

- c. Group director or designated personnel videotaping own group
 - d. No tripods, extension cords or artificial lights
 - e. No videotaping is permitted from or on the competition floor or in area directly behind or around judges' or contest officials' tables.
 - f. No judging is permitted by video replay.
3. No contest official, relative, coach or parent may officiate on a division in which their child or student is an athlete in the division.
 4. Parents, coaches, and other judges are not permitted to approach the judge while the judge is actively adjudicating. Any inquiries should be given to the contest director.
 5. It is the responsibility of the athletes and coaches to properly stretch and warm-up prior to practice or competition. Coaches must wear an official coach's shirt to be allowed on the competition floor.
 6. Coaches or parents may NOT accompany their athletes to the starting area. Parents or spectators are not allowed in the competition area. The only exception to this will be for the Challenger Divisions.
 7. The penalty for failure to produce "proof of age" when requested by contest director and/or chief judge is 2.0 total points for each event in question. Birth certificate, baptism record, adoption/foster care record and/or driver's license are all acceptable.
 8. Any athlete or group violating any rule, part of rule, or violating any tradition, custom or breach of contest etiquette for which there is no specific rule provided shall be assessed for each violation of not less than 2.0 points, nor more than disqualification, at the discretion of the chief judge.
 9. All publicity must be accurate. Any report must refer to the rightful name of the event, age division, status level and classification. Printed information in newspapers, on clothing, etc., must include accurate age division, status level and classification.

IV. SOLO EVENTS

- A. **One Baton Twirling** - This category is the mainstay of all baton twirling and provides an athlete with the opportunity to perform an innovative routine which is adjudicated for variety, difficulty, speed, control, smoothness, gracefulness, presentation and showmanship. The routine for this event shall include vertical pattern twirls, horizontal pattern twirls, finger twirls, rolls, aerials, low flips and novelty tricks accompanied by complimentary body work including movement of the arms, hands, legs, feet, torso and head. Timing of this event begins as the opening salute hand leaves the salute position after a two count hold. Timing stops as the baton comes to a stop in the salute position for the closing.

UPDATE - Entrance/Exit - Judging will begin with the first movement following a salute or courtesy pose. Timing will end with a closing salute/or courtesy pose. Marching in or off the competition floor is NOT required. Athletes need to position themselves in front of the judge before beginning of routine.

- B. **Two Baton Twirling** - An athlete performs with two batons. Both batons must be moving at all times, either in like patterns, alternating patterns or in concert with one another. Timing of this event begins as the opening salute hand of at least one baton leaves the salute position after a two count hold. Timing stops as at least one baton comes to a stop in the salute position for the closing.

UPDATE - **Entrance/Exit** - *Judging will begin with the first movement following a salute or courtesy pose. Timing will end with a closing salute/or courtesy pose. Marching in or off the competition floor is NOT required. Athletes need to position themselves in front of the judge before beginning of routine.*

- C. **Three Baton Twirling** - An athlete will perform using three batons only. All three batons must be used for entire routine. Routine should include work in like patterns, alternating patterns or in concert with one another and with juggling skills being utilized. Timing of this event begins as the opening salute hand of at least one baton leaves the salute position after a two-count hold. Timing stops as at least one baton comes to a stop in the salute position for the closing.

UPDATE - **Entrance/Exit** - *Judging will begin with the first movement following a salute or courtesy pose. Timing will end with a closing salute/or courtesy pose. Marching in or off the competition floor is NOT required. Athletes need to position themselves in front of the judge before beginning of routine.*

- D. **UPDATE** - Competition Directors may add **Collegiate & Adult Divisions** to each twirling event.

1. Collegiate & Adult Divisions must follow Advanced Timing and Rules.
2. Collegiate Freestyle and Dance Twirl will perform to their own music. These routines will be the ones that would be done on the field and may use band music. Up to two allowable gymnastic moves may be used. Allowable skills are cartwheels, walkovers and handstands in which one or two hands must touch the ground before the feet go over the head.
3. Collegiate Divisions may participate in the AAU Junior Olympic Games. Adult Divisions may not participate in the AAU Junior Olympic Games.

- E. **UPDATE - Freestyle Twirling** - *An athlete must perform with a minimum of one and two batons, and may also perform with three and/or four baton(s) to a musical selection of his/her choice. Athlete may perform with a variety of twirling equipment (example: ribbon, hoop, etc.). The routine should consist of the movement of both the baton(s) and the body to complement the musical selection and in an interpretive and emotional way. Two gymnastic skills are allowed in which one or two hands must touch the ground before the feet go over the head. Gymnastic skills will be judged as a creative movement, not necessarily as a difficulty skill. ***Backdrops, set decorations and scenery are not allowed. (Ex. easel, table, carpets, buckets, etc.) All props must be twirled.****

Credit is given for complete theme orientation with attention paid to costume, style, presentation of character, etc. Timing of this event begins with the first note of the music. Timing stops with the last note of the music with the final pose being held for at least a two count hold. A courtesy pose after the performance is acceptable but not required.

- F. **Dance Twirl** - An athlete performs a one baton routine to a musical selection of his/her choice. No other twirling equipment or props are allowed. The routine should consist of dance moves with baton to express and interpretive the musical selection. Two gymnastic skills are allowed in which one or two hands must touch the ground before the feet go over the head. **Gymnastic skills will be judged as a creative movement, not as a difficulty skill.*

1. Credit is given for complete theme orientation with attention paid to costume, style, presentation of character, etc. Timing of this event begins with the first note of the music. Timing stops with the last note of the music with the final pose being held for at least a two count hold. A courtesy pose after the performance is acceptable but not required.
2. Boys will qualify for the AAU Junior Olympic Games with girls in Dance Twirl. Boys will have their own division at the AAU Junior Olympic Games.

G. **UPDATE - Multiple Baton Solo** - An athlete performs his/her skills with more than one baton in a solo performance. The athlete starts with one baton and then must add two and/or three batons for beginner, while advanced may add up to four batons. The athlete is not required to twirl three batons/four batons. The athlete must show the *ability to perform with more than one baton*. While twirling with two batons, both batons must be moving at all times. Skills must be appropriate for a two baton routine. While twirling three or four batons, skills used must be appropriate for a three/four baton routine. To be properly scored, an athlete must show skills with every individual baton. A two (2) point penalty will be assessed if the athlete only executes a Two baton or a Three baton routine in this event and does not show the ability to add batons. The athlete starts with one baton for the solo 0:30-0:45 second time limit. After the 0:30-0:45 time limit, the athlete may pick up additional batons in any order and may place them back on the floor ending their performance with two or more batons. *Timing does not stop to pick up additional batons.*

1. **Entrance/Exit** - The athlete shall position him/herself in front of the judge after placing his/her baton(s) on the floor.
2. **No salute is required** - Timing of this event begins on the first movement after the opening pose. Timing stops with the final pose, which must be held for at least two counts. Athlete may execute his/her final pose with one or more batons in his/her hand(s).
3. **Status level** is to be determined by the athlete's Solo Two Baton status level.
4. **Score Sheet Multiple Baton**
 - a. **20 Points - Variety** - Full hand/Contact Material, Releases & Receptions, Finger Twirls, Rolls, Horizontals, Multiple Body Spins, Vertical/Horizontal Blend, Connections, Novelty.
 - b. **20 Points - Choreography/Difficulty Content** - Originality, Flow of Handling, Production, Difficulty of Tricks, Degree of Risk, Difficulty Achieved Through Timing, Intricacy and Follow Through.
 - c. **20 Points - Baton Control** - Same as Solo Two & Three Baton Scoresheet:
 - d. **20 Points - Technique** - Same as Solo Two & Three Baton Scoresheet
 - e. **20 Points - Presentation/Showmanship** - Same as Solo Two & Three Baton Scoresheet

H. **UPDATE - Strut**

1. **Definitions**
 - a. ***Straight Line Strut - Down the length of the gym. Back is optional.***
 - b. ***Freestyle Strut - direction is optional.***

c. ***T-Strut - will do a T Formation.***

d. ***X-Strut (x formation) - no tosses and no gymnastics allowed.***

2. **Clarification** - In the strut division, all struts will follow AAU rules. Struts will compete in each of their own categories. For example, all X-struts will be together in the different age divisions, all straight line struts will be together in the different age divisions, etc.
3. **Pattern** - Optional with forward motion and floor coverage expected within lane (lane is 15' x 15' for L, T, X, etc., strutters; lane is 4' wide along the inside of each sideline facing strut judges for straight line strutters)
4. **Music** - Marching music as provided by the contest director
5. **Timing** - 2:00 maximum; no minimum. Begins with first move; ends with final salute / pose. If music stops during performance, strutter should stop. Timing will restart when strutter resumes.
6. **Opening Presentation** - Optional
7. **Twirling** - Permitted but not required
8. **Content** - Marching steps must be included in routine; no more than 2 gymnastics moves
9. **Penalties** - Out of step: .5 per consecutive steps (inability to return to beat shall be evaluated in Timing category)
 - a. **Drop** - 0.5
 - b. **Fall** - 0.5
 - c. **Two (2) hand catch** - 0.5
 - d. **Baton Slip** - 0.1 each gymnastics move after two: 2.0 overtime - 0.1 per second
10. **Judging** - Athlete will be judged on Choreography/Content, Technique, Execution, Timing and Showmanship and Appearance.

I. **Basic Strut and Military Strut**

1. Basic marching in a single square
2. Athlete is judged on leg lines, leg height, posture, pointing of toes, and overall presentation of movement.
3. Athlete is to stay in step with the beat of the music at all times

J. **Hoop**

1. Judged on combinations, creativity, and consistent hoop movement.
2. Intentional floor rolls do not count as drops.

K. **Flag**

1. Flag should not stay wrapped or tangled on shaft while twirling
2. Flag should not strike the floor
3. Single flag is to be used. Double flag is not permitted
4. Flag can be released and caught from both ends of baton. Releasing or catching the flag by itself is not permitted.

L. **Solo Events - Performing Area** - A designated twirling area of at least 15' by 15' will be provided for solo one-baton, two-baton, three-baton, multiple baton, and strut (*except straight line strut*). Solo freestyle area of at least 40' by 40' will be provided when available.

M. **UPDATE - Music** - Athletes will perform to music provided by the contest director for all Solo events except Solo Freestyle and Dance Twirl. Solo freestyle and dance twirl athletes will use their own music on CD. (*No cassette tapes will be accepted.*)

1. Only the music to be used during actual competition should be recorded on the CD (*i.e. one routine/song per CD*).
2. It is recommended that a back up CD be brought to the competition venue.
3. If music ending is questionable, it is suggested an adult advisor be standing by to cue.
4. The audio volume of the music should be held at a comfortable level. The contest director should use a common sense volume level. Excessive volume should be called to the attention of the contest director. After an unheeded warning, an athlete may be assessed up to a 2 point maximum penalty by the judge for using excessive volume (*if using own sound equipment*).
5. **UPDATE** - At national events, music must be turned in at Registration. On the CD you must have your name and event on the label.

N. **UPDATE - Status Levels for Solo Events**

1. **Novice** - An athlete is a Novice until receiving three [3] first place Novice wins in a contest category. (Novice is less than three [3] total wins.) After the third win, the athlete then graduates to the Beginner level. Solo One baton and Solo Two baton routine time limit: 0:30 - 2:00 minutes Athletes in Novice Solo One Baton may not perform more than a two-turn around, and NO high toss illusions are allowed.
2. **Beginner** - An athlete is a Beginner until receiving five [5] first place Beginner wins in a category. Beginner is less than five [5] total wins. The athlete then graduates to the Intermediate level.
3. **Intermediate** - An athlete is an Intermediate until receiving eight [8] first place Intermediate wins in a category. Intermediate is less than eight [8] total wins. The athlete then graduates to the Advanced level.
4. **Advanced** - An athlete is an Advanced until receiving twelve [12] first place Advanced wins in a category. Advanced is less than twelve [12] total wins. In solo events, the athlete then graduates to Elite level.

5. **Elite** - An Elite athlete has reached the highest and most prestigious competitive level. Once a twirler has twelve [12] Advanced first place wins in a solo event, she/he would move to the Elite Division.
6. **Challenger** - A challenger division was designed for our special needs athletes.
7. **UPDATE - Multiple Baton Status** - Status levels are Novice/Beginner and Intermediate/Advanced/Elite.

O. **Advancement Clarifications**- Athletes will compete in earned status levels (*Novice, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Elite*).

Example: An athlete may be advanced in solo one-baton and beginner in solo two-baton. Athletes are required to move up to the next higher status level upon achieving the designated number of wins.

1. No solo athlete may double enter at any level of competition. No group athlete may compete against themselves at any level of competition. A corps member may compete only once in a corps classification (*i.e. may compete in only one twirling corps and in only one parade corps*).
2. Athletes who choose to use self-advancement to proceed to the next status level may not revert to a lower level.

Example: An athlete has achieved only two Novice solo one-baton wins, but wishes to enter Beginner solo one-baton. This is allowed in AAU but the athlete will remain at the Beginner solo one-baton level may NOT revert back to the Novice solo one-baton level and will only be allowed to win five more first places before having to move up to the Intermediate solo one-baton level.

3. One athlete or group in an uncontested division does not count towards advancement.
4. Protection will be used at judge's discretion. A first place award is a first place award.
5. All wins count in all cases, regardless of which organization the win was achieved. Wins not recognized: no entry fee, no placements, individual studio contest, and parks and recreation.
6. The highest level achieved in any baton twirling organization shall be maintained in AAU Baton Twirling regardless of number of wins.
7. When multi status levels are not available at a competition, the win constitutes as a win in the athlete's present status level.
8. No win may change an athlete's status on the same day or on any day of a successive multi-day event but will be in effect for the next competition.
9. Note: At AAU Junior Olympics Games, athlete must **compete in the skill level at which she/he qualified**. (*i.e. won Beginner must compete Beginner even if advancement occurs after qualifying*)