

2009 - 2010
Amateur Athletic Union
Field Hockey Handbook



Sports for all, forever!



AAU Field Hockey Rule Book & Regulations

PREAMBLE

The AAU Field Hockey 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** –
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** -
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 pick 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. AAU Field Hockey utilizes the National High School Federation Rules (http://www.nfhs.org/web/2006/08/field_hockey.aspx).
- B. These rules shall apply to all AAU Sanctioned events unless modified.

III. SPORT OPERATIONS

- A. **Current Year Rule Changes**-
- B. **Event Operating Rules** – AAU Field Hockey utilizes the National High School Federation Rules (http://www.nfhs.org/web/2006/08/field_hockey.aspx). These rules shall apply to all AAU Sanctioned events unless modified.
 1. **Facilities/Competition Area** - *See Page 10 below.*
 2. **Equipment** - *Please refer to the National High School Federation Rules.*
 3. **Judges/Officials/Referees/Umpire Requirements** - *Please refer to the National High School Federation Rules.*
 4. **Coaching Requirements** – *Determined by the Event Host*
 5. **Awards** – *Determined by the Event Host*
 6. **Protest Procedures** - *Judgment calls cannot be protested, however:*
 - a. If a team wishes to lodge a protest at the end of a match, its manager must do so in writing and hand the protest to the Tournament Director or Assistant on duty within ten minutes after the end of the match, having declared his/her intention to do so under his/her signature on the match sheet.
 - b. The team manager will then have an additional fifteen minutes to remit to the same Tournament Director (or Assistant) a written explanation for the protest. If he/she fails to do so, the protest will be considered void. Judgment calls cannot be protested.
 - c. The Tournament Director will make his decision in writing at the latest one hour after the end of the match in question.

d. The decision of the Tournament Director is final.

7. **Format/Scheduling** – *Determined by the Event Host*

8. **Entry Procedures** – *Determined by the Event Host*

C. **Competition Rules** – Unless otherwise stated in this handbook the rules of competition shall be those of *National High School Federation*. Only those rules contained in this handbook shall supersede the general rules of the national governing body.

D.

1. **Qualification Procedure** - Dependent on the type of event (*see below for more details*):

a. **National Championships** – All teams meeting the entry criteria are welcomed to compete.

b. **AAU Junior Olympic Games** – Athletes are chosen to compete in the AAU Junior Olympic Games each year by the United States Field Hockey Association via the Future's Program.

2. **Eligibility** – *Please refer to the National High School Federation Rules.*

3. **Uniform & Equipment** – *Please refer to the National High School Federation Rules.*

4. **Competition Types**

a. District Championships

b. National Championships

c. AAU Junior Olympic Games

d. Other events awarded by the AAU Field Hockey Executive Committee

5. **Categories of Competition**

6. **Rules and Restrictions** – *Please refer to the National High School Federation Rule.*

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.

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.

1. **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.

2. **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:
 - i. Youth Athlete
 - ii. Adult Athlete
 - iii. 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. Only chartered Districts, District Sport Committees and National Sport Committees may use the AAU marks in their name.
2. 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.
3. 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.

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 Annual Meeting** - It is the duty of the District Sport Committee to hold an 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 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 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 Directors 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
 - b. District Executive Committee;
 - c. Perform the duties set forth in the Committee Rules of Operation.
 - d. Approve event sanctions in the sport.
 - e. 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, are 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:
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. A bona fide student at an educational institution may be considered a resident of the District in which the institution is located.
6. 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.
4. **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.

A. **District Director Contacts** - AAU Field Hockey District Directors can be found by visiting - <http://www.aaufieldhockey.org/District/DistrictDirectors.aspx#35>.

B. **Contact Information**

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C. **Dates for National Championships** – Please visit AAU Field Hockey for up-to-date information on our National Championships at www.aaufieldhockey.org.