

Arkansas Amateur Baseball Association
AABA

Sportsmanship First - Then Victory

<http://aramba.net>



Rules and By-Laws



2009 Rules & By-Laws

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SECTION 1. ORGANIZATION

- A. This organization is known as the ARKANSAS AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.
- B. Membership into the AABA is required before parks can participate in AABA District or State tournaments.
- C. Approval for membership into the AABA will be by a majority vote of the District Commissioners.
- D. After approval of membership it may be revoked by a majority vote of the District Commissioners if the park does not abide by AABA rules.
- E. The purpose of this organization is to promote the game of Baseball for the Youth of this state, ages 7 to 16.
- F. This organization will have no control of any member organization or league in which they participate with the exceptions as stated in the rules and bylaws of this Association.
- G. The AABA will be under the supervision of a Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner who will be elected at the annual fall meeting to be held on the first Saturday or Sunday after Labor Day and will take office at the annual Spring meeting, which is the last Saturday or Sunday in February.
- H. The District Commissioners will elect as State Commissioner, a person of good moral character who has knowledge, experience and ability to supervise and direct this organization. The Assistant Commissioner shall also possess these qualifications.
- I. The term of office for the State Commissioner and District Commissioners, and other officers of this association shall be from January 1st to December 31st and shall be for one year. They may be re-elected.
- J. In case of vacancy of the office of State Commissioner the Assistant Commissioner will call a meeting of all District Commissioners within ten (10) days of such vacancy to elect a successor. The same procedure applies to district officers.
- K. No rules as hereby written will be changed without a two-thirds vote of the membership in attendance.
- L. Each of the districts may have assistant commissioners but each District will still have only one vote.
- M. Each District must be represented at either the spring or fall meetings. Your district may lose the right to participate in the state tournament if your district is not represented.
- N. The fall meeting is for rule changes and the spring meeting to get ready for State tournaments.

SECTION 2. FEES AND AWARDS

- A. Each district will forward to the State Commissioner by May 20th, a check in the amount of \$200.00 for expenses of the commissioner's office.
- B. Each district may assess participating parks a fee.
- C. The host parks for district and state tournaments will provide first, second and third place team trophies for each league. (District Option)
- D. Protest fees are \$50.00 payable at the time of protest. If the protest is upheld the protest money will be returned to the protesting team. If the protest is ruled against the protesting team, the money will go to the host park.
- E. Gate fees for the AABA State Tournament may not exceed \$3.00 per person and District Tournament fees may not exceed \$3.00. (Fee optional at District level). Persons under 18 are to be admitted free.
- F. The district and state commissioner will insure that participating teams' parent park is billed a \$150.00 forfeit fee if they forfeit tournament games by failing to play at scheduled game times.
- G. The State Commissioner will purchase individual trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for the state tournament. Host park will purchase team trophies (See Section 14).
- H. A Sportsmanship Plaque may be awarded in each division of the state tournaments. The host park will purchase these plaques. (See Section 14). A committee of the State and/or Assistant State Commissioner, Tournament Director, and Umpires will determine which teams are to be awarded these plaques.
- I. No All-Star team will be selected in any AABA tournament.
- J. The State and/or District Commissioner or his representatives will present all trophies and awards at the conclusion of the tournament.

- K. Parks shall provide for the expense of the office of the State Commissioner and the Assistant State Commissioner through collection of Tournament entry fees. An entry fee of \$50.00 is to be paid by each team in the "AA" and "A" State Tournaments with the money going to the State Commissioner and Assistant State Commissioner.

SECTION 3. FACILITIES

- A. Teeny teams will play on a field with a minimum distance of 120 feet from home plate to the foul fence and no less than 150 feet to center field. In State Tournaments, if a Teeny Field is more than 180 feet from home plate to the foul fence or to center field, a temporary fence must be erected at a 150 foot distance. Bases will be 60 feet apart. Pitching distance shall be 42 feet.
- B. Junior teams will play on fields as set forth in the Official AABA Junior and Teeny Playing Rules. In State Tournaments, if a Junior Field is more than 230 feet from home plate to the foul fence or to center field, a temporary fence must be erected at a 200 foot distance.
- C. Senior teams will play on fields as set forth in the Official Baseball Rulebook.
- D. When tournaments have been awarded to a park where field dimensions vary, no protests will be allowed.
- E. All AABA sanctioned teams must have a home field with restroom facilities. Sanctioned teams must play their home games on their home field.

SECTION 4. PLAYER SELECTION

- A. Automatics or Recruited Players - A maximum of two - (2) automatics may be selected for a "AA" or "A" team. This includes manager's children, coach's children, sponsor's children and any other players.
- B. Only one - (1) player of the oldest age(s) in a division per team may be an automatic.
- i. Only one -(1) nine-year-old in Teeny Division
 - ii. Only one -(1) twelve-year-old in Junior Division
 - iii. Only one -(1) fifteen or sixteen-year-old in Senior Division
- C. A player that played on a team the prior season may not be an automatic in the same division at the same park.
- D. Automatics must be designated as such on the Official Park Roster.
- E. A league may adopt a system with fewer automatics than as stated above, but not more.
- F. All parks must notify the District Commissioner the date of their draft at a minimum of one week prior to their draft.
- G. All park directors and District Commissioners are allowed at any park's draft as an observer.
- H. Drafts shall be conducted by each team making a selection in a predetermined order before the draft with the following guidelines:
- i. If a park has 2 –two teams in any division no team may have more than 60 percent of any players of one age on a team. EXAMPLE: 18 players that are 12 year olds, neither team may have more than 10.
 - ii. If a park has 3 –three teams in any division, no team may have more than 50 percent of any players of one age on a team. EXAMPLE: 20 players that are 8 year olds, no team may have more than 10.
 - iii. If a park has 4 –four or more teams in any division, no team may have more than 40 percent of any players of one age on a team. EXAMPLE: 24 players that are 10 year olds, no team may have more than 9.
- EXCEPTION:** If a team has more than the allowed percentage returning from the prior year's team, they are allowed to keep them, but cannot add another player of that age to their team. (Includes automatics)
- I. Any team that is found not in compliance with the above player selection rules will be deemed ineligible for district and state tournament play. The park may be reprimanded by fine or suspension at the discretion of the district members.

SECTION 5. TEAM ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. Each team will be limited to fifteen (15) players. A roster of all teams in each park will be submitted to the District Commissioner before the parks first league game of each year. If a town has more than one (1) team, players must go through a draft per AABA Regulations.
 - i. New players may be added to the team roster up until the final cutoff date of May 15th with district commissioner approval.
- C. All 12, 15, 16 year olds will be designated "AA" players and may not play in the "A" district or state tournaments.
- D. 9 Year olds may either be designated as Teeny "AA" or Junior "A". They must be designated Teeny "AA" or Junior "A" when rosters are turned in before their first league game.
- E. A 9 year old may not play Teeny "A".
- F. Parks with 15 or less total players in a league and 2 or less of the oldest age may elect to play "A" ball, but the 9, 12, 15, or 16 year olds will not be permitted to play in district or "A" state tournaments. (9 year olds may play Junior "A") (The league may determine if they can play league ball) They must make this determination by May 15th and will not be permitted to play in the district or state tournaments as "AA" if they elect to go "A".
- G. Birth certificates are required for all players playing in district and state tournament games. These birth certificates must be shown before playing.
- H. Only first, second and third place teams from each park will be eligible to enter district tournaments (DISTRICT OPTION). Only the number 1 and number 2 team winners in each classification will be eligible to play in the state major tournament with the exception: if either team is unable to play, the next highest team/teams may take their place.
- I. The District Commissioner will certify all teams from his district that are playing in the State Tournaments per the instructions provided in Section 13.
- J. Any park official or coach who falsifies any official team roster or its contents will be subject to disciplinary action. The park may be reprimanded by fine or suspension at the discretion of the district members.
- K. A player must have been on the roster at his Home Park and played prior to May 15th of the year of the tournament. (In Senior division any player playing high school ball is eligible after May 15th if he is on the league roster and plays in the next game after the high school season is completed.)
- L. Teams participating with any other sanctioned league will be permitted to play in the district and state tournaments provided the rosters of all teams in the park where such teams participate is presented to the AABA District Commissioner by the first league game of the year of tournament play. However they may not play on any other sanctioned league teams during AABA District or State Tournaments. SEE SECTION 11 RULE B.
- M. A player cannot be on two regular season teams in the same or different AABA districts. If a player participates with any other team, letters of Notification must be filed with the District and State Commissioner. PLAYERS MUST PARTICIPATE FULLY WITH THEIR PRIMARY REGULAR SEASON TEAM AND MUST NOT MISS REGULAR SEASON GAMES TO PLAY FOR ANOTHER TEAM OR LEAGUE. It shall be the player's and parents responsibility to obtain the necessary approval. PENALTY IS INELIGIBILITY FOR DISTRICT OR STATE TOURNAMENT PLAY.
- N. No player may be on both a "AA" and "A" tournament roster.

SECTION 6. PLAYERS

- A. This organization will conduct tournaments in six classifications on a district and state level.
 - i. TEENY "A" LEAGUE - AGE 7-8
 - ii. TEENY "AA" LEAGUE - AGE 7-8-9
 - iii. JUNIOR "A" LEAGUE - AGE 9-10-11
 - iv. JUNIOR "AA" LEAGUE - AGES 10-11-12
 - v. SENIOR "A" LEAGUE - AGE 13-14
 - vi. SENIOR "AA" LEAGUE - AGE 13-14-15-16
- B. The player's age is determined by the age he/she is on April 30th of the current year.
- C. Players must play regular season ball, District and State tournaments in their age category, i.e., fifteen-year-olds must play Senior "AA" League and twelve-year-olds must play Junior "AA" League.

- D. The uniform number shall be the criteria for identifying the player on the line-up card. In case of violation, it will be handled as a batter out of turn per the following examples.
EXAMPLES: Player A does not have the uniform number listed on the lineup and bats.
1. Player at bat - At any time either the home or visiting coach notices the error and brings it to the Umpire's attention as batting out of order, the player's official number will be changed in the official scorebook and play will resume.
 2. Player on base and another pitch has not been made – The player will be called out and then the player's official number will be changed in the official scorebook.
 3. Player on base and another pitch has been made – The scorekeeper should contact the Umpire and correct the number in the official scorebook.
- E. All players on a team must have the same uniform, color of shirt, pants, hat, and socks in the state tournament in order to play.
- F. No metal cleats will be worn in any AABA tournament.
- G. All players must wear helmets while at bat or when running the bases.
- H. Players must not wear watches, rings, pins, jewelry, or other metallic items.
EXCEPTION: Jewelry that alerts medical personal to a specific condition is permissible.

SECTION 7. PITCHING

- A. Teeny League pitchers may not pitch more than five (5) innings in two consecutive games.
- B. Junior League pitchers may not pitch more than six (6) innings in two consecutive games.
- C. Senior League pitchers may not pitch more than seven (7) innings in two consecutive games.
NOTE: ONE (1) PITCH WITH TIME IN PLAY CONSTITUTES AN INNING.
- D. Trips to the mound by a manager or coach will not exceed one trip per pitcher in any one inning. The second time out to the mound removes the pitcher from the mound. In Teeny League and Junior League, any time a pitcher is removed, he cannot return to pitch in that game. In SENIOR LEAGUE only, the STARTING pitcher may return to the mound ONE time providing:
- i. He has available innings to pitch.
 - ii. He is removed as pitcher on the first trip to the mound in an inning.
 - iii. When removed as pitcher, he must have remained in the game.
- E. A coach walking across the infield in between innings does not count as a trip to the mound provided he does not talk to the pitcher while crossing the field.
- F. A coach or team member may warm up the pitcher between innings. Players must wear headgear when warming up the pitcher at any time.
- G. A courtesy runner is optional for the pitcher. A courtesy runner cannot be in the current batting order. This will not affect the eligibility of the courtesy runner to enter the game as a substitute.
- H. Batters must keep one (1) foot in the batter's box at all times unless the umpire has granted time. The penalty for non-compliance shall be as follows: One warning will be issued and after that warning (to the team) the Umpire shall instruct the pitcher to deliver the pitch and call a strike.
- I. No balks are to be called in Teeny League. A ball shall not be assessed in lieu of the balk.
- J. Balks shall be called in Junior and Senior League.
- K. If a pitcher pitches more than innings allowed, the game will be restarted from the point the pitcher in question became ineligible with a new pitcher. The player shall be removed from the game and a substitute inserted in his place. In case of no substitute refer to Section 11. A and Section 8. NN.
Note: This is not a protest and the umpire, scorekeeper, State Commissioner, Assistant State Commissioner, tournament director and either coach can have the innings verified at any time there is a question of eligibility.
- L. No pitchers glove may be white, gray, or artificially colored. Logos are permitted on the glove.

SECTION 8. TOURNAMENT RULES

- A. All District tournaments must be played per AABA Rules and By-laws.
- B. The state tournament will be rotated in order, District 1 through 8. In case a district rejects the tournament, the next district in order will host the tournament or have first option.
- C. The State tournament will be awarded to a member park by the district representatives at the winter meeting. Tournaments are to be rotated in order.

- D. State and District Commissioners will be the tournament representatives for their districts and can appoint a representative to act in their absence.
- E. Tournament directors will be the sole authority for determining the fitness of fields and for calling off games. However, no games are to be cancelled before 3:00pm on weekdays or noon on Saturdays. Delays may be announced. UMPIRES DO NOT HAVE THIS AUTHORITY. The State or Asst. State Commissioner will revise the state tournament brackets in case of rainouts.
- F. If any team forfeits a tournament game for any reason other than injury or other reason of serious nature, the offending coach shall be barred from participation for one year. This applies to any other person acting in a coaching capacity. Teams that find they cannot participate in the tournament must notify the tournament director one-week prior to the tournament. The home park of a team forfeiting a district or state Tournament game shall be billed \$150.00 by the tournament Host Park. The Commissioner representing the forfeiting team shall collect and remit fees to the Host Park.
- G. State tournament brackets will be drawn upon the basis of two teams from each district. District Commissioners are to notify the State Commissioner one week in advance of the tournament if teams will not participate.
- H. Alcoholic beverages will not be permitted in any AABA parks during league or tournament play.
- I. All District and State tournaments will be double elimination.
- J. EACH COACH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING RESCHEDULED GAME TIMES AND DATES.
- K. Each team will be allowed three adult coaches, two of which may coach in the coach's box. All coaches must be listed on the tournament roster and sign the roster form. The tournament director will issue two tournament passes to each coach not to exceed six (6) passes. Each team must have at least one adult coach. PASSES MUST BE SIGNED AND ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE.
- L. The State Commissioner or the District Commissioner at the tournament in which he is acting as tournament director will notify the chief umpire of any un-sportsmanlike conduct. The chief umpire, in turn, will notify the team whose fans are causing such disturbance that the game will be forfeited unless such misconduct is corrected. If not corrected, the tournament director will instruct the umpire to forfeit the game. This rule requires discretion of both the tournament director and the umpires and should be used only as a last resort. Any team that causes a forfeit to be declared will be ineligible for further participation, the tournament director will forward to the District Commissioner and the State Commissioner immediately following the game, a resume of this action. Each party will be given a hearing before the entire district representatives or the park representatives concerned along with the park representatives that this team represents. The decision of the district representatives may be appealed to the State Commissioner who will appoint a committee of three excluding the district where the infraction occurred to act on the case. A fine not to exceed \$100.00 may be imposed on the park and the coach involved barred from further participation for one year.
- M. COACHES WILL BE ALLOWED ONE TIME OUT PER INNING TO TALK TO BATTERS.
- N. All teams must be assembled and ready to play at least 30 minutes before scheduled game time. A toss of the coin will be held prior to the game time to decide home team.
- O. There will be a 5-minute grace time for all games based on the original starting times.
- P. Warm-up periods of seven (7) minutes will be allowed each team. The visiting team will take infield first. Teams that are not ready to take infield will not be allowed any additional time.
- Q. All teams entering district or state tournaments should be insured. The official team roster signed by the players, parents, guardians, and coaches is a waiver absolving tournament officials and the host park officials from any liability suffered by team personnel. Failure to sign these documents by those required, forfeits their rights to play in these tournaments.
- R. All tournament rules for the state tournament will be those set forth in these rules and bylaws. The State Commissioner will have the authority to amend the rules that he deems necessary to conduct the tournament.
- S. The official rulebook for Teeny League and Junior League is the AABA Teeny and Junior Playing Rules. Seniors will be guided by the Official Baseball Rule Book and will be the final authority when situations are not covered in the AABA rulebook.
- T. Umpires will give the ground rules before each game. A toss of the coin will determine home team. The visiting team will use the infield first. Home team will occupy third base dugout.
- U. The Tournament Director will assign umpires and scorekeepers. Managers, field directors, participants, and coaches are not eligible to umpire. The Host Park will furnish scorekeepers and his/her book will be official and will be under the supervision of the Umpire in Chief. THE

SCOREKEEPER MUST BE AN ADULT.

- V. Protests are to be used as a last resort and are to be discouraged. No protests will be allowed on an umpire's decision or player eligibility after having been certified. In case of protest, the tournament director will appoint a committee of reliable and knowledgeable individuals and should exclude persons from teams involved in the dispute. The Tournament Director can be a member of this committee. The decision of this committee is final. In the state tournament the State or Assistant State Commissioner will act as rules interpreter, but cannot be part of the committee. (See Section 2 for the protest fee)
- W. Courtesy runners are permitted for the pitcher and catcher at any time. A courtesy runner cannot be in the current batting order. This will not affect the eligibility of the courtesy runner to enter the game as a substitute.
- X. All games called off for rain or other reasons will be resumed at the point where play ended. If the game is an official game, the team behind may elect not to finish the game.
- Y. Teeny play will consist of five (5) innings unless one team has a six (6) run lead after four (4) full innings of play, 3½ innings if the home team is ahead.
- Z. When a Teeny team scores five (5) runs in any one inning, teams will change field positions at that point. If a home run is hit ending the inning, only the fifth run that inning will score. The maximum that can be scored in an inning is five (5) runs.
- AA. Junior games will consist of six (6) full innings of play unless one team has a ten (10) run lead after four (4) full innings of play; three and one half (3 ½) if home team is ahead.
- BB. Senior games will consist of seven innings unless one team has a fifteen (15) run lead after three (3) full innings of play; twelve (12) runs after four (4) full innings; ten (10) runs after five (5) full innings; or eight (8) runs after six (6) full innings.
- CC. No infield fly will be called in Teeny League.
- DD. If a batter throws a bat outside the batting circle or hits the catcher or umpire in the normal process of hitting, a warning shall be given the batter at the end of the play. If it happens again, the batter shall be called out.
Note: If the batter is called out and there are 2 outs, the inning shall be over and no runs can score. If less than 2 outs, the batter is out and the ball is in play.
- EE. If a player throws a bat in anger, he or she is subject to ejection.
- FF. RE-ENTRY RULE: A player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once provided the player returns to the same position in the batting order and the substitute must leave the game. Only players in the starting lineup may re-enter the game. A pitcher or catcher can be substituted for after they have made it safely to base. Should injury to a player prevent a team from fielding nine (9) players, the manager may insert a player previously used in the line-up but only if there are no other eligible substitutes available. If an ejected player prevents a team from fielding nine (9) players, the manager may insert a player previously used in the line-up. In this case, the opposing team manager shall select the player to re-enter the line-up. A player ejected from the game is not eligible for re-entry. NOTE: An improper substitution is NOT basis for disqualification or forfeiture, and should not be confused with action to be taken when playing an ineligible player. When it has been determined that a player has been substituted improperly, the Umpire-In-Chief shall order the player removed and the game resumed after a proper substitution has been made.
- GG. **NO HEADFIRST SLIDE** except when returning to a base will be allowed in Teeny and Junior AABA game. Penalty will be the runner shall be ruled out. EXCEPTION: If in the judgment of the umpire the player stumbled and fell head first, the player will not be called out.
- HH. Players must slide at any base and/or attempt to avoid contact with the defensive player when a play is being made on that runner. A "play" is defined as a defensive player in possession of the ball waiting to make a tag. FAKE TAGS ARE ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE. Runners who leave their feet (i.e., hurdle) to avoid a tag shall be ruled out as if tagged.
- II. Junior "A" batters may not run on third strike missed by catcher. Junior "AA" batters can run on third strike missed by catcher.
- JJ. No team may enter the District or State tournament after a team forfeits a game or the first round is complete. After the second loss in the tournament the team is eliminated and may not play another game.
- KK. Teams may bat 10 players but can only play 9 in the field; the 10th player must meet the requirements of Section 6. The batting order will be the official line-up; with the exception of the pitcher any of the other 9 players may switch positions including the extra hitter. (This is an

- option only, however if you start with 10 you must use 10 the whole game and if a player gets hurt or sick and no substitutes are available an out will be taken when that player is scheduled to bat.)
- LL. Double Forfeits will follow this guideline; if both teams are undefeated then a coin toss will be used to determine which loser bracket game each team will go to. The loser of the coin toss will go to the loser bracket for that game, the winner of the coin toss will go to the winners bracket and then go to the losers bracket of that game with the team they would have played getting a forfeit win. If it is double forfeit in the loser's bracket, both teams are eliminated and the team the winner was to play receives a forfeit win.
- MM. There will be no one in the dugouts except players and coaches. No bat boys or bat girls.
- NN. There will be no buckets, chairs, or any other unnecessary objects inside the field fence.
- OO. If a coach or player is ejected from a district or state tournament game, he/she will not be able to coach or play in the next game (field or stands). If a coach or player is ejected twice, he/she will not be able to coach or play the rest of the tournament (field or stands).
- PP. An ejected player or coach may sit in the stands, but must remain quite and orderly. If he/she becomes disorderly, he/she will be removed from the park.

SECTION 9. “A” TOURNAMENT RULES

- A. This tournament will be for regular season “A” league teams.
- B. The state AABA “A” League Tournament shall be governed by the AABA rulebook with the following exceptions:
- i. Senior League – No fifteen or sixteen year olds may play in the “A” District or State Tournaments.
 - ii. Junior League - No twelve year olds may play in the “A” District or State Tournaments. A maximum of seven (7) runs may be scored in an inning.
 - iii. “A” Teeny Game Rules
 - a. No nine year olds may play in the “A” District or State Tournaments.
 - b. A maximum of five (5) runs may be scored in an inning.
 - c. A pitching machine shall be used in lieu of live pitching.
 - d. If an extension cord is used for the pitching machine, it must be buried 3 feet on either side of the baseline it is crossing.
 - e. There will be NO walks. A pitch not offered at by the batter shall be declared a no pitch by the umpire if in his/her opinion it was not in the strike zone. A pitch not offered at by the batter shall be declared a strike by the umpire if in his/her opinion it was in the strike zone
 - f. Each batter shall receive three (3) strikes.
 - g. Time shall be called when the ball is returned to the pitcher who shall have one foot in mound circle dirt, even with or behind the pitching rubber. In the case of dirt infields, the pitcher must be within an eight-foot radius of the pitching machine and behind the pitching rubber.
 - h. The field umpire shall operate the pitching machine. The machine shall be set 52% or 40 MPH (Jugs, Jr.).
 - i. All players and coaches must remain in the dugout when not in the game.
 - j. The pitcher must be in position with one foot in mound circle dirt, even with or behind the pitching rubber. In the case of dirt infields, the pitcher must be within an eight-foot radius of the pitching machine.
 - k. A batted ball, which hits the pitching machine, shall be declared a dead ball single. The batter will be awarded first base and all other runners shall advance one base.
 - l. A thrown ball inadvertently hitting the pitching machine will be declared dead.
 - m. The pitching machine can be adjusted at any time at the umpire’s discretion.

SECTION 10. TOURNAMENT TIME LIMITS

- A. State “AA” Tournament Time Limits
- i. Senior – All games will be played with a time limit of two hours fifteen minutes (2:15) with the exception of games noted below by (*).
 - ii. Junior - All games will be played with a time limit of two hours (2:00) with the exception of games noted below by (*).

- iii. Teeny - All games will be played with a time limit of one hour forty five (1:45) with the exception of games noted below by (*).
 - B. State "A" Tournament Time Limits
 - i. Senior - All games will be played with a time limit of two hours (2:00) with the exception of games noted below by (*).
 - ii. Junior - All games will be played with a time limit of one hour forty-five minutes (1:45) with the exception of games noted below by (*).
 - iii. Teeny - All games will be played with a time limit of one hour fifteen minutes (1:15) with the exception of games noted below by (*).
- (*) NO TIME LIMIT WILL APPLY TO FINAL WINNERS BRACKET GAMES, THE FINAL OF THE LOSERS BRACKET AND THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES.
- C. District tournament time limits will be set by the District Commissioner.

SECTION 11. STATE TOURNAMENT DATES

- A. State Tournament play for all age groups will begin on Monday night, July 6th.
- B. "AA" tournament will be held in Dover and the "A" tournament will be held at Little Oaks in Little Rock.
- C. ALL TEAMS IN EACH LEAGUE MUST HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE AT THE COACHES' MEETING.
- D. The "A" League state tournament coach's meeting will be held on Monday June 29th at 7:00pm at Little Oaks in Little Rock.
- E. The "AA" League state tournament coach's meeting will be held on Tuesday June 30th at 7:00pm in Dover.
- F. There will be a maximum of 3 adult coaches from each team allowed at these meetings. (No kids allowed)
- G. District Tournament dates and times will be set by the District Commissioner.
- H. No games will be originally scheduled on Wednesday, however in case of rainouts, Wednesdays may be used.

SECTION 12. FORFEITS AND PENALTIES

- A. If any time during a tournament game a team becomes unable to field nine (9) eligible players for any reason, play shall be stopped and the opposing team shall be declared the winner. Penalty: If unable to start the game the team that forfeits will pay the \$150.00 forfeit fee. If the game is in process when the team fails to have 9 eligible players it is just a loss and no additional penalties.
- B. A player that is playing for any other team while the AABA District or State Tournaments are going on, may play for both teams but not miss an AABA game for any reason. Penalty: The player will be ruled ineligible. If this is found out after the player has played in a game after missing a game, the team will forfeit the game the player played in after missing. It is the coach's responsibility to make sure his players are eligible.

EXAMPLE 1: Player A plays in an AABA state or district tournament game and then plays for another team between their next scheduled game in the AABA tournament and then comes back and plays in his teams next AABA tournament game, the player is eligible.

EXAMPLE 2: Player A plays for another team while the AABA district or state tournament is going on but does not play for his/her AABA team when the tournament starts. The other team's season ends and then the player returns to his/her AABA team. This player is eligible to play.

EXAMPLE 3: Player A plays a game in an AABA tournament game and then plays for another team and does not play (for any reason) in his next AABA game. The player becomes ineligible for any remaining AABA games.

EXAMPLE 4: Player A plays a game in an AABA tournament and then plays for another team at the same time his team is playing an AABA game. The player becomes ineligible for any remaining AABA games.
- C. If a team plays a player under an assumed name of a player on the roster, that team will forfeit the game and be removed from the tournament. Penalty: The manger, and coaches present at the game is barred from coaching in an AABA tournament for 5 years, and all players that were present at the game are barred for 1 year in playing in an AABA Tournament game.
- D. If team plays a player that is not on the league roster, the player will be considered an illegal player and the team will forfeit that game.

Penalty: The team will pay the forfeit fee and the coach is barred from coaching in an AABA tournament for 1 year.

- E. If a team plays a player that does not meet the age requirements for the division the player is playing in, the team will forfeit the game and be removed from the tournament. The player will not be eligible to play in any AABA tournaments for 1 year and the coach will be barred from coaching in AABA tournaments for 1 year. The park that sanctioned the player will be required to send birth certificates for all players with their league rosters for 3 years.

SECTION 13. UMPIRES AND SPECIAL GUIDELINES

- A. All Umpires shall be AABA sanctioned for district and state tournament play.
- B. To become sanctioned, a rules test must be passed with an 85% or higher grade. There is a \$20.00 fee to take the test. After passing the test, a sanction package will be mailed to the umpire. Sanction is good for 2 years.
- C. The minimum age for Umpires in State Tournaments is 18 for Teeny and Junior and 20 for Senior.
- D. When a team protest a play, the following guidelines will be followed:
- i. Stop the game at that point, document where each player is and the count on the batter if applicable. If time limit game, stop the clock.
 - ii. Collect the protest fee.
 - iii. The protest committee shall be assembled in a place away from all outside interference.
 - iv. Bring in the protesting coach and let him state his protest and then have him leave.
 - v. Bring in the umpires and listen to their side of the play and then have them leave.
 - vi. Check the rulebook and then vote on the protest.
 - vii. Notify the umpire and both coaches of the decision and why it was decided that way.
 - viii. The umpire restarts the game with any action that has to be taken per the protest.
- E. An appeal is the act of a fielder claiming violation of the rules by the offensive team. These guidelines shall be followed for making an appeal:
- i. The ball must be live.
 - ii. The appeal must be made before the next pitch to a batter.
 - iii. A verbal request must be made by the player to the umpire that unmistakably indicates that it is an appeal.
 - iv. An appeal may be made by the defense in any of the following ways:
 - a. By touching the runner with the ball whom they believe committed a base running infraction.
 - b. By touching the base they believe was missed while the runner was advancing.
 - c. By touching the original base that a runner left before a fly ball was caught.
 - v. If time has been called, before an appeal can be made, the pitcher must go to the mound with the ball and wait for the umpire to say play ball and then step off the mound backwards, make the verbal request and perform per the instructions in iv above.
 - vi. The defense loses it right to appeal:
 - a. If when the throw made in appeal attempt goes into a dead ball area. NOTE: The fielder may drop the ball and pick it up and touch the base or runner and the appeal is still active.
 - b. If more than one base runner has advanced over the base without stating which runner missed the base.
 - vii. In Teeny "A" if the ball had already been given to the umpire, the player pitcher must request the ball from the umpire. When the umpire gives the ball back to the player the ball is live and an appeal can be made. However, the appeal can be made before the ball is returned to the umpire.
- F. No artificial sound devices shall be allowed.
- G. No manager, player, substitute, coach, trainer, or batboy shall at any time, whether from the bench, the coach's box or on the playing field, or elsewhere make intentional contact with the umpire in any manner.
- PENALTY:** If deemed intentional, the accused party shall be barred from AABA play for the remainder of the current year and may be penalized for more. The AABA District Commissioners will invoke the accused party's final penalty at the next regular scheduled AABA meeting. The accused party may send a written appeal to this meeting asking to be reinstated for the following year.

SECTION 14. REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S

- A. Verify all league and Tournament Rosters are filled out on official AABA forms. (3 copies of each)
- B. Verify all ages are correct per birth dates listed on roster.
- C. Keep one copy of League Rosters in your file and send 2- two copies of the League Rosters with the state fee of \$200.00 to the State Commissioner by May 20th.
- D. Verify the rosters list "AA" and "A" players on separate sections of the official AABA league roster form.
- E. Verify all parents have signed the Tournament Roster and the roster meets AABA requirements. (No player can play in the District or State Tournaments until their parent has signed the Tournament Roster)
- F. The District Commissioner shall set the dates and the host parks for the District Tournaments.
- G. The District Commissioner shall approve all brackets for the District Tournaments.
- H. Fill out the State Tournament Cover Sheet form for sending teams to the State Tournaments, one for the "AA" and one for the "A" Division and include the District tournament brackets.
- I. In addition you will include the original Tournament Rosters of the teams that qualified for the State Tournament and the entry fee for all teams. (\$50.00 per team) You will also need to send a copy of the League Roster of those teams.
- J. Bring these forms and the \$50.00 per team entry fee to the coaches meeting. These forms and entry fees need to be turned in all at once to the State Commissioner.
- K. Notify the host of the State Tournaments at least a week in advance of the coaches meeting if you are not sending your allotment of teams. (Return all unused tournament packets at the coaches meeting)
- L. Any District Commissioner who falsifies any official team roster or its contents will be subject to disciplinary action and may be removed as a District Commissioner.
- M. Ensure that all Park Directors have a copy of the latest AABA rules.
- N. Each District shall have a meeting in the fall to elect District and Assistant Commissioners.
- O. The District and Assistant Commissioners terms shall be from January 1st to December 31st and shall be for one year. They may be re-elected.
- P. The District Commissioner will be elected by a majority of votes, with each park in the District having two votes. In case of a tie, a coin flip will determine the winner.
- Q. The Assistant District Commissioner will be elected the same as the District Commissioner. However, the Assistant District Commissioner cannot be from the same park as the District Commissioner, unless there is only one park in the district.
- R. The District or Assistant Commissioner must attend the spring or fall state meeting or your District may lose the right to participate in the AABA State Tournament.
- S. The Eight District Commissioners will elect the State Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner by a simple majority vote.

SECTION 15. GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING A STATE TOURNAMENT

- A. A park must be able to host all three age groups (Teeny, Junior, Senior) before they will be awarded the state tournament.
- B. Appoint a tournament director and assistant.
- C. Prepare tournament packets (2 senior, 2 junior, 2 teeny) for each district and have in the mail to district commissioners by June 15th. Include in these packets tournament brackets, 6 passes, map to park, and a welcome letter to the coaches telling them of the park rules, telephone number of the park, and contact to check for rain outs of games.
 - i. Send 1 packet to State Commissioner and 1 packet to Assistant State Commissioner with 2 passes.
- D. Host the coaches meeting for the tournament and supply refreshments.
- E. Arrange for umpires and scorekeepers. An umpire may not umpire in any division that they have a child playing in.
- F. Umpires must be on the field 15 minutes before the first game.
- G. Buy trophies for first, second, and third in each division. A minimum height of 36" for first, 30" for second, and 24" for third.

- H. Buy Sportsmanship plaques for each division. A minimum of 10" height or width.
- I. Supply ice water and cups to all dugouts during the tournament.
- J. Have a protest committee appointed each night of the tournament. (Consist of 3)
- K. Secure a design and print and sale t-shirts. (Optional)
- L. Set up an entry point that doesn't block traffic to collect gate admissions.
- M. Provide all teams with line-up sheets.
- N. Have a grounds crew available each night in case repairs has to be made.
- O. Make sure you have enough baseballs to complete the tournament.
- P. Make a large official poster of all the brackets and update them after each game.
- Q. Host park is required to feed and give drinks to the State Commissioner and / or Assistant State Commissioner during state tournament play.
- R. No park can host the state tournament 2 years in a row.
- S. Timers must be used for all games with a time limit in the district and state tournaments.

SECTION 16. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARK DIRECTOR'S

- A. Verify all league and Tournament Rosters are filled out on official AABA forms. (2 copies of each)
- B. Verify all ages, birth dates are correct, and the players meet AABA requirements.
- C. Deliver to the District Commissioner both copies of the league rosters of all teams in your park by May 18th. (Failure to meet this deadline eliminates your park from District or State AABA tournaments)
- D. Any players playing for any other team must have letter attached per AABA rules.
- E. Rosters must list "AA" and "A" players and be listed on separate sections of the official AABA league roster form.
- F. Verify all parents have signed the Tournament Roster and turn it in to the District Commissioner before District Tournament starts.
- G. Ensure that all teams in your park have a copy of the AABA rules.
- H. Any Park official or coach who falsifies any official team roster or its contents will be subject to disciplinary action and may have the certification of the park from AABA removed.
- I. Pay your District fees by May 15th.

SECTION 17. State Commissioner & Asst. State Commissioner Duties

- A. The state commissioner will chair the spring and fall meeting, if unavailable the assistant commissioner will chair the meetings.
- B. The state and assistant commissioners will have no vote except to break tie votes.
- C. The state commissioner will provide the state "AA" and "A" brackets at the spring meeting. The State Commissioner has the authority to change the brackets if there are not enough teams entered to fill a sixteen – (16) team bracket.
- D. The state and assistant commissioner will inspect the host park complex of the state tournaments and have the authority to require changes be made to the ball fields.
- E. The state and assistant commissioner is to assist the tournament director of the state tournaments, as needed, but can override the tournament director's decision if he feels it is in error.
- F. The state commissioner will provide a complete list of all tournament rosters to the Host Park.
- G. The State and Assistant Commissioner has the authority to make any rule and eligibility rulings, unless an emergency commissioner's meeting is called to take up these violations.
- H. The State Commissioner may call special meetings of District Commissioners as needed.



2009 STATE COMMISSIONERS

<http://aramba.tripod.com>

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2009 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

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