

2019 AAU Strength Sports Sport Committee Governance & Code Book Excerpts

The AAU Strength Sports National Committee has been established in order to promote the benefits of participation in athletics and hereby adopts the aforementioned rules & regulations for the advancement of that purpose. The AAU Strength Sports Committee operates under the governance of the AAU Code in addition to rules herein.

I. NATIONAL SPORT COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a. National Committee Structure and Procedures

i. National Sport Chair.

1. National Sports Chairs shall be elected National Sport Committee at the committee meeting during National Conventions in which National Officers are elected.
2. Terms are four years.
3. National election policies shall apply.
4. National Sport Chairs can be removed for cause by a majority vote of the National Officers, subject to the Right of Appeal to the National Board of Review. 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. (Updated 11/14)

- #### **ii. National Sport Committee Composition.**
- The Committee will consist of the National Sports Chair, members of the Executive Committee who are elected as provided 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 Allied member that registers members in the sport. The President may appoint up to two (2) members-at-large (Updated 11/14).

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 .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.

- #### **iii. Other Committee Positions.**
- The National Chair may appoint additional committee positions, including members of an Executive Committee.

b. Sport Committee Meetings

- i. **National Sport Committee Regular Meetings.** Regular Meetings of the National Sport Committee shall be in conjunction with the AAU Convention.
- ii. **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:
 - 1. The meeting is called by the Chair following approval of the National Office.
 - 2. The National Office has the right to coordinate the meeting and pick the site for the meeting.
- iii. **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.
- iv. **National Sport Executive Committee Meetings.** The National Chair shall determine the date and location of Executive Committee Meetings.
- v. **Agenda Additions**
 - 1. **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. **Sportsmanship.** It is the obligation of coaches, players, administrators, volunteers and other representatives of the AAU to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and to observe the ethics of competition. Good sportsmanship is defined as qualities of behavior, which are characterized by courtesy and genuine concern for others. The display of good sportsmanship is a statement of the individual's understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.
- b. **Program Violations.** Disciplinary action may be considered by the Districts, Sport Committee or the Executive Committee for any violations bringing discredit upon the AAU, including, but not limited to, passing "bad" checks, participation of athletes in an improper age division, or any violation of any part of this Handbook or the AAU Code. In instances of alleged violations, Board of Review action may be taken against athletes, coaches, parents and/or clubs according to AAU Code.
- c. **No Guarantee Policy.** The AAU cannot and does not guarantee the appearance and/or participation of specific participant(s) and/or teams (as applicable) in this event. The AAU has sanctioned (approved) this Event as an official AAU Event (competition), but the AAU is not and shall not be responsible for any participant's or spectator's expenses related to this Event (nor

reimbursements for same) in case of dissatisfaction of any participant, friend, family, or spectator, this includes, but is not limited to all travel, hotel (lodging), food, entry fees and/or any other expenses related to the event.

- d. **Cross Boundary Athletes:** The Strength Sports Committee does not have limit on the number of cross boundary athletes.

III. EXCERPTS FROM AAU CODE BOOK

- a. **AAU Membership.** All participants must be a member of the AAU in order to participate in any AAU licensed Event. Event Operators may not collect AAU membership money at any AAU licensed event.

Membership Requirements. Membership in the AAU is a privilege granted by the AAU. It is not a right. The AAU at its sole discretion reserves the right to accept or reject applicants for membership.

- i. **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 AAU Code, including its Constitution, Bylaws, policies, procedures and rules of the AAU.

- ii. **Categories of Membership**

1. **District Member.** The organization chartered by the Congress to provide administrative services within a designated geographic area.
2. **Club Member.** An organization or group that has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code.
3. **Individual Member.** A person who has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code. Individual membership categories include:
 - a. Youth Athlete
 - b. Adult Athlete
 - c. Non-Athlete
4. **Allied Member.** An organization or group approved by Congress which is engaged in athletics or sports-related activities.

- b. **Membership and Residency**

- i. Adult members will not be bound by residence requirements.
- ii. Youth members must register in the District of their bona fide residency, except as follows:
 1. 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.
 2. 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.

3. A bona fide student at an educational institution may be considered a resident of the District in which the institution is located.
 4. The National Board of Review will determine issues of residency.
- iii. Persons living outside the U.S. may register online or through the AAU National Office. The respective National Sports Committee rules shall govern their participation in AAU competitions.

c. Eligibility

- i. 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 events the National Sports Committee shall determine the number of youth members permitted to participate on a team from an adjoining District.
- ii. **Club Attachment.** A youth member becomes attached to a club member when he/she competes with that club in any AAU licensed event (practice not included). A youth member may be attached to only one club with the following exceptions:
 1. An athlete may attach to additional clubs (one in each sport) if he/she participates in additional sports.
 2. Participation in an AAU licensed league does not create club attachment.
- iii. **Transfers.** Athletes who transfer under this section are subject to National Championship eligibility restrictions as adopted by the National Sport Committee. After a youth member becomes attached to a club, he/she may only transfer to another club in the same sport as follows:
 1. If the youth member has not competed in any AAU authorized events in that Sport for a period of sixty (60) days no permission is necessary.
 2. If the representative of the club to which an athlete is attached signs a release form permitting an immediate transfer. (Athletes who transfer under this section are subject to National Championship eligibility restrictions as adopted by National Sport Committees.)
 3. 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.
 4. If the Registrar determines there is good cause to believe that the transfer is due to events outside the control of the athlete or that the transfer serves the best interest of the AAU.
- iv. **Use of Logos and Trademarks**
 1. **AAU Registered Marks.** 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. No person or entity may use the AAU's intellectual property without the 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 as well as the (Federal) Lanham Act and may subject the member/entity to penalties set out in the AAU Code. If granted approval/permission to use any of the AAU marks, the limited right to use the marks shall be non-exclusive and the user shall not acquire any ownership in or of such mark(s).

2. Only chartered Districts, District Sport Committees and National Sport Committees may use the AAU marks in their name.
3. 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 registered marks only as follows:
 - a. For the purpose of promoting an AAU licensed event.
 - b. For the purpose of promoting the club's AAU related activities.
 - c. Neither members nor clubs may use the name AAU in their legal name, domain name, email or any other name without the express written consent of the National AAU.
4. 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, the Officers of the AAU shall decide and determine the dispute in their sole discretion.
5. No license will be granted by the AAU for any event where the word "Olympic" or any derivative thereof is used in any advertisement or notice in any manner in connection with AAU competitions.

v. Event Licenses

1. No event shall be conducted under the auspices of the AAU unless a written license has been issued for the activity. A license is the written approval of the AAU for the conduct of the activity.
2. Only AAU members may participate in licensed events unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws.
3. Licenses may be issued to any club in good standing and which meets the membership criteria. A license should be reviewed by the District Sport Committee Director or Governor if there is no District Sport Director. If the license is reviewed and rejected, the-organization submitting the license application shall be notified.
4. No license shall take effect until approved or until the 15-day review period has expired.
5. The National Registration Executive Committee has the authority to:

- a. Issue a license for events in locations where there is no active District member.
 - b. Issue a license for events in Districts where there is no current active participation. (No District Championship in the prior membership year).
 - c. Issue a license for events directly sponsored by the National AAU or National Sports Committee (The National Sport Committee shall consult with the District Sports Director and Governor prior to seeking an event license.)
 - d. Review and approve any sanction license rejected by the District.
 - e. Issue a license in an unchartered District.
 - f. Revoke an approved license for good cause.
6. Event licenses issued to one organization cannot be transferred to another organization.
7. No event license 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.

vi. District Sport Committee Biennial Meeting

- 1. District Sport Committee Biennial Meeting.** It is the duty of the District Sport Committee to in even years hold a biennial meeting, the date, time and location shall be approved by the District Executive Committee. [Not the Sport Committee Executive Committee]
- 2. Notice of District Sport Meetings.** Notice of the biennial meetings of the District Sport Committee will be given to all clubs with members registered in the sport. Notice shall be sent not less than 30 or more than 60 days prior to the scheduled meeting. In election years, the notice of election must be sent 60 days prior to the meeting.
- a. **Quorum.** Five (5) member clubs with voting eligibility must be present to constitute a quorum of the Biennial Sport Committee meeting.
 - b. **Voting.** Each club that has registered at least five (5) individual members in the sport during the current year shall appoint one (1) representative to serve on the District Sport Committee. The representative shall be designated on the club membership application.
 - i. There shall be no voting by proxy.
 - ii. A club may designate another representative for the club by written notice to the District Sport Director. Replacements in writing must be received 7 days prior to the meeting.

iii. Each member of the Sport Committee shall have one vote.

c. Minutes of the meeting must be written and filed with the District Secretary and the National AAU Compliance Department.

vii. 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 as defined by that sport's operating rules.

c. The Governor may appoint up to two (2) at-large members.

3. **Duties.** The duties of the District Sport Committee are to:

a. In even years, hold a Biennial meeting, the date, time and location of which shall be approved by the District Executive Committee.

b. Adopt at the Biennial 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. Provide for the conduct of the District championships.

e. If the District Sport Committee is organized as an administrative club under the AAU, it shall annually file the Location of Assets Report with the District Office, and forward a copy to the National Office.

viii. Functions of the District Sport Director

1. **District Sport Director.** In each approved sport in which the District has athletes actively participating, there may be a Director.

a. **Election.** In each sport in which five or more club members have designated the sport as its primary sport, the Director shall be elected by the Committee at its Biennial 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.

b. Term. The term of office for an elected District Sport Director shall be four (4) years to run concurrently with the District Officers. Once elected, each District Sport Director is required to purchase a four (4)-year membership that will complete their term. The term of office for an appointed District Sport Director shall be one year or until removed by the Governor, or until the Sport Committee meets the criteria to elect a Director.

c. Vacancies. A vacancy occurring in an elected District Sport Director shall be filled by the Governor with 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 District Treasurer.

b. Perform the duties set forth in the Committee Rules of Operation.

c. Review and approve, or for a reasonable cause deny event licenses in the sport.

d. Preside at Sport Committee meetings.

e. Maintain records of the District Sport Committee, including but not limited to the minutes of all meetings, the budget, location of assets report (if required), and the District Sports Committee operating rules.

f. Prepare, or have prepared, meeting minutes (which shall be approved at all District Sports Committee meetings). Forward a copy of all minutes to the National Office and District Secretary no later than 30 days following the District Sport Committee meeting.

g. File a copy of all records requested by the District Secretary and the AAU National Office Compliance Department no later than 30 days following District Sport Committee meetings.

h. At the conclusion of service as Sport Director, turn over all records to the successor to the position.

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 Biennial meeting provided that the Notice of the meeting specifies that a motion to remove is on the agenda.

- b. By National Sport Chair.** Each National Sport Chair shall annually review the number of events held in their sport. If the minimum number of licensed days of activity 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
- c. By National Board of Review.** A Sport Director may be removed by order of the National Board of Review following the filing of a complaint and the Board's proceedings.
- d.** By the National Board of Review Chair after the failure of the District Sports Director to file minutes, reports and records as required by this article.