

The qualifying procedures will be established by the National Youth Executive Committee for soccer as best fits the growth of the program. The National Championship will be an open event.

2. Eligibility

d. General

1. All players must be AAU members. Contact the local AAU District for membership information. Note: Check the Tournament Rules for specific eligibility requirements.
2. The eligibility of a participant for a particular age division will be determined by the year of his/her birth. The age control date is prior to August 1.
3. Any player competing in a specific age division must remain in the same division throughout the District, Regional and/or National Tournaments. A player may participate in only one age division of the AAU Soccer program.
4. All-state select teams (Olympic Development Teams) are not eligible for the AAU Soccer Program.
5. The AAU Youth National Committee shall set residency requirements as required by the AAU Code. This shall include guidelines concerning both membership and qualifying competition by District/State boundaries.
6. During National Championships, any questions pertaining to eligibility of a player or team shall be directed to the National Chairman or the National Office. No member of the tournament committee shall have authority to rule on eligibility.

e. Age Divisions (Boys' and Girls')

Age divisions are as stated by USYSA. Age divisions will be determined by the age of each player before the first day of August of the immediately preceding seasonal year.

f. Team Composition

1. Teams competing in the Under-9 through Under-11 age divisions shall be composed of a minimum of nine (9) players and maximum of fourteen (14) players. Under-12 through Under-18 teams shall be composed of a minimum of eleven (11) players with a maximum of eighteen (18) players.
2. Competition will be provided in two divisions: Boys and Girls. Mixed teams will compete in the boys' division. Depending on the tournament, mixed teams may not be allowed. Check with the Tournament Director for further information.
3. Clubs may form their teams as best suits their area. Teams may compete in the AAU Youth program as long as eligibility requirements are met.

3. Rules and Restrictions

d. Player Ejection

1. Player ejection suspension (red card) will carry over from a District Qualifier.
2. If a player is ejected from any game during the National Championships, the player's pass shall be turned over to the

Tournament Director. The player's pass will be returned to the coach after the player has met his/her penalty.

3. The minimum penalty for an ejection is that the player shall not be permitted to play in the next scheduled competition of his/her team. The penalty may be increased at the determination of National Chairman and the Local Organizing Committee.
4. Only those players whose names appear on the roster sheet may sit on the player's bench. This is limited to eighteen (18) players and no more than three (3) other persons acting as coaches. No young children, other than players, shall be allowed on the bench.
5. Tournament directors may not coach a team in a competition for which they are serving as a Tournament Director.
6. The National Soccer Committee upon approval of such action by the Executive Committee of the AAU may impose sanctions against any coach, club, or team for un-sportsmanlike conduct or other actions considered detrimental to the AAU and the AAU Soccer program.

e. Rules for AAU Soccer Tournaments

1. USSF, USYSA and FIFA rules will govern all play. Exceptions are included in this manual or provided in entry materials for specific tournaments.
2. It is recommended that field size reflect the age division. Recommended field sizes are as follows:
 - a. Under 8 = 60 x 90 yards
 - b. Under 10 = 60 x 90 yards
 - c. Under 12 = 60x 110 yards
 - d. Under 14 = 65 x 110 yards
 - e. Under 16 = 75 x 120 yards
3. The ball shall be made of leather or other approved material. The ball size shall be as follows:
 - a. Under 10 and 12 use a #4 ball.
 - b. Under 14 use a #5 ball.
 - c. Under 16 use a #5 ball.
4. All games shall be played in halves.
5. Law VIII - Duration of the Game (*If required; see "Determination of Standings")
 - a. Under 8 = 25 minute halves
 - b. Under 10 = 25 minute halves
 - c. Under 12 = 30 minute halves
 - d. Under 14 = 35 minute halves
 - e. Under 16 = 40 minutes halves

**Halftime intervals shall not exceed 10 minutes*
6. All games in the National Championship must be completed. A forfeit can only be called by the Tournament Director, in accordance with the rules as established in this manual and/or tournament entry material.
7. There shall be no limit to the number of substitutions a team may make. Substitutions may be made in the following situations:
 - a. When a goal is scored

- b. At halftime
 - c. During play stoppage due to injury
 - d. When a goal kick occurs by either team
 - e. Prior to a throw-in in your favor
8. Substitutes may not enter the field of play until motioned onto field by the referee. He/she must always enter at the midfield line.
9. Overtime periods will be played in the semi-finals and finals of National Tournaments only. The following rules will govern overtime play:
- a. Under 8 and under 10 will play two (2) five -minute overtime periods with a goal change between periods.
 - b. Under 12 and above will play two (2) ten-minute overtime periods with a goal change between periods.
 - c. If the teams are still tied at the end of the overtime periods, then penalty kicks shall be taken only by those players who are on the field at the conclusion of the overtime period. Each team will select five (5) players. Each of the five will take one penalty kick alternating after each with the other team.
 - d. If there is still a tie after these penalty kicks, then the teams will take alternate penalty kicks until one-team scores and the other does not.
10. Uniforms - All players must wear the same design and color uniform. The goalkeeper uniform must be distinctive and not match uniforms from either team.
- a. The required player's uniform includes a jersey/shirt, shorts, socks and suitable shoes.
 - b. All players are required to wear shin guards.
- f. **National Championships - *Contact the AAU for more information***

IV. EXCERPTS FROM AAU CODE BOOK

- 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.