

# AAU National Championship Playing Rules

## Section I: Equipment

- 1.1 Required equipment:
  - 1.1.1 Helmet with chin strap
  - 1.1.2 Shoulder pads
  - 1.1.3 Pants
  - 1.1.4 Hip pads
  - 1.1.5 Tail pads
  - 1.1.6 Thigh pads
  - 1.1.7 Knee pads
  - 1.1.8 Jersey
  - 1.1.9 Mouthpiece with “keeper strap”
  - 1.1.10 Athletic Supporter (males only)
  - 1.1.11 Hip and tail pads must be secured by either a belt, girdle or by snap in pads.
- 1.2 All players must wear protective equipments at all times.
- 1.3 Face Shields
  - 1.3.1 May only be used if written physicians request is on file with AAU.
  - 1.3.2 Only clear shields that are of a “snap on nature” can be used.
  - 1.3.3 No tinted shields are permitted.
- 1.4 Helmets
  - 1.4.1 Award stickers are allowed if and only they are given out fairly and equally amongst the players on the teams.
  - 1.4.2 Only helmets with the NOCSAE Seal of Certification shall be worn.
  - 1.4.3 All helmets must have either a double bar or full cage face guard and chin strap.
  - 1.4.4 An authorized NOCSAE inspection company must inspect all helmets, at least once every four (4) years.
  - 1.4.5 AAU helmet stickers may be provided at the National Championship. If they are provided the stickers must be affixed to each participant’s helmet.
- 1.5 All shoulder, hip, kidney, tailbone, thigh and knee pads shall meet the standards of the National Federation of State High School Associations and shall not be altered by players or team staff in any way.
- 1.6 Game jerseys shall be numbered with 6 to 10 inch numbers on the front and back.
- 1.7 Sponsor’s names or players’ names may appear on the game jersey.
- 1.8 Teeth protectors must be with a “keeper strap” attached to the face guard in all divisions.
- 1.9 All males must wear an athletic supporter and may have an optional “soft cup”.
- 1.10 Shoes can be either tennis shoes or rubber molded cleats.
  - 1.10.1 Removable cleats are permitted, but must be rubber.
  - 1.10.2 No metal cleats will be allowed.
- 1.11 Prohibited Equipment:
  - 1.11.1 No jewelry of any kind including but not limited to such things as necklaces, earrings, bracelets and watches.

- 1.11.1.1 Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are permitted but must be taped to the person and considered a danger during performances or practice.
- 1.11.2 No electronic equipment is to be used by any team on or off the field.
- 1.11.3 No head coverings with any type of knots in them are permitted.
- 1.11.4 A player will be removed from the game for wearing illegal, altered or modified equipment and cannot return until the condition is corrected.

## Section 2: Variances from NFHS Rule Book

- 2.1 Unless specifically modified by the AAU Football, all games whether regular season, pre season or post season shall be played under the rules of the NHFS.
- 2.2 Minimum Number of Players
  - 2.2.1 The minimum number of players for a team to be eligible for game play shall be seventeen (17) at the start of the AAU Championship. The maximum number of players is 35.
  - 2.2.2 If a team does not meet the minimum number of players; the AAU representative has the OPTION to call for a forfeit. The National Tournament Committee reserves the right to approve a smaller roster on an individual basis.
  - 2.2.3 In the event that a forfeit is called by the AAU rep, a controlled scrimmage may be held if both teams agree to participate.
- 2.3 Time outs
  - 2.3.1 Each team is permitted a maximum of two (2) time outs per half for pool play and three (3) for bracket play games.
  - 2.3.2 All injury time outs shall be charged to the “officials” and not to the teams.
- 2.4 Injuries
  - 2.4.1 Minor cuts or abrasions shall not be considered an injury for the purpose of this rule.
  - 2.4.2 A referee can call a time out for a cut or abrasion.
  - 2.4.3 The player can return to the game after the injury is treated.
  - 2.4.4 In the event that a player needs assistance off the playing field by an adult or team member, that player may not re-enter the game until cleared by the EMT. (See Section 10).
- 2.5 Game Ball
  - 2.5.1 The AAU shall will furnish the game ball.
    - 2.5.1.1 Ball size.
      - 2.5.1.1.1 8u shall use “Pee Wee” ball. See manufacture sponsor
      - 2.5.1.1.2 10u shall use a “Junior” ball.
      - 2.5.1.1.3 12u shall use a “junior” ball.
      - 2.5.1.1.4 14u shall use an “Intermediate” ball.
- 2.6 Time between quarters
  - 2.6.1 Between the first and second half of the shortened games there shall be one (5) minute intermission.
- 2.7 Length of Periods

- 2.7.1 The length of periods of play for all pool play games will be two (2) nine (9) minute quarters, and for bracket play games length of periods shall be two (2) ten (10) minute quarters (12U and 14U). 8U and 10U will play eight (8) minute quarters in pool play and nine (9) minute quarters in bracket play.
- 2.7.2 The National Championship will have four (4) eight minute quarters that will allow teams three (3) time outs per half. There will be an eight (8) minute halftime.
- 2.8 Game violations
  - 2.8.1 Spearing, butt blocking, face and head tackling are prohibited.
  - 2.8.2 In all age divisions, any deliberate blow delivered to the knees with shoulder pads or helmet in the free blocking zone is prohibited.
  - 2.8.3 An illegal blocking foul with a ten (10) yard penalty will be assessed to the offending team.
    - 2.8.3.1 If this is determined to be flagrant, the referee may call a personal foul with a fifteen (15) yard penalty.
    - 2.8.3.2 Any coach instructing their athletes to use these methods shall be guilty of a major violation and ejected from the game and possibly suspended from the tournament and the coach may also be brought before the National AAU Football infractions committee.
- 2.9 Timing Device
  - 2.9.1 The game officials shall provide the timing device.
- 2.10 Scoring
  - 2.10.1 Touchdown 6 points
  - 2.10.2 Point after touchdown
    - 2.10.2.1 When kicked 2 points
    - 2.10.2.2 When run or pass 1 point
  - 2.10.3 Safety 2 points
  - 2.10.4 Field Goal 3 points
  - 2.10.5 When playing on a field without goal posts no kicking shall be permitted.
  - 2.10.6 When playing with one goal post, each team can use the upright after scoring a touchdown for the point after touchdown or for a field goal try.
  - 2.10.7 There will be a running clock if score gets to be more than 42 point differential.
- 2.11 Forfeited Games
  - 2.11.1 All forfeits will result in a score of 21 to 0 for purpose of the standings and seeding.
- 2.12 Tie Games
  - 2.12.1 In pool play, bracket play, and the National Championship, ties shall be broken in the following manner:
    - 2.12.2.1 In the event of a tie in pool or bracket play, overtime will be as follows: each team will get equal series from the ten (10) yard line until a winner is decided by score.
- 2.13 Ties in Pool Play
  - 2.13.1 If there is a two way tie, head to head record will determine placement.
  - 2.13.2 If there is a three way tie, then points allowed will be used to determine placement. The team that allows the most points will be third, the second most allowed will be second and the least points allowed will be first.

- 2.13.2.1 If there is still a tie after points allowed, then ties will be broken by a coin toss.
- 2.14 Game Rules
  - 2.14.1 All National High School Federation rules will be used for all National Championships.
  - 2.14.2 Exceptions: The AAU National Committee may modify or pass additional rules for the National Championships which would be provided to the teams at the National Championship Coaches Meeting.

### Section 3: Roster Compliance and Protests

- 3.1 Roster Compliance
  - 3.1.1 No overage players allowed.
  - 3.1.2 No High School Junior Varsity, Varsity / Freshman team players allowed.
  - 3.1.3 Pick Ups: No athletes may be added to roster post season or after tournament qualifier.
  - 3.1.4 Penalties: If any of the above infractions are discovered prior to the team participating, the ineligible player or players are disqualified. If the infraction is discovered after one or more pool play games the entire team is disqualified and all games will be forfeits.
- 3.2 Protests: All protests must be made in writing and turned in with \$100 cash to the Head Official.
  - 3.2.1 When a protest is upheld the fee is returned.
  - 3.2.2 If a protest is denied the fee is forfeited.