



2014-2015

AAU Lacrosse Handbook

National Sport Committee Governance and Administration

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I. Preamble

The AAU Lacrosse National Committee has been established in order to promote the benefits of participation in Lacrosse and hereby adopts rules and regulations for the advancement of that purpose. Lacrosse and Box Lacrosse are disciplines of Lacrosse and are collectively referred to as AAU Lacrosse. This AAU Lacrosse Handbook, as well as the AAU Lacrosse Rule Book and AAU Box Lacrosse Rule Book (rule books are under separate cover and available at www.aaulacrosse.org), are conditional to the bylaws, rules, policies, guidelines, and practices of the Amateur Athletic Union found in the AAU Code.

II. National Sport Committee Governance and Administration

A. National Committee Structure, Procedures, and Meetings

1. National Chair:

The AAU Lacrosse National Chair shall be elected by the AAU Lacrosse National Sport Committee at the Lacrosse Sport Committee meeting held during the AAU National Convention in which National Officers are elected.

2. Executive Committee Composition:

The AAU Lacrosse Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the AAU Lacrosse Sport Committee in accordance with the rules and regulations of the AAU generally, and the AAU Lacrosse Program specifically. The National chair appoints all Executive Committee positions.

3. Committee Formation:

The National Chair may establish additional committees, as he/she deems necessary. Committees will consist of three or five members. The National Chair appoints all committee chairs.

4. National Sport Committee Composition:

The Committee will consist of the National Sports Chair, executive committee members, committee chairs, 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 of the AAU may appoint up to two (2) Members-at-Large.

5. Voting Privileges:

Persons eligible to vote shall be the National Sport Chair, executive committee members, chairs of Committees as defined by the sports operating rules, the elected or appointed District Sport 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.

6. National Sport Committee Regular Meetings:

Regular Meetings of the National Sport Committee shall be in conjunction with the AAU Convention.

7. **Non Regular Sport Committee Meetings:**
National Sport Committees 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 with the approval of the National Office.
 - b). The National Office has the right to coordinate the meeting and pick the site.
8. **National Sport Committee Special Meetings:**
Special meetings of the 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.
9. **National Sport Executive Committee Meetings:**
The National Chair shall determine the date and location of the Executive Committee Meetings.
10. **Agenda Additions:**
All Sport Committee Meetings will follow the meeting order (agenda format) as established in the AAU Code (Bylaw 9.5).

III. Sport Operations

A. Rules of Competition

AAU Lacrosse will operate under rules and guidelines approved by the AAU Lacrosse National Sport Committee and posted on the AAU Lacrosse website, www.aaulacrosse.org. AAU Box Lacrosse will operate under the rules and guidelines approved by the AAU Lacrosse National Committee and posted on the official AAU Box Lacrosse website, www.aauboxlacrosse.org. The rules contained within those separate rule books (AAU Lacrosse Rule Book and AAU Box Lacrosse Rule Book) are to be viewed as the 'official rules' to be utilized for National Championships and may be utilized and/or amended for use within local grassroots programs. AAU Lacrosse permits programs to revise and/or amend rules, as needed for their own purposes, provided that any such revisions do not compromise safety. Those revisions/amendments are to be submitted to the National Sport Chair when applying for an 'Event License' ('Event Sanction') or 'League License' ('League Sanction') and must be included on the required 'event flyer'.

B. Competition Structure

The National Lacrosse Executive Committee is charged with operating and or overseeing competitions at the Regional and National levels. District competitions will serve as qualifying events to Regional or National competitions. All qualifying events must use the current AAU National rules.

Participants must qualify from these events at the same age division as the age division that they register to participate in Regional or National competition. If a District Qualifier is not offered, teams may petition for an invitation to participate in the regional or national event. Contact the National Lacrosse Chair for this petition process.

1. National Championships

National events will be awarded and approved by the national executive committee. On all event License applications, this event will be referred to as a National Event. They will follow rules as provided by the national committee and other requirements as stated by the National Executive Committee.

- a) AAU Junior Olympic Games
- b) AAU Lacrosse National Championships
- c) AAU Box Lacrosse National Championships

2. Regional Championship Competitions

Regional events will be awarded and approved by the national executive committee. On all event License applications, this event will be referred to as a Regional Event. They will follow rules as provided by the national committee and other requirements as stated by the National Executive Committee.

3. District Championship Competitions

Each AAU District should host an annual District Championship. The annual District Championship serves as the qualification event for the AAU Junior Olympic Games and the Age Group National Championships. All event information must include specific mention of which rules will be in effect for the event. If a age group is not offered, teams may petition to enter directly into national events. Contact the National Lacrosse Chair for this petition process.

4. Invitational/League Competitions

Invitational or League Competitions may use either the AAU National Rules or modifications of those rules (modifications must not pose a safety issue). No invitational or League competition may include, in any of its promotional materials or event name, any reference or suggestion that the invitational event is a AAU Regional or AAU National competition or a qualifying event for AAU Regional or AAU National Championship events. All event information must include specific mention of which rules will be in effect for the event, with mention of modifications, if any.

IV. Excerpts from the AAU Code Book

A. AAU Membership

All participants must be a member of the AAU in order to participate in any AAU Licensed (Sanctioned) Event. Event Operators may not collect AAU membership money at any AAU Licensed event.

1. **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.

a). **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.

b). **Classes of Membership** – Classes of membership in the AAU are as follows:

(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 are:

(a) Youth Athlete

(b) Adult Athlete

(c) Non-Athlete

(4) **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
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 intellectual property for the promotion of its organization and/or Licensed AAU events only. Member clubs may not use the name AAU in their legal name.

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.

C. Event Licenses (Sanctions)

1. No event shall be conducted under the auspices of the AAU unless a '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 'Level 2' or 'Level 3' club in good standing. Any License may be reviewed within 15 days of submission by the District Sport Director or the National Chair. If the License is reviewed and rejected, the Registrar shall notify the organization submitting the License.
4. No License shall take effect until the 15-day review period has expired, or until the Registrar processes the License following approval of the District Sport Committee Director or the National Chair. Beginning with the 2009 Membership year, all applications for License 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 Licenses 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 Championships 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 License rejected by the District.
 - f). Licenses issued to one organization cannot be transferred to another organization.
 - g). No 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.
 - h). Licenses 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 Licenses issued.

D. District Sport Committee Bi-Annual Meeting

1. District Sport Committee Bi-Annual Meeting

It is the duty of the District Sport Committee to hold a bi-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 bi-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.

c). The Governor may appoint two (2) 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.

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 the District Championship.

F. Functions of District Sport Director

District Sport Director - 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 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.

c). Duties – The Sport Committee Director shall:

- 1). Develop a budget for the Sport Committee to file with the District Executive Committee.
- 2). Perform the duties set forth in the Committee Rules of Operation.
- 3). Approve event Licenses in the sport.
- 4). Preside at Sport Committee meetings.

d). Removal – District Sport Directors may be removed as follows:

1). 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.

2). By National Sport Chair - Each National Sport Chair shall annually review the number of events held in their sport. If the number of Licensed events, excluding practice Licenses, 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.

3). 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.

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:
 - a). 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

b). 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.

c). A bona fide student at an educational institution may be considered a resident of the District in which the institution is located.

d). 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 competition.

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: a maximum of three (3) members may participate with a team in an adjoining District.
2. 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). An athlete may attach to additional clubs if he/she participates in additional sports.
 - a). If an athlete participates in an AAU Licensed 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.
3. 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 Licensed 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.)
 - 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.

V. Appendix

A. AAU Lacrosse Executive Committee Directory

Available at www.aaulacrosse.org under 'Contacts'

B. District Sport Chair Directory

Available at www.aaulacrosse.org under 'Contacts'

C. Dates for the Qualifying Events, Regional, and National Championships

Available at www.aaulacrosse.org under 'Events'