the New Era Youth Baseball Championships*)

- 11U
- 12U (*Diamond Winner will advance to represent AAU in the New Era Youth Baseball Championships*)

- 13U
- 14U
- 15U
- 16U
- 18/19U

b. ON-LINE REGISTRATION

- Registration (confirmation of participation) for National Championships and Super Showcases shall be via the AAU On-Line Registration System.
 - To compete in a National Championship or Super Showcase, the team shall enter its roster, upload its team photo (if the team photo is not uploaded, the photo will not be in the tournament program book, if one is offered), and submit its tournament entry fee via this site. Registration is not finalized until the roster, photo, and entry fee have been completed. Registration must be completed prior to the posted registration deadline.
- Note:** *Teams may elect to upload their birth documents via the Online Registration system. If birth documents are not uploaded, teams must bring copies to Tournament Registration.*
- The entry fee for 2010 National Championships shall be \$695 per team.
 - The entry fee for the 14U and 15U Super Showcase tournaments shall be \$375.

NOTE: *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.*

c. ELIGIBILITY

- To participate in National Championship, players and teams must satisfy AAU individual player and team eligibility requirements as set forth in AAU Baseball rule III-C-2 and all other eligibility requirements (below).

d. 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 representative to the first coaches' meeting, the head coach will be suspended for the first game.*
- At the National Championships in all age groups, all team members must be on the roster presented at the time of team registration.
- If players' birth documents are not uploaded on the Online Registration system, copies of birth documents must be presented at check-in.
- 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.

C. **Competition 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.

1. **Qualification Procedure** - Teams may qualify for advancement to National Championship play via one of the following:
- a. District Qualifier
 - b. Super Regional
 - c. National League Play or League Play
 - d. Place of finish at a National Championship in the previous year
 - e. At-Large application
 - f. Other qualifying rules approved by the National AAU Baseball Executive Committee

QUALIFYING VIA THE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

- i. Each district shall establish a method of qualifying teams for advancement to the National Championship:
 - a. Districts may conduct **ONE** qualifying event and classify teams by Division (1 or 2) based upon order of finish in that qualifier if Division 1 and Division 2 are offered at the time of registration for National Championships.

EXAMPLE: *If Division 1 and Division 2 will be held in the National Championships in an age group comprised of 12 teams, first through fourth place could be deemed Division 1, and fifth through eighth place could be Division 2.*

- b. Districts may conduct separate qualifiers for each Division within an age group if Division 1 and Division 2 are offered at the time of registration for National Championships, or when the number of teams participating in the District Tournament warrants.

EXAMPLE: *If Division 1 and Division 2 will be held in the National Championships, a District could hold a District Division 1 qualifier, and a separate District Division 2 qualifier.*

- ii. Each District shall submit to the AAU Baseball Executive Committee for approval an acceptable method of qualifying and classifying teams (Division 1 or 2, if more than one division is held in the National Championships). The District or its Sports Director in conjunction with the AAU National 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.
- iii. Any team may enter a district qualifier provided they conform to AAU registration requirements as outlined in the AAU Code Book.
- iv. 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.*

- v. 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:

a. **If a District Qualifier consists of:**

- 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.

- vi. All district qualifiers must be completed no later than the Sunday **three weeks** prior to the start of that age group's National Championship. Any exceptions require prior approval of the AAU Baseball Executive Committee.
- vii. If more than one division in an age group is held at the National Championships, teams qualifying in Division 1 must advance to the Division 1 National Championship. Teams qualifying in Division 2 must advance to the Division 2 National Championship. Division 1 qualifying teams may not participate in Division 2 and Division 2 qualifying teams may not participate in Division 1.
- viii. 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

- i. Teams may qualify to advance to the National Championship via a Super Regional qualifier provided they also participate in their respective district qualifier. If a team which qualified via a Super Regional 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.
- ii. 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).
- iii. 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.*

- iv. 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.
- v. Teams becoming eligible to advance to a national competition via a Super Regional Qualifier 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.
- vi. For the Super Regional qualifier, add the total number of all teams competing in an age group to determine the number of National Championship entries for that respective age group:

a. If a Super Regional Qualifier consists of:

- Fewer than five (5) teams, one (1) bid shall be awarded.
- Six (6) to ten (10) teams, two (2) bids shall be awarded.
- Eleven (11) to fifteen (15) teams, three (3) bids shall be awarded.
- Sixteen (16) or more teams, four (4) bids shall be awarded.

QUALIFYING VIA NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY OR LEAGUE PLAY

- i. 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 visit www.aanationalleague.org. Leagues interested in participating in district league play should contact their respective District Director.

QUALIFYING VIA PREVIOUS YEAR'S FINISH AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- i. National Championship teams that earn medals shall be entitled to advance to the next year's National Championship in the next higher age group.
- ii. Such teams may advance provided the team (club) participates in the district qualifier the following year as well as fulfills any other district requirements to make the automatic bid valid. The automatic bid will be awarded to the "club contact" for each qualified team/club.
- iii. In the event that a team which qualifies for National Championship as a result of their previous year's finish also places in its respective district qualifier in the current year, the District shall receive an additional National Championship entry for the next highest place team participating in the District tournament that would otherwise not qualify.

***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.*

- iv. 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

- i. In the event there is no district qualifier held in the local district in a particular age group, the District Governor and District Sports Director may jointly certify team(s) to advance to the National Championship.
- ii. A district has this privilege only one year for each age group.
- iii. The second year, a district must have at least two (2) teams participate in a district qualifier to send a representative to a National Championship.
- iv. The third year and all subsequent years, the district must have at least three (3) teams in its qualifying tournament to send a representative to a National Championship.
- v. Any exceptions to the above must be approved by the Baseball Executive Committee.

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 -
 - a. Teams and players *may* compete in more than one National Championship for which they are eligible. Note, however, if a player's original team **COMMITTS** to a National Championship, that player may not leave his current team to play for another. Once his team is eliminated from National Championship play, that player may join a different team (in a different age group or Division, if more than one Division within an age group is held), provided all AAU eligibility requirements are met.
 - b. In National Championship play, if two divisions of an age group are held (Division 1 and Division 2), a team or player *cannot* play in a Division 1 National Championship and then participate in a Division 2 National Championship in the same age group.
 - c. In National Championship play, if two divisions of an age group are held (Division 1 and Division 2), a team *may* play in a Division 2 National Championship and then participate in a Division 1 National Championship in the same age group.

2. Eligibility - (See also IV-G and IV-H)

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

b. AMATEUR STATUS -

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

c. AGE DETERMINATION DATE -

- The age determination date for **all** age groups will be May 1 of the current (2010) season. A player's age on May 1 of the current season is his league age for that season.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>BORN ON OR AFTER (FOR 2010)</u>
18/19U	May 1, 1990
17U	May 1, 1992
16U	May 1, 1993
15U	May 1, 1994
14U	May 1, 1995
13U	May 1, 1996
12U	May 1, 1997
11U	May 1, 1998
10U	May 1, 1999
9U	May 1, 2000
8U	May 1, 2001

NOTE: Districts may sanction competition in younger age groups. However, a National Championship is not held in age groups younger than age 9U or older than 18/19U.

d. 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 (originals may be requested) 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.

e. 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 three (3) 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.

f. STATE QUALIFIER 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.

g. INTERNATIONAL TEAMS -

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

h. ROSTER SIZE -

- 8u - 16u: Rosters may consist of no more than 20 players.
- 17U and 18/19U: Rosters may consist of no more than 30 players.

i. ADDING/REPLACING PLAYERS WHEN ADVANCING TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS -

- A team advancing to a National Championship shall be allowed to add or replace up to five (5) players on its District roster provided it does not exceed the maximum roster size for its age group. Added players are not required to have participated at the District Championship, but each player must meet all other eligibility requirements.
- A team member on the roster of a District team that qualifies for, and **COMMITTS** to, the National Championship may not be picked up by another team, unless approved by the AAU baseball Executive Committee.

j. 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 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.

k. ELIGIBILITY CHALLENGES -

- 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.
- 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 the entire team will be expelled from the tournament and may be subject to further sanctions.
- Coaches are responsible to see that their team meets all eligibility requirements.

3. Uniform & Equipment -

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

AAU BASEBALL OFFICIAL PATCH -

8U - 14U: Players and coaches must wear an AAU Baseball patch in **all** National Championship games.

15u - 18/19u: Players and coaches must wear the patch in **opening ceremonies**, the **first** (1st) game of pool play and in the **National Championship game**.

The AAU Baseball patch must be affixed to the left sleeve of the uniform jersey or over the left chest of a sleeveless uniform jersey.

PENALTY - If these requirements are not met, that particular player(s) and coach(es) will not be eligible to participate.

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

- b. **COACHES' ATTIRE** - Coaches do not need to be in full uniform, but should be in appropriate matching athletic attire, consistent with the team uniform. (i.e. collared shirts and coaches shorts, with athletic shoes. Open-toed shoes are not acceptable.)

4. **Competition Types** – In some districts, AAU Baseball may offer two divisions of play within any age groups. Where two divisions are offered, teams are normally self-classified as follows:

- a. **Division 1** is for those teams who are the most experienced and compete at the highest level of play.

- b. **Division 2** is for those teams who may be less seasoned, may have younger players in the age group, may have played primarily recreational baseball, or may be more newly-formed teams.

- c. **AAU National Tournaments** are held for the 9U through 18/19U age groups. See “Qualifying for National Championships” for further information.

- d. AAU Baseball also offers an invitation-only **Super Showcase** event for 14U and 15U teams. During the Showcases, time will be set aside for a skills evaluation which is run by a professional scouting bureau. For more information on the Super Showcases, contact the AAU National Office at 407.934.7200 or go to www.aabaseball.org.

- e. The **AAU Baseball National League (AAUBNL)** is available to all teams who want the advantages of league play in addition to outstanding tournaments. Using the AAUBNL site, teams can enter into the AAU’s Power Ranking program at no additional charge. To learn more about the AAUBNL, go to www.aanationalleague.org.

5. PLAYING RULES AND RESTRICTIONS -

1. PITCHING:

- a. **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.
- b. **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).

- c. **13u, 14u, 15u and 16u:** 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).

- d. **17u and 18/19u:** No restrictions on number of innings pitched.
- e. 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.
- f. 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 and also charged with an inning pitched 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.*

2. **BALKS:** In 8u - 10u (closed base only), balks will not be called.
3. **HEAD FIRST SLIDE:** Headfirst slides will be allowed in all age groups.
4. **BAT SIZE:** The 8u through 14u age groups shall not be limited by the High School Baseball Rules published by the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) regarding bat specifications.

- 5. 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 - 18/19U:** The 10-run rule shall apply after five (5) innings (4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead).
 - c. In all age groups, the 15-rule shall apply after three (3) innings (2 1/2 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. FORFEIT:**
- a. 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.
 - b. The offended team shall be credited with a win, but runs scored and runs allowed will be based only on actual games played.
 - c. 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.

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

10. COMPLETE GAME:

- a. 8u - 12u: Four (4) innings (3 1/2 innings if home team is ahead).
- b. 13u - Five (5) innings (4 1/2 innings if home team is ahead).

11. CALLED GAME: See #15.

12. 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.

13. BAT PERSONS - Bat persons must be between the ages of 8 and 18 and registered as AAU non-athletes.

14. DH and EP (Extra Player): Available, and optional, for all games in all age groups. (See below.)

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.

- a. The Designated Hitter (DH) provision as covered in the rulebook published by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) applies.
- b. 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.
- c. Under all of the following options, there are never more than the standard nine defensive positions.
- d. Use neither DH nor EP: Nine (9) players in the batting order and the same nine (9) players on defense.
- e. 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.
- f. Use only the EP, and not the DH: Ten (10) players in the batting order, of which nine play on defense.
- g. 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.
- h. 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.
- i. Players not listed in the starting line-up may serve as substitutes.
- j. 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.

15. AAU Baseball Rain Policy (PREFERRED):

a. If rain occurs before games start for the day:

- Those early games are *usually* moved to end of that day's schedule.

b. If rain occurs during a game:

- The game will be suspended and picked up from that point if game has not reached official status.
- The game will become complete if the game has reached official status.

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

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

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

16. TIME LIMIT (For National Championships only):

- 12u and younger:** No new inning shall begin after **2 hours and 15 minutes**, unless the score is tied.
- 13u and older:** No new inning shall begin after **2 hours and 30 minutes**, unless the score is tied.
- The time limit will **not** apply in any medal games (Gold, Silver, Bronze) in National Championship play.
- There will be **no** ties at **any** level of National Championship play.

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

17. 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.

AGE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:

8U PLAYER-PITCH RULES

- **Base length:** 60 feet
- **Pitching distance:** 46 feet.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 140-200 feet.
- **Game length:** Five (5) innings.
- **Cleats:** **NO** metal cleats are allowed.
- **Lead-offs:** Runner may leave the base as soon as *the ball crosses the plate*. There is no penalty for leaving the base early. If the runner leaves the base early, the runner will be returned to the base occupied prior to the last pitch.
- **NFHS Speed-Up Rules:** Will be used for the catcher and pitcher.
- **Maximum runs scored:** Each team may score a **MAXIMUM** of 5 runs the first inning. In the 2nd, 3rd and 4th innings the leading team may score 5 runs even though the lead could be greater than 5 runs. The team that is behind when batting after the first inning, may even up the score, and score 5 additional runs, in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th innings only. In the 5th inning, or in any additional innings played, there are no scoring restrictions.
- **Minimum number of players:** Batting lineup must include a minimum of 10 batters. If the lineup goes below 10 batters, an automatic out will be recorded in the unfilled spot.
 - **EXAMPLE:** *A team has only eight players available to bat. When the 9th and 10th positions come up in the batting order, an out for each would be called.*
- **Minimum number of players to start a game:** A team must have at least eight (8) players to start a game or game will be ruled a forfeit.
- **Continuous batting order:** The entire lineup will bat. Players may be removed from *defensive* lineup during the game.
 - **EXAMPLE:** *All uniformed players in the dugout must bat. If 15 players are on the roster and present, all 15 must bat.*
- **Batting out of turn:** All players will bat in a set batting order. Should a player bat out of turn, he will be called out. It is the responsibility of each team's scorekeeper to keep the batting order correct. Scorekeepers should also verify at each inning that the scorebooks agree.
- **Substitutions:** Substitutions may occur at the coach's discretion.
- **Late players:** Any player who arrives late may enter the game immediately, but must be added as the last name of the batting order.
- **Infielders:** Six (6) infielders may be used.
- **Outfielders:** Four (4) outfielders will be used. Outfielders may **NOT** cover 2nd base for a put-out.
- **Catcher:** The catcher must be positioned no more than six (6) feet from home plate at the start of the pitch.
- **Safety line:** A safety line will be 30 feet from home plate. No player may be inside of the safety line on contact of a batted ball.
 - **PENALTY -** *Batter will be awarded first base.*
- **Bunting:** NFHS rules apply. No fake bunts.
 - **PENALTY -** *The batter is out and the ball is dead.*
- **Stealing:** A runner can steal second and/or third base(s) but cannot steal home at anytime. A runner can only advance home from third base on a batted ball, or if forced.
- **Infield fly rule:** Does **not** apply.
- **Defensive coach's position:** May be positioned on each foul line in the outfield. The outfield coach must be halfway from the outfield fence and the grass of the infield.
 - **PENALTY -** *A coach will be confined to the dugout.*
- **Time-outs:** Each team will receive one defensive timeout and offensive timeout per inning.

9U (CLOSED BASE)

- **Base length:** 60 feet.
- **Pitching distance:** 46 feet.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 175 - 200 feet.
- **Game length:** Six (6) innings.
- **Cleats:** **NO** metal cleats are allowed.
- **Lead-Offs:** Runner may leave the base as soon as *the ball crosses the plate*. Upon leaving the base early, an immediate dead ball will be called and the runner is out.
- **Dropped Third Strike:** On a dropped 3rd strike, the batter is out and base runners advance at their own risk.

9U (OPEN BASE) and 10U (OPEN BASE)

- **Base length:** 65 feet.
- **Pitching distance:** 46 feet.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 175 - 200 feet.
- **Game length:** Six (6) innings.
- **Cleats:** **NO** metal cleats are allowed.
- **Lead-Offs:** **WILL** be allowed.

11U

- **Base length:** 70 feet.
- **Pitching distance:** 50 feet.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 275 feet.
- **Game Length:** Six (6) innings.
- **Cleats:** **NO** metal cleats are allowed.
- **Lead-Offs:** **WILL** be allowed.

12U

- **Base length:** 70 feet.
- **Pitching distance:** 50 feet.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 250 - 275 feet.
- **Game length:** Six (6) innings.
- **Cleats:** **NO** metal cleats are allowed.
- **Lead-offs:** **WILL** be allowed.

13U

- **Base length:** 90 feet.
- **Pitching distance:** 60 feet 6 inches.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 275 - 325 feet.
- **Game length:** Seven (7) innings.

14U

- **Base length:** 90 feet.
- **Pitching distance:** 60 feet 6 inches.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 275 - 325 feet.
- **Game length:** Seven (7) innings.

15U

- **Base length:** 90 feet.
- **Pitching distance:** 60 feet 6 inches.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 300 - 350 feet.
- **Game Length:** Seven (7) innings.

16U

- **Base length:** 90 feet.
- **Pitching distance:** 60 feet 6 inches.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 300 - 350 feet.
- **Game Length:** Seven (7) innings.

17U

- **Base length:** 90 feet.
- **Pitching distance:** 60 feet 6 inches.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 350 - 400 feet.
- **Game Length:** Seven (7) innings.

18/19U

- **Base length:** 90 feet.
- **Pitching distance:** 60 feet 6 inches.
- **Preferred fence distance:** 350 - 400 feet.
- **Game length:** Seven (7) innings.

IV. EXCERPTS FROM AAU CODE BOOK *(Cannot be changed by Sport Committee)*

A. **AAU Membership** - All participants must be a member of the AAU in order to participate in any AAU Sanctioned Event. Event Operators may not collect AAU membership money at any AAU-sanctioned event.

1. **Membership Requirements** - Membership in the AAU is a privilege granted by the AAU. The AAU at its sole discretion reserves the right to accept or reject applicants for membership.

2. **Conditions for Membership** - Membership in any class may be granted only after an application is submitted and approved. By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to comply with all the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, policies, procedures and rules of the AAU.

3. **Classes of Membership** - Classes of membership in the AAU are as follows:

a. **District Member** - The organization chartered by the Congress to provide administrative services within a designated geographic area.

b. **Club Member** - An organization or group that has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code.

c. **Individual Member** - A person who has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code. Individual membership categories are:

- Youth Athlete
- Adult Athlete
- Non-Athlete

d. **Affiliate Member** - An organization or group approved by Congress which is engaged in athletics or sports-related activities.

B. **Use of Logos and Trademarks**

1. The AAU name, mark, seal, logo, and other insignia (all "AAU marks") are protected through trademark registration and are defined as the intellectual property of the AAU. A user of the AAU's intellectual property must have prior and continued approval of the National AAU. Only those subordinates and affiliated organizations which are expressly authorized by the National AAU may use the intellectual property of the AAU. The National AAU may withdraw its approval to use its marks, in its sole discretion. Members shall immediately comply with notice to cease and desist from the use of the AAU's intellectual property. The unauthorized use of any of the intellectual property of the AAU is a violation of this policy and may subject the member/entity to penalties set out in the AAU Code.

2. Only chartered Districts, District Sport Committees and National Sport Committees may use the AAU marks in their name.

3. There are three (3) levels of AAU club membership. Level 1 AAU Clubs acquire no rights to use the AAU's intellectual property. Level 2 and Level 3 Clubs may use AAU's intellectual property for the promotion of its organization and/or sanctioned AAU events only. Member clubs may not use the name AAU in their legal name.

4. In the event of a dispute or conflict as to a member's/entity's claim(s) to use any of the intellectual property of the AAU, the Officers of the AAU shall decide and determine the dispute in their sole discretion.

C. Event Sanctions

1. No event shall be conducted under the auspices of the AAU unless a sanction has been issued for the activity. A sanction is the written approval of the AAU for the conduct of the activity.
2. Only AAU members may participate in sanctioned events unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws.
3. Sanctions may be issued to any club in good standing. Any sanction may be reviewed within 15 days of submission by the District Sport Committee Director. If the sanction is reviewed and rejected, the Registrar shall notify the organization submitting the sanction.
4. No sanction shall take effect until the 15-day review period has expired, or until the Registrar processes the sanction following approval of the District Sport Committee Director. Beginning with the 2009 Membership year, all applications for sanction must be completed and submitted through the on-line process or the AAU National Office.
5. The National Registration Executive Committee has the authority to issue sanctions as follows:
 - a. For events in locations where there is no active District member.
 - b. For events in Districts where there is no current active participation. (No District Championship in the prior membership year).
 - c. For events directly sponsored by the National AAU or National Sports Committee.
 - d. For inter-District league play.
 - e. Review and approve any sanction rejected by the District.
 - f. Sanctions issued to one organization cannot be transferred to another organization.
 - g. No sanction will be issued for any event where the word "Olympic" or any derivative thereof is used in any advertisements or notice in connection with the event except upon the specific written approval of the Board of Directors.
 - h. Sanctions must be reviewed and processed by the District Registrar and reported to the National Headquarters. A record shall be kept by each District of all sanctions issued.

D. District Sport Committee Annual Meeting

1. **District Sport Committee Bi-Annual Meeting** - It is the duty of the District Sport Committee to hold a bi-annual meeting, the date of which shall be approved by the District Executive Committee. [Not the Sport Committee Executive Committee]
2. **Notice of District Sport Meetings** - Notice of the bi-annual or special meetings of the District Sport Committee shall be issued (or issue approved) by the District Secretary, to clubs eligible to vote as of 30 days prior to the scheduled annual meeting.

- a. **Quorum** - Five (5) member clubs must be present to constitute a quorum of the Bi-Annual Sport Committee meeting.
- b. **Voting** - Each member of a Committee shall have one vote unless the operating rules of the Committee provide for weighted voting. There shall be no voting by proxy. [A club may designate another representative for the club.]

E. Functions of District Sport Committees

1. **District Sport Committees** - In each approved AAU sport in which the District has athletes actively participating, there may be a Committee to manage competition within the District.
2. **Composition** - The District Sport Committee shall include the following :
 - a. Each club member which registers at least five individual members in the sport shall have one representative on the District Sport Committee;
 - b. District Sport Committee Officers and Chairmen of Committees as defined by that sport's operating rules. [Added 10/07].
 - c. The Governor may appoint five (5) at-large members.
3. **Duties** - The duties of the District Sport Committee are to:
 - a. In even years, hold a Bi-Annual meeting, the date, time and location of which shall be approved by the District Executive Committee. [Added 10/08]
 - b. Adopt at the Bi-Annual Meeting, rules of operation of the Committee to be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval and which shall not conflict with the provisions of the AAU Constitution, Bylaws, National Policies or National Sport Committee rules.
 - c. Determine whether to establish a Committee operating account and if so to comply with all relevant AAU procedures and policies.
 - d. Conduct of the District championships.

F. Functions of the District Sport Director

1. **District Sport Director** - In each sport in which five or more club members have designated the sport as its primary sport, the Director shall be elected by the Committee at its Bi-Annual Meeting. When there are fewer than five clubs registered to the Sport, the Chair may be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the National Sport Committee Chair. The District Sport Director takes office upon election or upon appointment.
 - a. **Term** - The term of office for an elected District Sport Director shall be four (4) years to run concurrently with the District Officers. The term of office for an appointed District Sport Director shall be one year or until such time as the Sport Committee meets the criteria to elect a Chair.
 - b. **Vacancies** - A vacancy occurring in an elected District Sport Director position shall be filled in accordance with the Sport Committee operating rules. A vacancy occurring in an appointed District Sport Director position shall be filled by the Governor with the approval of the National Sport Committee Chair.

2. **Duties** - The Sport Committee Director shall:
 - a. Develop a budget for the Sport Committee to file with the District Executive Committee;
 - b. Perform the duties set forth in the Committee Rules of Operation.
 - c. Approve event sanctions in the sport.
 - d. Preside at Sport Committee meetings ;

3. **Removal** - District Sport Directors may be removed as follows:
 - a. **By District Sport Committee** - An elected Sport Committee Director may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Sport Committee at the Bi-Annual meeting provided that the Notice of the meeting specifies that a motion to remove is on the agenda. [Rev. 10/07]
 - b. **By National Sport Chair** - Each National Sport Chair shall annually review the number of events held in their sport. If the number of sanctioned events, excluding practice sanctions, is below five (5), the National Sport Chair may remove the District Director. If the District Governor does not agree with the removal, the President shall appoint an arbiter who will make the final decision. [Rev. 10/07]
 - c. **By National Board of Review** - An elected Sport Director may be removed by order of the National Board of Review following the filing of a complaint and the Board's proceedings. [Added 10/07]

G. Membership and Residency

1. Adult members will not be bound by residence requirements.
2. Youth members must register in the District of their bona fide residency, except as follows:
 - a. A youth member who resides in the county of one District that adjoins a county of another District and who attends a school located in the adjoining county will have the option of registering in either District.
 - b. A youth member subject to a written joint legal custody arrangement whose custodians reside in different Districts shall have the option of registering in either District.
 - c. A bona fide student at an educational institution may be considered a resident of the District in which the institution is located.

3. Persons living outside the U.S. may register in the closest District or with the District where the competition they are first participating in will take place. The respective National Sports Committee rules shall govern their participation in AAU competitions.

H. Eligibility

1. A youth member may elect to participate in his or her District of bona fide residence or a District that geographically adjoins that District. Exception: In team sports a maximum of three (3) members may participate with a team in an adjoining District. [Team sports include baseball, basketball, field hockey, hockey, soccer softball and volleyball.]

2. **Club Attachment** - A youth member becomes attached to a club member when he/she competes with that club in any AAU sanctioned event (practice not included). An athlete may attach to additional clubs if he/she participates in additional sports.
 - a. For team/club sports only. If an athlete participates in an AAU sanctioned league for one group member (club), that athlete may elect to affiliate immediately with a second group member (club) for the purpose of qualifying for an AAU National Championship. Participation may be simultaneous. A league is made up of teams/clubs that compete only among themselves for a defined period of time.

3. **Transfers** - An attached youth member may transfer to another club in the same sport under the following conditions:
 - a. If the youth member has not competed in any AAU sanctioned events in that Sport for a period of sixty (60) days.
 - b. If the representative of the club to which an athlete is attached signs a release form permitting an immediate transfer. (Athletes released under this provision are subject to National Championship eligibility restrictions as adopted by National Sport Committees.) [Added 10/07]
 - c. When the transfer is for the purpose of competing with a team which has qualified for a National Championship as provided by National Sport Committee rules.
 - d. If the Registrar determines that the transfer is due to events outside the control of the athlete or that the transfer serves the best interest of the AAU.