

2023-2024 AAU Tackle Football Handbook



www.aaufootball.org

AAU Tackle Football Rule Book & Regulations

PREAMBLE

The AAU Football 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.

National Sport Committee Governance and Administration

Section 1: National Committee Structure and Procedures

Article 1 – National Chair – National Sports Chairs shall be elected by their National Sports Committee at the committee meeting during National Conventions in which National Officers are elected.

1. Terms are four years.
2. National election policies shall apply.
3. Sport Chairs may be removed for cause by majority vote of the National Officers, subject to the Right of Appeal to the National Board of Review.
4. The President, with the approval of a majority of the officers, may appoint a person to fill a vacant Sport Chair position. The appointee will serve until the next regular or special meeting of the Sport Committee, at which time an election shall be held to complete the term.
5. Once elected, the National Chair is required to purchase a four (4) – year membership that will complete the entire term.

Article 2 – Executive Committee Composition – the National Football Chair shall appoint up to 12 members-at-large representing Tackle Football, with at least one representative to represent these disciplines: Football Cheer, 7v7 Flag Football and Girls Flag. The Executive Committee may include the number of members on the Executive Committee, and the criteria or election to the committee, removal from the committee and filling vacancies on the committee are at the discretion of the National Chair.

Article 3 – National Sport Committee Composition – the committee will consist of the National Sports Chair, members of the Executive Committee who are appointed as provided by the sport's operating rules, the elected or appointed Sport Director of each District, or representative designated by the District Governor, and one appointed representative from each Allied member that registers the required number of members in the sport as required by code. The President may appoint up to two (2) members-at-large.

1. **Voting** – only members of the Committee are permitted to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy. Each member of the Committee will have one vote. Only representatives from districts which registered a minimum of

- 0.5% (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.
2. **District Sports Director** – once elected, each District Sports Director is required to purchase a four (4) – year membership that will complete their entire term.

Article 4 – Other Committee Positions – the National Football Chair shall create other committees as he/she 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

Section 2 – Sport Committee Meetings

Article 1 – National Sport Committee Regular Meetings – regular meetings of the National Sport Committee shall be in conjunction with the AAU Convention.

Article 2 – Non-Regular Sport Committee Meetings – National Sport Committee may hold a Non-Regular National Sport Committee meeting in odd year's subject to the national 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.

Article 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. Ten (10) days' notice is required and notice shall state the purpose of the meeting.

Article 4 – National Sport Executive Committee Meetings – the National Chair shall determine the date and location of Executive Committee Meetings.

Article 5 – Agenda Additions:

- a. **Sport Committee Meeting Order (Agendas)** – the Regular National Sport Committee meetings, the Non-Regular National Sport Committee meetings and the National Sport Committee Special meetings shall follow meeting order (agenda format) as established by Code (Bylaw 9.5)

SPORT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Section 1 Event Registration

Article 1 – registration (confirmation of participation) for National League Championships shall be via the AAU On-Line Registration System meeting all deadlines.

Article 2 – to compete in the National League Championships, Unrestricted National Championships and the West Coast National Championships, the team shall enter its roster and submit its tournament entry fee via the designated website for the event. Registration is not finalized until the roster, designated event paperwork and entry fee have been completed. Coaches shall have team book with birth documents on hand at all times during the event. Registration must be completed prior to the posted registration deadline or when tournament sells out, whichever comes first. Roster will be frozen on October 1st of the competition year. **Note:** *Teams must bring proof of age as described in III.C.2.d for all rostered athletes to the National Championship. Birth certificates must be produced upon request from the National Championship staff.*

Article 3 – to participate in a National Championship, players and teams must satisfy all AAU individual player and team eligibility requirements.

Section 2 Entry Procedures for National Football Championships

Article 1 – Age Groups – National Championships will be held in the age groups listed below:

- ❖ 6U (Optional by event host)
- ❖ 8U
- ❖ 10U
- ❖ 12U
- ❖ 14U

Article 2 – Eligibility – to participate in a National Championship, players and teams must satisfy AAU individual player and team eligibility requirements.

Article 3 – 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 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.

Article 4 – Residency Requirements – an athlete may elect to participate in their district bona fide residence or a district which geographically adjoins that district.

Article 5 – State 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 state (State Qualifier) to qualify teams for the Unrestricted National Championships. However, all teams participating in the AAU National League Championships must have competed in an AAU Licensed League designated as a qualifying league to advance teams to the National Championships. The majority of players (80%) making up a team roster in these District Championships held for individual state championships must be residents of that state.

Article 6 – International Teams – teams that do not reside in the United States may apply to the AAU Football Executive Committee for participation in National Championships.

Article 7 – Tournament Check-In – at least one coach or team manager 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 League Championship. If a team does not send a coach or team manager to the coaches' meetings, the head coach will be suspended for the first game following the missed meeting. Only the National Chair may grant an exemption to this requirement.*

At the National League Championships in all age groups, all team members must be on their team roster and no AAU Membership may have been purchased after September 30th of the competition year. Note that rosters must be uploaded by the tournament online registration deadline date. Teams who do not have rosters online by that date may be removed from the event with no refund of the entry fee. From the deadline date to one week prior to tournament check-in. On October 1st, rosters are locked for the AAU National League Championships.

Article 8 – Qualification Process – teams may qualify for advancement to National League Championship play via the following:

QUALIFYING VIA THE AAU LICENSED LEAGUES

- a. Each approved licensed league shall establish a method of qualifying teams for advancement to the National League Championship:
 - a. Leagues may elect to send **ONE to TWO TEAMS** (unless the National Football Chair approves more than **two**). Qualifying leagues in a District will dictate number of possible teams from a District qualifying to the National League Championships, if

applicable, based upon the number of teams in a licensed league and the number of leagues in the AAU District.

EXAMPLE: *The district could be divided into regions and only the top two teams from each region would advance to the AAU National League Championships.*

- b. For the AAU Licensed League(s) approved for the AAU National League Championships by adding the total number of all teams competing in an entire age group within each league will help determine the number of National Championship entries.

QUALIFYING TO AAU UNRESTRICTED CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a. Teams may qualify to advance to the **AAU National Unrestricted Championship** via an At-Large Berth for a league that meets all requirements of AAU Memberships.
- b. The AAU National Chair, or the Football Executive Committee, shall approve teams for advancement to the National Unrestricted Championships from inactive districts (i.e. districts in which no league or qualifier is held)
- c. If a team qualifies for the National Unrestricted Championships via a Super Regional tournament, and then also places in the District Qualifier, these teams qualify to the AAU National Unrestricted Championships.
 - a. The roster of a team that has become eligible to advance to a National Unrestricted Championship must conform to current AAU membership regulations.
 - b. Teams becoming eligible to the National Unrestricted Championship must register before stated deadline as to their intent to participate in the Unrestricted National Championship and submit to the National host their roster with AAU Membership numbers and required event documentation.
 - c. Added players are not required to have participated in the qualifying event, but each player must meet all other eligibility requirements including having a valid AAU Membership for the event.

QUALIFYING VIA NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY OR LEAGUE PLAY

The AAU National Football Chair, Executive Committee members appointed to the Championship Committee may allow team(s) to advance to a National League Championship via league play. Leagues interested in participating in the AAU Tackle Football should contact the AAU National Football Chair or Sport Manager. Leagues interested in participating in their district league championships should contact their respective District Football Director as to their event. District Qualifiers are events to determine State/District Championships and all teams participating qualify for the AAU Unrestricted Championships and **are not** AAU National League Qualifiers unless approved as part of their AAU Licensed League competition. No team will qualify for the National League Championships if they did not compete in a league during the year including having met all membership requirements stated in the rule.

NATIONAL COMPETITION TO MULTIPLE EVENTS

- a. The National AAU Football Chair and/or Executive Committee Appointed Host Committee members hold the right to employ other qualifying approaches.
- b. PARTICIPATING IN MORE THAN ONE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
 - a. Teams and players may compete in more than one National Championship for which they are eligible. All eligibility requirements must be met for each AAU National Championship.

Section 3 Eligibility

Article 1 – 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 licensed event. Note all adult non-athletes must clear a mandatory background check prior to being granted membership. Background checks may take up to 30 minutes to several days.

- a. **All Tackle Football** members **MUST** have the **Extended Benefits Coverage Membership**, which is \$20 for athletes and \$55 for coaches and volunteers. This applies to all **AAU Licensed Tackle Football events**. The Extended Benefit (AB) membership includes both AAU Licensed and other Non-AAU organization events who do not host the AAU non-licensed event attended by the AAU Club/Team.
- b. To become a member of AAU and obtain your official membership card, please click on “Join AAU” at www.aausports.org.

Article 2 – Amateur Status – all athletes must be amateurs as defined by the AAU code.

Article 3 – Age Determination Date – the age determination date for competitors will be on August 1st of the current (2023) season. A player’s age on August 1st of the current season is the youngest age group in which he may participate for that season.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>BORN ON/AFTER</u>
14U	August 1 st , 2009
12U	August 1 st , 2011
10U	August 1 st , 2013
8U	August 1 st , 2015
6U	August 1 st , 2017

NOTE: Districts my license competition in younger age groups. However, a National Championship is not held in age groups younger than age 8U unless approved by the AAU National Football Chair.

Article 4 – AAU National Football Maximum Roster Size –

6U – 14U: Rosters may consist of no more than 40 players, 5 coaches and 3 field (yard markers). Each team may roster 1 team administrator. However, the team administrator shall not be allowed on the sidelines coaching. Personnel not listed on the roster will not be allowed on the field during competition.

Article 5 – National Football Minimum Roster Size –

6U – 14U: Rosters may consist of no less than 15 players, 3 coaches and 3 field (yard markers). Each team may roster 1 team administrator. However, the team administrator shall not be allowed on the sidelines coaching. Personnel not listed on the roster will not be allowed on the field during competition.

Article 6 – Adding/Replacing Players When Advancing to National League Championships – a team advancing to a National League Championship are not allowed to add any athletes to their roster. All players must have been rostered and purchased their membership before October 1st (10/01/23) of the competition year.

Article 7 – Host Teams – The local organizing committee that is to host a National League Championship is allowed to enter a host team(s) provided that it meets all AAU membership requirements. The Host may select their host team(s) as it wishes. It is not required to use any particular formula or criteria.

Article 8 – Withdrawal of Tournament Entry – Deadline for withdrawal of a tournament will be the tournament entry deadline, or when the tournament fills, whichever comes first. If a team does not give notification of withdrawal prior to the tournament deadline date, or prior to the tournament filling, whichever comes first, the team will forfeit their entry fee.

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 they honor of my team.**

Code of Ethics

AAU Football subscribes to the Code of Ethics set forth by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

SPORT OPERATIONS

Current Year Rule Changes

See Appendix A.

Event Operation Rules

These rules shall apply to all AAU National Championships and are recommended for all AAU authorized events unless modified.

Facilities/Competition Area

The following are required for AAU National Championships and recommended for all other AAU Tournaments. Fields must be approved by the AAU National Football Staff or designated appointee by the AAU National Chair for field inspection.

- a. **Facility Support Equipment** – the following are required for AAU National League Championships and recommended for all other AAU Football Championships: 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.

Official Requirements

1. All tournament officials must have a current AAU non-athlete membership.
2. Umpires and tournament officials or staff may not use tobacco or tobacco-like products in the public view

Coaching Requirements

All coaching personnel who are not athletes must have an AAU non-athlete membership and be listed on the team roster. The roster for non-athletes is limited to **five** coaches, **one** scorekeeper, **three** field markers (chain gang). Teams may also roster **one** team administrator, but the team administrator shall not be allowed on the field coaching. All rostered personnel will receive credentials for entrance in the facility or facilities.

Awards

Individual medals will be awarded to 1st – 3rd place finishers at the AAU National Championships. Team trophies will be provided by the host and awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams. All teams, including rostered members, who attend the AAU National Championships will receive an AAU National Championship T-Shirt FREE.

Protest Procedures

Article 1 – Protests must be made verbally with the lead official by the Head Coach of the team at the time of the incident/play.

Article 2 – A fee of \$100 cash (refunded if protest is upheld) must accompany the protest.

Article 3 – All decisions of the protest committee shall be final. The senior site director, tournament director, Official-in-Chief and AAU Sports Manager(s) and/or National Chair shall comprise the protest committee for rule challenges.

Article 4 – Only decisions involving the eligibility of ages and qualifications may be protested. No protest shall be allowed in matters involving game competition which involves official's judgement.

Article 5 – If a player is found to ineligible prior to the start of the tournament, the player will be expelled from the tournament.

Article 6 – If a player is found to ineligible after the tournament has begun, upon discovery, that player and head coach will be expelled from the competition. All games in which the ineligible player competed in during the most current round will be forfeited. Teams will be seeded by record incorporating the forfeits. The team may be subject to future sanctions.

Article 7 – Coaches are responsible to see that their team meets all eligibility requirements.

Article 8 – No Protest of Players Eligibility will be allowed after Pool Play unless the player showed up for competition after the first round of competition in pool play.

Format/Scheduling

There will be pool play (normally three games) Pool Play will determine seeding for bracket play. All teams will then advance directly to a single-elimination bracket.

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 Football Executive Committee depending on the number of entries in the tournament and any extenuating circumstances.

Tiebreakers and Format Used for Determining Playoffs

In the National Championship Tournament, ties shall be broken in the following manner:

- a. In the event of a tiebreaker, each team will take the ball to the 10-yard line for four downs and continue until a winner is declared either by score or by penetration yardage

Ties in Pool Play:

- b. If there is a two-way tie, head to head record will determine placement.
- c. If there is a three-way tie, then points allowed will be used to determine placement. The team that allowed the most points will be third, the second most allowed will be second and the least points allowed will be first.

All National Championship Tie Breakers will apply to the above rules unless posted with the tournament information and approved by the National Chair and/or the Football Executive Committee.

The highest possible point differential is 40 points. A team may win by more than 40 points, however, only 40 points will be applied to the “Points For” or “Points Scored” to calculate the point differential. Example: a team wins 56-7, the standings will reflect a 47-7 victory.

PLAYING RULES

Unless otherwise stated in this handbook, the rules of competition shall be those of the NFHS and the AAU National Rules. Only those rules contained in this handbook shall supersede the general rules of the national governing body.

Section 1 Forfeit

Article 1 – 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.

Article 2 – the offended team shall be credited with a win, but points scored and points allowed will be based only on actual games played.

Article 3 – 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.

Article 4 – coaches may **not** mutually agree to end a contest without first receiving the approval of the respective AAU Football tournament committee representative.

AAU Tackle Football

Rules of Play

**** Please note that if a team qualifies for the League Based National Championships those rules will supersede AAU Tackle rules for those age divisions only****

The 2024 AAU Tackle Football season will be run using the most current High School Football Rules as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) except where specifically amended in the sections to follow. It is strongly recommended that coaches have a copy as it is the responsibility of the Head Coach to be knowledgeable of the rules.

Divisions:

AAU Tackle Football shall consist of five age divisions – **6U, 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U**. The age requirement being the age that the athlete is at 11:59 PM on August 1, 2023. An athlete may not play in a higher division prior to getting approval from the Director of AAU Tackle Football. Due to safety concerns, no athlete will be allowed to play up more than one age group.

The athlete requesting to play up must be physically evaluated by the AAU State Board/Director and parent must sign waiver form. Exempt from this rule is 6U, any athlete who is eligible to play 6U will only be eligible to play within their age group and not allowed to move up. Once an athlete plays up, they will not play in a lower division for any reason.

Rosters:

All rosters will be locked on September 30th, 2023. Any AAU membership and/or DMV (State) ID purchased after October 1st will be denied participation from the AAU National League Championships without exception. Exempt from this rule is the 14U. In states where the scholastic competition for the 14U has an issue where AAU leagues must start competition later they will have a November 1st roster lock due to the Scholastic Eligibility Rule in those states. A request must be made by the AAU District Sport Director for football for the 14U exemption. The AAU National Football Chair, along with the National Office, will decide on the approval as to whether the league meets the requirement to receive this extension.

14U Roster Lock Extension (League Based Championship Requirements):

- ❖ AAU Membership must be purchased on or before by November 1st at 11:59 PM
- ❖ State or school issued ID
- ❖ Athlete must have played in at least 3 games minimum against AAU League Based Competition
- ❖ Must play in 75% of their scheduled games if the 14U league is approved and starts before November 1st.
- ❖ Athletes can have had NO High School experience. Participation in or on Freshman, JV, Varsity, summer workouts, practicing or signing up for the team is considered High School Football experience and would make an athlete ineligible.
 - Exemption – the New York Football League allows for athletes of the correct age to have Freshman team experience.

AAU Membership:

All athletes, coaches, board members and sideline persons (i.e. team moms) must hold a current AAU membership. In addition, all teams must hold a current AAU club membership. All coaches listed on the roster will receive credentials provided by the league. Positive Coaches Alliance Certificate after successful completion of the free online PCA (Positive Coaches Alliance) posted on the www.aaufootball.org website.

Athletes:

A team shall consist of a minimum of 16 players and a maximum of 35 players. Any exceptions must be in writing to a designated representative for each state. All athletes must be in compliance with the AAU Membership section of this packet. Any athlete found to be ineligible prior to the start of the game will be expelled from the game.

Athlete's Identification:

Leagues may request that all athletes may be required to have a DMV State ID to verify identity and date of birth. Leagues may accept school ID's, report cards and/or produce original birth records. Receipts from DMV will be accepted up to expiration date printed on DMV receipt. Passports and US Military IDs will be accepted as alternative form of ID. Please note actual original copy of DMV ID, US Military ID or Passport must be present at time of book check, no photocopy will be accepted. Leagues may use any combination of the above items as proof of age along with mandatory procedures they put in place for their league.

Athlete's Physical:

All athletes will be required to have a physical completed by a Licensed State Examiner (medical doctor, nurse practitioner, etc.) and must be dated within one year of date of participation in game or practice.

Non-Athletes:

A team may carry up to 7 persons on the sideline that are allowed inside the coaches' box. This may consist of any combination of Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Trainer, Team Mom or Jr. Coach. All coaches shall be listed on the current team playing on the field roster and must have provided sideline credentials. All AAU membership rules regarding non-athletes apply and any violation will result in removal from the sidelines. Depending on the leagues rules, the team may end up forfeiting the game.

Book Check:

It is recommended that a book check will be completed for each game. League reps will conduct a book check for each regular season game. AAU State Board will conduct book check during playoffs and State Championship. Book check will occur 30 minutes before 1st game and ensuing book checks will occur during 3rd quarter of the current game. Please note that if a player arrives during their team's book check, that player will be able to check and play at the start of the game. If a player arrives after their team's book check, the player will be check in at halftime and opposing head coach will be notified of player being check in. NOTE: leagues may determine their own process for verifying athlete's eligibility to compete in each game.

Football Sizes:

6U – Pee Wee

8U – Pee Wee

10U – Junior

12U – Junior

14U – Youth

All teams, or the league, must provide their own game ball. Each league will determine this equipment rule. The above football rule is what football the AAU National Championships will provide.

Tiebreakers:

NFHS Rules shall apply with the exception of the initial spot of the ball. Overtime play shall begin with the ball spotted on the 10-yard line with no possibility of a first down.

Sideline Staff:

The sideline staff may consist of 7 non-athlete members, including junior coaches. Junior coaches should be of high school age, hold a current AAU Athlete Membership and be in proper coaching attire. The members of the sideline staff shall hold a current AAU Non-Athlete Membership and have proper credentials for the sideline coaches and staff. This staff may include any combination of coaches, trainers, team mom, etc... All must be in proper coaching attire and match the team colors. Two Cheer coaches will be allowed on the sideline in order to direct the cheer squad. Please note that the chain crew is not required to have an AAU membership, however they will not be allowed to use cell phones or make hand signals to the opposing team. If caught with a cell phone or making hand signals, they will be removed by an official or a league board member.

Communication Devices:

Communication devices used to communicate with a player except during an outside the 9-yard mark conference. Communication devices including but not limited to: audio recorder, Local Area Network (LAN) phones and/or headsets, still photograph(s), film, analog or digital video(s) and/or Internet depictions shall not be used to communicate with a player except during an outside 9-yard mark conference. Communication devices including but not limited to audio recorder, Local Area Network (LAN) phones and/or headsets, still photo-graph(s), film analog or digital video(s) and/or Internet depictions may be used by coaches and non-players.

NATIONAL DIVISIONAL RULES

6U Division

- I. Timing
 - a. 8-minute quarters with a running clock and an 8-minute halftime.
 - b. A varsity clock will be used for all games. The clock will start on the ready.
 - c. Clock will only stop for the following (the regulation clock runs in accordance with NCHSAA rules):
 - i. Time outs
 - ii. Penalties
 - iii. End of quarters
 - iv. Out of bounds
 - v. Incomplete passes
 - vi. Scores and touchbacks
 - vii. Fair catches
 - viii. Inadvertent whistles
- II. Game Ball
 - a. The official game ball will be a Pee Wee size
- III. Scoring
 - a. Touchdown – 6 points
 - b. Kicked PAT – 2 points
 - c. Run/Pass PAT – 1 point
 - d. Run/Pass PAT – 2 points (must declare with “white hat” going for “2” and ball placed at 5-yard line)

- e. Safety – 2 points
- f. Field Goal – 3 points
- IV. Mercy Rule
 - a. See attached
- V. Other
 - a. Late-arriving players may be checked-in at halftime and play in the 2nd half.
 - b. Overtime will be handled in accordance with the NCHSAA “10-Yard Line Overtime Procedure”
 - c. Mouthpieces must be worn and attached to the face mask
 - d. No lining up directly over the center. Face mask must be in the “A” Gap.
 - e. 6 defensive players are permitted on the line of scrimmage and must be in either a 3-point or 4-point stance. Any player in a 2-point stance must be 6 feet (2 yards) off the line of scrimmage.
 - f. No kick-off, the ball will be spotted at the offense’s 35-yard line.
 - g. No punting
 - h. No rushing of the extra points
 - i. A PAT is worth 2 points if kicked and 1 point if run or passed. The ball will be placed on the 2-yard line
 - j. If a 2-point conversion is desired by not kicking, the offense must declare the intentions to the “white hat” and the ball will be spotted at the five-yard line. The offense may run or pass from the five-yard line for a 2-point conversion.
 - k. The play clock is 35 seconds
 - l. In 6U, two coaches from each team will be allowed in his/her respective backfield during the game. Coaches on the field should be at least 10 yards behind their last player at start of cadence. Coaches must also make every effort to not interfere with plays (physically or verbally) once they are in progress.
 - i. Sideline Warning
 - ii. Being outside the team box, but not on field
 - 1. Sideline Warning
 - 2. Sideline Interference
 - 3. Sideline Interference
 - 4. First time warning
 - 5. 5-yard penalty
 - 6. 15-yard Unsportsmanlike Conduct
 - 7. In games where coaches are allowed to be on the field (6U & 8U), on the 4th warning, the on field coach(s) will be replaced and not allowed back on the field during that game.

8U Division

- I. Timing
 - a. 8-minute quarters with a regulation clock and an 8-minute halftime.
 - b. A varsity clock will be used for all games. The clock will start on the ready.
 - c. Clock will only stop for the following (the regulation clock runs in accordance with NCHSAA rules):
 - i. Time outs
 - ii. Penalties
 - iii. End of quarters
 - iv. Out of bounds
 - v. Incomplete passes
 - vi. Scores and touchbacks
 - vii. Fair catches
 - viii. Inadvertent whistles
- II. Game Ball
 - a. The official game ball will be a Pee Wee size
- III. Scoring
 - a. Touchdown – 6 points
 - b. Kicked PAT – 2 points
 - c. Run/Pass PAT – 1 point
 - d. Run/Pass PAT – 2 points (must declare with “white hat” going for “2” and ball placed at 5-yard line)
 - e. Safety – 2 points
 - f. Field Goal – 3 points
- IV. Mercy Rule
 - a. See attached
- V. Other
 - a. Late-arriving players may be checked-in at halftime and play in the 2nd half.
 - b. Overtime will be handled in accordance with the NCHSAA “10-Yard Line Overtime Procedure”
 - c. Mouthpieces must be worn and attached to the face mask
 - d. No lining up directly over the center. Face mask must be in the “A” Gap.
 - e. 6 defensive players are permitted on the line of scrimmage and must be in either a 3-point or 4-point stance. Any player in a 2-point stance must be 6 feet (2 yards) off the line of scrimmage.
 - f. No kick-off, the ball will be spotted at the offense’s 35-yard line.
 - g. Declaration of a punt
 - i. The offense and defense will leave the playing field. One player shall remain on the field for the purpose of punting the ball. The player punting the ball will line up 5 yards behind the spot of the ball. Upon lining up, the player will be given the ball by the head referee and shall have no more than 5 seconds to punt the ball. The ball will be considered down where it stops or the point in which it rolls out bounds.
 - h. No rushing of the extra points

- i. A PAT is worth 2 points if kicked and 1 point if run or passed. The ball will be placed on the 2-yard line
- j. If a 2-point conversion is desired by not kicking, the offense must declare the intentions to the “white hat” and the ball will be spotted at the five-yard line. The offense may run or pass from the five-yard line for a 2-point conversion.
- k. The play clock is 25 seconds
- l. In 8U, one coach from each team will be allowed in his/her respective backfield during the game. Coaches on the field should be at least 10 yards behind their last player at start of cadence. Coaches must also make every effort to not interfere with plays (physically or verbally) once they are in progress.
 - i. Sideline Warning
 - ii. Being outside the team box, but not on field
 - 1. Sideline Warning
 - 2. Sideline Interference
 - 3. Sideline Interference
 - 4. First time warning
 - 5. 5-yard penalty
 - 6. 15-yard Unsportsmanlike Conduct
 - 7. In games where coaches are allowed to be on the field (6U & 8U), on the 4th warning, the on field coach(s) will be replaced and not allowed back on the field during that game.

10U Division

- I. Timing
 - a. 10-minute quarters with a regulation clock and an 8-minute halftime.
 - b. A varsity clock will be used for all games. The clock will start on the ready.
 - c. Clock will only stop for the following (the regulation clock runs in accordance with NCHSAA rules):
 - i. Time outs
 - ii. Penalties
 - iii. End of quarters
 - iv. Out of bounds
 - v. Incomplete passes
 - vi. Scores and touchbacks
 - vii. Fair catches
 - viii. Inadvertent whistles
- II. Game Ball
 - a. The official game ball will be a Junior size
- III. Scoring
 - a. Touchdown – 6 points
 - b. Kicked PAT – 2 points
 - c. Run/Pass PAT – 1 point
 - d. Run/Pass PAT – 2 points (must declare with “white hat” going for “2” and ball placed at 5-yard line)

- e. Safety – 2 points
- f. Field Goal – 3 points
- IV. Mercy Rule
 - a. See attached
- V. Other
 - a. Late-arriving players may be checked-in at halftime and play in the 2nd half.
 - b. Overtime will be handled in accordance with the NCHSAA “10-Yard Line Overtime Procedure”
 - c. Mouthpieces must be worn and attached to the face mask
 - d. No lining up directly over the center. Face mask must be in the “A” Gap.
 - e. 6 defensive players are permitted on the line of scrimmage and must be in either a 3-point or 4-point stance. Any player in a 2-point stance must be 6 feet (2 yards) off the line of scrimmage.
 - f. Kick-off will be from the 40-yard line.
 - g. No rushing of the points or extra points.
 - h. A PAT is worth 2 points if kicked and 1 point if run or passed. The ball will be placed on the 2-yard line
 - i. If a 2-point conversion is desired by not kicking, the offense must declare the intentions to the “white hat” and the ball will be spotted at the five-yard line. The offense may run or pass from the five-yard line for a 2-point conversion.
 - j. The play clock is 25 seconds
 - i. Sideline Warning
 - ii. Being outside the team box, but not on field
 - 1. Sideline Warning
 - 2. Sideline Interference
 - 3. Sideline Interference
 - 4. First time warning
 - 5. 5-yard penalty
 - 6. 15-yard Unsportsmanlike Conduct
 - 7. In games where coaches are allowed to be on the field (6U & 8U), on the 4th warning, the on field coach(s) will be replaced and not allowed back on the field during that game.

12U Division

- I. Timing
 - a. 10-minute quarters with a regulation clock and an 8-minute halftime.
 - b. A varsity clock will be used for all games. The clock will start on the ready.
 - c. Clock will only stop for the following (the regulation clock runs in accordance with NCHSAA rules):
 - i. Time outs
 - ii. Penalties
 - iii. End of quarters
 - iv. Out of bounds
 - v. Incomplete passes

- vi. Scores and touchbacks
 - vii. Fair catches
 - viii. Inadvertent whistles
- II. Game Ball
- a. The official game ball will be a Junior size
- III. Scoring
- a. Touchdown – 6 points
 - b. Kicked PAT – 2 points
 - c. Run/Pass PAT – 1 point
 - d. Run/Pass PAT – 2 points (must declare with “white hat” going for “2” and ball placed at 5-yard line)
 - e. Safety – 2 points
 - f. Field Goal – 3 points
- IV. Mercy Rule
- a. See attached
- V. Other
- a. Late-arriving players may be checked-in at halftime and play in the 2nd half.
 - b. Overtime will be handled in accordance with the NCHSAA “10-Yard Line Overtime Procedure”
 - c. Mouthpieces must be worn and attached to the face mask
 - d. No lining up directly over the center. Face mask must be in the “A” Gap.
 - e. 6 defensive players are permitted on the line of scrimmage and must be in either a 3-point or 4-point stance. Any player in a 2-point stance must be 6 feet (2 yards) off the line of scrimmage.
 - f. Kick-off will be from the 40-yard line.
 - g. During kicking and punting situations, players are ALLOWED to rush the kicker/punter
 - h. A PAT is worth 2 points if kicked and 1 point if run or passed. The ball will be placed on the 2-yard line
 - i. If a 2-point conversion is desired by not kicking, the offense must declare the intentions to the “white hat” and the ball will be spotted at the five-yard line. The offense may run or pass from the five-yard line for a 2-point conversion.
 - j. The play clock is 25 seconds
 - i. Sideline Warning
 - ii. Being outside the team box, but not on field
 - 1. Sideline Warning
 - 2. Sideline Interference
 - 3. Sideline Interference
 - 4. First time warning
 - 5. 5-yard penalty
 - 6. 15-yard Unsportsmanlike Conduct
 - 7. In games where coaches are allowed to be on the field (6U & 8U), on the 4th warning, the on field coach(s) will be replaced and not allowed back on the field during that game.

14U Division

- I. Timing
 - a. 10-minute quarters with a regulation clock and an 8-minute halftime.
 - b. A varsity clock will be used for all games. The clock will start on the ready.
 - c. Clock will only stop for the following (the regulation clock runs in accordance with NCHSAA rules):
 - i. Time outs
 - ii. Penalties
 - iii. End of quarters
 - iv. Out of bounds
 - v. Incomplete passes
 - vi. Scores and touchbacks
 - vii. Fair catches
 - viii. Inadvertent whistles
- II. Game Ball
 - a. The official game ball will be a Youth size
- III. Scoring
 - a. Touchdown – 6 points
 - b. Kicked PAT – 2 points
 - c. Run/Pass PAT – 1 point
 - d. Run/Pass PAT – 2 points (must declare with “white hat” going for “2” and ball placed at 5-yard line)
 - e. Safety – 2 points
 - f. Field Goal – 3 points
- IV. Mercy Rule
 - a. See attached
- V. Other
 - a. Late-arriving players may be checked-in at halftime and play in the 2nd half.
 - b. Overtime will be handled in accordance with the NCHSAA “10-Yard Line Overtime Procedure”
 - c. Mouthpieces must be worn and attached to the face mask
 - d. Kick-off will be from the 40-yard line.
 - e. During kicking and punting situations, players are ALLOWED to rush the kicker/punter
 - f. A PAT is worth 2 points if kicked and 1 point if run or passed. The ball will be placed on the 2-yard line
 - g. If a 2-point conversion is desired by not kicking, the offense must declare the intentions to the “white hat” and the ball will be spotted at the five-yard line. The offense may run or pass from the five-yard line for a 2-point conversion.
 - h. The play clock is 25 seconds
 - i. Sideline Warning
 - ii. Being outside the team box, but not on field
 1. Sideline Warning
 2. Sideline Interference

3. Sideline Interference
4. First time warning
5. 5-yard penalty
6. 15-yard Unsportsmanlike Conduct
7. In games where coaches are allowed to be on the field (6U & 8U), on the 4th warning, the on field coach(s) will be replaced and not allowed back on the field during that game.

CONDUCT:

Head coaches will be responsible for the conduct and sportsmanship of their players and sideline staff. Any misconduct during the game of play, immediately after, or in between games will be reviewed. ZERO TOLERANCE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED, which may impose suspension, forfeiture or expulsion where it sees applicable. All teams will line up on the 50-yard line and meet in the middle to shake hands.

ALL SUSPENSIONS DUE TO SAFETY VIOLATIONS ARE NON-APPEALABLE

SPORTSMANSHIP/EJECTION POLICY:

This policy applies to all persons involved in an athletic contest, including student-athletes, coaches, managers and game administrators. The following examples include behavior or conduct, which will result in an ejection from a contest:

- ❖ Fighting, which includes, but is not limited to, combative acts such as:
 - An altercation between 2 or more parties that includes swinging, hitting, punching and/or kicking
 - An attempt to strike an opponent with a fist, hands, arms, legs, feet or equipment
 - An attempt to punch or kick an opponent, regardless of whether or not contact is made
 - An attempt to instigate a fight by committing an unsportsmanlike act toward an opponent that causes an opponent to retaliate
 - Leaving the bench area to participate in a fight (contact or no contact)
- ❖ Flagrant contact, which includes, but is not limited to, combative acts such as:
 - Excessive contact out-of-bounds or away from playing action that is unwarranted and extreme in nature.
 - Tackling/taking down a player dangerously in a malicious manner
 - Biting observed or determined by an official
- ❖ Taunting, baiting or spitting toward an opponent or official
- ❖ Profanity, directed toward an official or opponent
- ❖ Obscene gestures, including gesturing in such a manner as to intimidate or instigate
- ❖ Disrespectfully addressing (physically contact an official is subject to automatic expulsion and can result in ineligibility for remainder of career) an official
- ❖ Penalty for an ejection for the above reasons:
 - Football – ejection from the contest, miss the next contest at that level and all contests in the interim (miss the next two contests for fighting)

DISQUALIFICATION:

Any player or sideline staff that is disqualified from a game will serve an automatic suspension for the remainder of the game and will be available to play the following weeks game. If an athlete, then the athlete will be identified to the head official and shall immediately remove his/her equipment and remain on the bench.

EJECTION:

Any player or sideline staff that is ejected from a game will serve an automatic one game suspension of the next available game played by his/her team. If an athlete, then the athlete will be identified to the head official and shall be in plain "street" clothes and not in uniform, other than a jersey. If a non-athlete is ejected, then an automatic review by the executive board will take place to determine if a one game suspension is adequate. The executive board may impose additional penalties if it sees applicable. Any fan or spectator that is asked to leave the premises for misconduct will not be allowed to return the next AAU Tackle Football event. No exceptions. League Rep will get the name of the ejected player and provide it to the opposing team for the following week of play.

MERCY RULES:

**Please note that the Mercy Rule may not be observed during playoffs and State Championship games.

The mercy rule will not go into effect before the 3rd quarter. There will be a running clock if a team is winning by 35 points or more. Once the deficit is reduced below 35 points, the clock will go back to a regulation clock.

For example: if Team A is ahead of Team B by 35 points or more, Team A shall be limited to running the ball between the tackles. Team A will not be allowed to pass the ball, run outside the tackles or run trick plays. As long as the 35+ point differential is maintained, Team A must use the balance of its reserve layers in lieu of first string players. Once Team B reduces the deficit under 35 points, normal play would resume until one team is leading by 35+ points.

When the Mercy rule is in effect, the clock shall run and stop only for the following:

- ❖ Time outs
- ❖ Injuries
- ❖ End of quarters
- ❖ Immediately after a score which take the scoring margin below 35 points.

OFFICIALS:

Beginning in the 2017 season, all referees/officials officiating any AAU licensed event should be required to have an AAU membership.

Note: AAU National Football Chair has the authority to modify or make any rules or policy changes deemed to be in the best interest of the AAU National Football program. Any action taken by the Chair will be reported back to the full voting membership at the next convention to determine whether this action will remain in place or not.

FOOTBALL DIRECTORY

Executive Committee

National Chair	Keith Noll (Wisconsin)
Member at Large	Chris St. John (Florida)
Member at Large	Myron Jefferson (Colorado)
Member at Large	Rod Tanner (Texas)
Member at Large	Ron Bellamy (Southern Pacific)
Member at Large	Willie Kittrell (North Carolina)
Member at Large	Fred Banks (Oregon)
Member at Large	Beady Waddell (South Carolina)
Member at Large	Reggie Swinton (Arkansas)
AAU President	Joe Mirza (Central)

Football National Staff	Phone: 407-934-7200	Fax: 407-934-7242
Brandon Uffelman	Football Sports Coordinator	brandon@aausports.org
Jackie Markham	AAU Membership Director	jackie@aausports.org

2022-2023 Executive Committee

Keith Noll	Rod Tanner	
715-829-2346 (c)	210-788-4200	
715-231-4000 (o)	rodtannerjr@yahoo.com	
slapshot@wwt.net		
DR. Kym Harris	Benjamin Dubose	Ty Young
kharristbeaz@gmail.com	bdubose1744@aol.com	ty.young@kaosbulldogs.com
Rob Ramsey		Quentin Huff
robramsay@allornothingperformance.com		Quintin.huff@sceyfl.com
Tracey Estep		
mstraceye01@yahoo.com		

2022-2023 District Directors

<p>Adirondack Frank Rogers 518-527-0505 frogers@nycap.rr.com</p>	<p>Alaska National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Arizona National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>
<p>Arkansas Reggie Swinton 501-413-6700 reggieswinton@email.com</p>	<p>Connecticut National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Central Ty Young 773-691-7743 ty@kaos-sports.org</p>
<p>Colorado Arlene Lehman 303-452-0810 arlene_mm@yahoo.com</p>	<p>California Ron Bellamy 323-717-8620 litigate4me@aol.com</p>	<p>Florida National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>
<p>Georgia Chris Seay coachseay10@gmail.com 229-379-1873</p>	<p>Gulf – Texas Rod “Chico” Tanner Jr. 210-788-4200 rodtannerjr@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Indiana National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>
<p>Minnesota National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Maryland Benjamin Dubose 410-323-7101 bdubose1744@aol.com</p>	<p>Montana Mary Hurr 406-853-0042 mcflagfootball@midrivers.com</p>
<p>New York Metropolitan Ray Jerry 215-779-1752 RayJ4mafb@gmail.com</p>	<p>Michigan National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Middle Atlantic Ray Jerry 215-278-9322 rayj4mafb@gmail.com</p>
<p>Missouri Valley National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Nebraska National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>New England Ed Skovron 401-451-1999 oldpro77@msn.com</p>
<p>New Jersey Ray Jerry 215-779-1752 RayJ4mafb@gmail.com</p>	<p>New Mexico Franks Munene 915-252-3180 fkmunene@tmomail.net</p>	<p>Niagara National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>
<p>North Carolina Willie Kittrell 336-899-3932 wkitt2k5@aol.com</p>	<p>North Dakota National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Ohio National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>

<p>Oklahoma Garee Palmer 918-361-9622 gkcomedy13@gmail.com</p>	<p>Oregon Fred Banks 541-954-1379 fjb3030@live.com</p>	<p>Ozark Monrey Griffin Sr. 636-755-0488 moaaufootball@gmail.com</p>
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<p>Pacific Kyle Henriksen 702-463-5417 Kyle@gonyfl.com</p>	<p>Pacific Northwest National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Pacific Southwest Ron Bellamy 323-717-8620 litigate4me@aol.com</p>
<p>Potomac Valley National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Puerto Rico National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Rhode Island Ed Skovron 401-451-1999 oldpro77@msn.com</p>
<p>South Carolina Beady Waddell 843-568-3009 beadywaddell@gmail.com</p>	<p>South Dakota National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Southeastern – AL National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>
<p>Southeastern – TN Darrell Lauderdale 865-755-7872 seaauwrestling@chartertn.net</p>	<p>Southern – LA National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 & 715-231-4000 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Southern – MS Diedre Davis 228-574-7647 gulfcoastyouthassociation@gmail.com</p>
<p>Southern Pacific Ron Bellamy 323-717-8620 litigate4me@aol.com</p>	<p>Southwestern Rod “Chico” Tanner Jr. 210-788-4200 rodtannerjr@yahoo.com</p>	<p>South Texas Rod “Chico” Tanner Jr. 210-788-4200 rodtannerjr@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Utah National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 & 715-231-4000 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Southern Nevada Kyle Henriksen 702-481-2405 kyle@gonyfl.com</p>	<p>Western Penn National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 & 715-231-4000 slapshot@wwt.net</p>
<p>Virginia Burton Robinson 814-441-3014 realmikerob@aol.com</p>	<p>West Texas Rod “Chico” Tanner Jr. 210-788-4200 rodtannerjr@yahoo.com</p>	
<p>Wisconsin National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	<p>Wyoming National Chair – Keith Noll 715-829-2346 slapshot@wwt.net</p>	