

# **AAYBA POLICIES AND RULES**

## **1. ENTRY REFUNDS**

There are no refunds for withdrawal once your paid application has been received.

## **2. RAIN REFUNDS**

Refund Policy is as follows:

- No games started—80% refund
- 1 game started—60% refund
- 2 games started—NO REFUND

## **3. GATE ADMISSIONS (Except Colorado – Colorado will have a pre-paid TEAM gate fee which must be paid in full prior to the start of your first game).**

Gate fees for our World Series events are \$35 at check-in, and \$40 at the gate for a week-long pass. You may also purchase daily passes at \$10 per day, the daily passes are non-refundable. Children ages 15 or younger are always admitted free.

**Coaches, every year we have hundreds of parents who are upset because they had no idea there would be a gate charge.**

### **PLEASE TELL YOUR PARENTS ABOUT THIS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Unbelievable as this is - we have experienced a few teams attempting to forge gate passes. If this occurs the police **WILL** be called. If the manager has knowledge of, or is involved in the forgery attempt, the team will be ejected from the tournament. If the Tournament Director determines the manager has no knowledge of the forgery attempt, the manager will be required to determine how far spread the violation is and resolve it to the satisfaction of the Tournament Director. Failure to cooperate in resolving the issue will result in the team being ejected from the tournament. At that point the Tournament Director will levy a fine, and failure to pay the fine will result in the team being ejected from the tournament. The persons involved in the forgery will be ejected from this tournament. This is stealing and against the law. **NO REFUNDS** will be given to any individual or team if ejected from the tournament.

## **4. COACHES' PASSES**

Each team will receive three coach's passes. **Coaches who lose, forget, or misplace their passes will be required to pay a non-refundable gate admission – period – NO EXCEPTIONS!** Individuals who abuse or misuse these passes shall forfeit their passes for the duration of the tournament.

**5. NO SHOW/SURRENDER**

Any team that fails to show for a scheduled AAYBA tournament game will be banned from AAYBA play for one year, unless a team medical emergency can be immediately verified and documented, shall be disqualified from further participation in the tournament. Teams are not permitted to “surrender” during the course of any tournament game. All games must be played to completion per tournament rules. Should a team pull their players off the field, or quit, prior to completion of the game, said team will be disqualified from the tournament with no refund or entry fees, admission fees, etc.

**6. FORMAT AND/OR RULES CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS**

**All AAYBA tournament directors reserve the right to alter or change tournament formats.** In the absence of a clearly defined rule or interpretation the Tournament Director reserves the right to restate/clarify/change a rule, which will be communicated to all team managers, posted on the board with the scores, and updated on the website. Scores will be updated and posted to the website no later than at the conclusion of each day of play. Local rules may override AAYBA rules, if this happens all managers will be notified at the managers meeting.

**7. SPECIAL START REQUESTS**

Before entering a tournament, make sure your team has no other conflicts on listed tournaments. AAYBA cannot guarantee any special game time requests.

**8. AWARDS**

The AAYBA “Open” World Series gives awards to every player on every team at the conclusion of their last game. The Tournament Director will present awards to those players listed on the AAYBA approved roster from original check in and late check in rosters. Only players on those approved rosters, and present at awards ceremony will receive awards. No extra awards will be given and no awards will be shipped.

**PLAYERS MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE THEIR AWARD**

.....**NO EXCEPTIONS**.....

In the event of a rain out, teams competing for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place will be given Co-Champion awards. The highest seed will receive the 1<sup>st</sup> place award, and the lower seed will receive the runner up award. The recipients of the runner up award will receive a new nameplate saying Champion. These will be sent to the manager for distribution.

**9. LODGING**

All teams participating in any AAYA World Series event are required to stay in one of our many sponsoring hotels (exception: For Texas World Series and Colorado World Series there is no mandatory hotel requirement). All teams, players, managers, coaches, fans, followers, or anyone associated with the team are required to stay at one of the sponsoring hotels. Hotel occupancy is verified daily and any team leaving a sponsoring hotel will be removed from the tournament with no refunds for entry fees, deposits, gate fees, etc. All questions regarding lodging should be directed to Greg Moore at 314 822-8434 or [gsmoore21@aol.com](mailto:gsmoore21@aol.com). Prior to calling be sure to view the lodging information on the AAYBA website at [www.aayba.com](http://www.aayba.com).

## **10. FOOD AND DRINKS**

As a blanket rule no food or drinks may be brought into the park. (*However, our facilities in many cases are leased and some allow food and drinks while others do not. If food and drinks are allowed it will be covered on the hosts world series information page and in the managers confirmation packet*). Teams may bring water coolers filled with water, or mixed powdered drinks, and/or bottled water for the players; however you cannot bring bottled sports drinks that can be purchased from the concession stands. No food can be brought into the park, no exceptions! Teams ignoring this rule will be removed from the event on the spot with no refunds for any gate admissions, entry fees, etc.

## **11. AAYBA EXCEPTIONS TO MAJOR LEAGUE RULES**

AAYBA uses Major League Baseball Rules with AAYBA exceptions as noted in this document.

## **12. AGE DIVISIONS**

The AAYBA tournament and World Series program offers play for “individual” age groups from 9U-14U. (For World Series play the 9U age group is only available in Texas).

## **13. AGE CUT-OFF**

For all AAYBA programs our age cut-off is May 1st of the current year. For example a 12U team cannot have any players that turn 13 prior to May 1st ... April 30<sup>th</sup> too old – May 1<sup>st</sup> eligible. All teams move up in age at the conclusion of our National Championships. A player may play up in an age bracket above his own, but no player can move down.

## **14. TEAM ROSTER RULES**

All teams must complete a roster waiver form prior to participating in any AAYBA event. This form must be turned in to the director at check in and it will serve as your official roster. For weekend tournaments this roster can be updated until it is turned in at which point your roster is frozen and no additional players may be added. For the World Series the roster/waiver must be turned in at check-in at which point your roster is frozen. We understand that there may be times when a child cannot be there at check-in. However we will only allow a maximum of three players on one team to check in late at the fields and they must check in before the start of the third game their team will play (no exceptions for a bye, a bye will count as a game). For those players checking in late they will need their original birth certificate and a separate roster/waiver form with the child’s name and parent signature, even if they have already signed their team’s original roster/waiver. For those of you flying folks in to pitch a game and then fly home ... **WRONG TOURNAMENT!** Team rosters are limited to 20 players in all age groups.

## 15. ROSTER PROTEST

If at anytime a protest fee of **\$100 CASH** is put up to check a player's eligibility, the manager from that player's team must immediately provide that player's original birth certificate for the Tournament Director. If it cannot be provided, regardless if he is on the roster/waiver that player will be declared ineligible for the rest of the tournament and the game will be forfeited. If a manager or coach knowingly violates the rules, that team will be asked to leave the tournament and forfeit all money that has been paid. If a birth certificate is provided, the player will be checked against the AAYBA certified roster/waiver(s), and if it is determined that the player is eligible, the \$100 protest fee will be forfeited. If the player is determined to be ineligible, the protest fee will be refunded.

## 16. RULE PROTESTS

Protests are allowed only on rules and not on judgment calls. Protests must be made before the next pitch or play is made. Failure to lodge the protest at the time of questioned play and after a pitch or play is made will disallow the protest. All valid protests will be resolved immediately. Only managers can protest. To protest, a manager must submit a protest fee of **\$100 CASH** to the games plate umpire and state what is being protested. The manager will ask that the game clock be stopped and ask for the Tournament Directors decision. Neither of the game umpires can refuse to accept a protest when accompanied with the \$100 protest fee as long as it is a rule protest. Just because the umpire knows the rule, if you disagree, does not negate your right to protest. If it is a judgment call protest, it will not be allowed and the umpires will resume the game. If it is a valid protest and the protest is upheld, the fee shall be immediately refunded. If the protest is denied, the deposit shall be forfeited. The Tournament Director shall resolve all protests by consultation with the game umpires, and/or UIC. The Tournament Directors decision will be final and not open for discussion.

## 17. AGE GROUPS, PITCHING DISTANCES, BASE DISTANCES, INNINGS PLAYED, AND TIME LIMITS

Age Group	Pitching Distance	Base Distance	Innings Played	Time Limits
9U	46'	65'	6 innings	1 hr 30 min
10U	46'	65'	7 innings	1 hr 45 min
11U & 12U	50'	70'	7 innings	1 hr 45 min
13U	54'	80'	7 innings	1 hr 45 min
14U	60'6"	90'	7 innings	1 hr 45 min
16U	60'6"	90'	7 innings	2 hr

No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes for 10U through 14U, or 2 hours for 16U, or 1 hour and 30 minutes for 9U. The new inning begins after the third out of the preceding inning. There are time limits on every game except the **CHAMPIONSHIP** game in every division.

## **18. SUBSTITUTIONS AND RE-ENTRY**

For teams not batting the roster ...

Starters may re-enter one time in their **ORIGINAL** batting position. Substitutes removed from a game are ineligible to return. As a courtesy, teams shall report all substitutions to the home plate umpire who will inform scorekeepers.

## **19. EXTRA PLAYER (E-P BAT 10)**

The E-P position shall be considered the same as any other position. Normal substitution rules apply. However, any team that begins play using an E-P must maintain a 10-player line-up throughout the game.

## **20. BATTING EXTRA PLAYER (E-P), BATTING 9, BATTING ROSTER**

The manager may choose to bat 9, 10, or bat the roster, and must declare his choice at ground rules. 9U must bat the roster and play free substitution.

**E-P BATTING 10**, Any team that begins play using an E-P must maintain a 10-player line-up throughout the game. Any time a player is lost by ejection, and there are no substitutes available, only this game shall be forfeited an out shall be recorded each time the ejected player was to have come to bat. If a substitute is available no out shall be recorded.

**Batting 9**, Any time a player is lost by ejection, and there are no substitutes available, this game only shall be forfeited.

**Batting the roster**, There is free defensive substitution. Any time a player is lost by ejection, an out shall be recorded each time the ejected player was to have come to bat.

**Batting 9, 10, or roster**, Teams which fall short of nine eligible players during a game, due to player ejection(s), shall forfeit that game only. There will be no forfeits due to a disabling injury to the last player available, however if a team falls below eight players the game will be forfeited. In the event of a disabling injury, and all eligible substitutes have already entered the game and been removed, the last player removed must be re-inserted. The injured player may not re-enter the game thereafter. If there are no players to replace the injured player the team may continue to play with 8 players, no out shall be recorded for the missing 9<sup>th</sup> player, and compress the lineup.

## **21. BAT REQUIREMENTS**

Players may use any length and weight bat **provided the barrel does not exceed 2 3/4 inches in diameter.**

## **22. METAL SPIKES**

**Metal spikes** are only allowed in the 13U age groups and above. While playing on temporary mounds, metal spikes are not allowed unless local rules allow the use of metal spikes.

**EXCEPTION: For our AAYBA World series in Colorado, metal spikes are allowed beginning with the 12U age group.**

### **23. COURTESY RUNNERS**

Courtesy runners for either the pitcher or catcher are *optional*. **A courtesy runner is exactly what it says it is, A COURTESY RUNNER, not a substitute.** The courtesy runner will be a player that has not been in the game. A player cannot courtesy run twice in the same inning. If no players are available the runner will be the batted out. If the last batted out is the pitcher, catcher, or is on base, the previous batted out will be used. In the first inning, if there are no batted outs the last batter in the lineup may courtesy run..

### **24. BALKS**

In the 9U & 10U, **one warning per pitcher** will be given before a balk is called. In 11U-16U all balks will be called. All balks will be called according to Major League baseball Rules.

### **25. INTENTIONAL WALKS**

Intentional walks require that four pitches be thrown. You cannot simply put the hitter on base. Coaches, please make your players aware of the catcher's balk (While giving an intentional base on balls, the pitcher pitches when the catcher is not in the catchers' box.).

### **26. RUN RULE**

- 20 after one inning
- 15 after two innings
- 12 after three innings
- 10 after 4 innings
- 8 after 5 innings

### **27. BETWEEN INNINGS**

A maximum of two minutes, or five warm-up pitches, will be allowed between innings with the time beginning following the third out. The umpire shall keep time. Automatic strikes may be called on offensive teams not ready and automatic balls may be called on defensive teams not ready after the umpire has directed teams to play. If an injury requires an emergency pitching change, the new pitcher will have ten minutes maximum for warm-up (game clock will not stop, unless the injury was severe enough to require medical attention on the field).

## **28. EJECTIONS**

Any manager, coach, or player, ejected from the game must leave the park and may not return for any reason until the applicable game(s) ejection limit has been served.

**Any player ejected from the game will serve the game of the infraction plus one. During his suspension the player can watch from the bleachers but cannot be in the dugout with his team.**

**If the team is batting the lineup, or with batting 9 or 10 players and have no substitutions available it will be an out each time the ejected player is to bat.** If due to an ejection the team falls to eight players the game shall be forfeited. If due to an injury the team falls to eight players the game will continue with 8 players, no out shall be recorded for the missing 9<sup>th</sup> player, and compress the lineup. Teams which fall to 7 players during a game shall forfeit the game.

**Any manager or coach ejected will serve the game of the infraction plus three and the ejected manager, coach, or parent will be escorted to the park exit and will not be allowed back until the suspension has been served.** Unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind will not be tolerated. Managers are responsible for the behavior of the entire team, parents included. If the ejected party then causes a scene that results in the local police department being called the entire team may be disqualified from the event and no refunds will be issued.

Profanity of any kind will result in an immediate ejection.

## **29. MALICIOUS CONTACT**

Malicious contact will result in the player being called out and ejected from the game (see ejections above).

Obstruction will be called on the catcher if he is blocking the plate without the ball and the runner tries to avoid contact and is tagged out. **Coaches, this is real simple. If a runner makes unwarranted contact with the catcher he will be out. If our umpires determine it was malicious, he will also be ejected**

Our umpires will consider fake tags "obstruction". Umpires will then award bases accordingly.

## **30. SUSPENDED/COMPLETED GAMES**

A game shall be ruled as official and complete if it is called by umpires or the tournament director due to rain, inclement weather, lightning, or other reasons beyond our control, provided 3 innings have been played (2 ½ if the home team is ahead). If after 3 innings a game is being called for any reason, if the home team is not winning the score will revert back to the previous full inning. If the home team is winning, the game will be considered complete and the existing score will be final. In some cases, if three innings have not been completed, the game shall be suspended, and resumed from that point.

**The Tournament Directors reserve the right to decide whether to cancel or suspend a game.**

### **31. TIES**

Ties are allowed in all pool games. In the bracket rounds, a winner must be determined. In pool or bracket games, if the score is tied and the time limit has not expired, the next inning will start as normal (even after 7 innings). Full innings will be played until time expires. At expiration of time limit a full inning will be completed unless home team is winning.

In bracket play once the time limit has expired and a full inning is completed, and the score is tied, the visiting team will put the three players previous to the batter on the bases, and there will be one out in the inning. **For example, if the game is tied 3 to 3 after the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and the time limit has expired. The visiting team determines that the # 4 hitter in the line-up is due up. That team then puts the # 3 batter on first, the # 2 batter on second, and the # 1 batter on 3rd. There will be one out in the inning and both teams will play like this until a winner is decided.**

### **32. TIEBREAKERS TO DETERMINE PLACEMENT**

In the event of ties between teams, winners will be decided as follows:

1) Head to head 2) total runs allowed, 3) total runs scored, 4. Coin flip by Tournament Director. **Finish is decided by winning %. If there are two or more teams tied with the same winning % and they have not played each other, the tiebreaker will be runs allowed. Runs allowed will determine place until the teams in question have played each other.**

### **33. DUGOUTS AND FIELD**

A maximum of four adults per team are allowed on the field and in the dugouts, this includes the scorekeeper, it is not 4 adults and the scorekeeper. Only two coaches are allowed outside the dugout at any time. Absolutely no glass items are allowed in the dugout. Team water coolers are allowed, unless already provided by the tournament site. Teams must pick up trash and debris in the dugout prior to departure from any game. No parent, or anyone associated with the team, unless approved by Tournament Director, will be allowed in the dugout or on the field.

**ABSOLUTELY NO PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHERS ARE ALLOWED IN THE DUGOUT OR ON THE FIELD. THIS IS A LIABILITY ISSUE AND NON-COMPLIANCE WILL RESULT IN THE MANAGER AND THE OFFENDER BEING EJECTED FROM THE PARK.**

### **34. HOME/VISITOR**

A coin flip shall decide home team in all pool games. **After the tournament is broken down to bracket or seeding play, the higher seeded team will be the home team.**

### **35. WARM-UPS**

All team warm-ups will be done in specified warm-up areas or in the outfield of a ball field. **Absolutely no infield practice on any field; No pitching practice allowed on any ball field mound.** There will be no infield practice allowed before a game. A coach may hit ground balls or fly balls to his players in the grass behind 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> base provided the start time of the game is not delayed. This

### **36. GAME BALLS**

For all AAYBA events ... each team will be required to supply two new balls each game. **Coaches prepare for this and bring at least two dozen new baseballs.** The batting team is required to shag all foul balls, home runs, etc. Baseballs will be returned at the conclusion of the game. If for some reason a ball is lost or cut, the home team will provide the first extra ball and the visiting team will provide the next ball. If needed this rotation will continue.

### **37. LINE-UP CARDS**

Each manager must prepare three (3) written copies of his line-up listing first and last names as well as the jersey number for all players and substitutes prior to each game. Line-ups must be provided to the home plate umpire, opposing manager or opposing scorekeeper. A game shall not start until this is completed. Should a coach omit a player from his written line-up, that player cannot participate in that game only. Managers are responsible for providing their own line-up cards. Lineup cards are a courtesy – scorebooks are the official lineup.

### **38. PITCHING LIMITATIONS**

We have no pitching limits other than those listed in the Major League Baseball Rulebook, except the following. In the 9U age group no pitcher may pitch more than 12 outs in a single game. Violation of the pitching limitations will result in the game being forfeited. If a coach calls time, and crosses the foul line to confer with any player, this shall be considered a visit for that inning, but does not apply to a coach checking on an injured player.

A pitcher may be removed from pitching, not as a result of a 2<sup>nd</sup> visit, and moved to any defensive position, and return to pitching any time after the relieving pitcher completes pitching to at least one batter in that inning. If the inning ends and the removed pitcher is not the pitcher of record he can not return to pitch in that game.

Two visits to the mound by a manager or coach results in the pitcher being removed from pitching and he can not return to pitch in that game.

### **39. GAME AND PARK CONDUCT**

Any gestures or verbal interaction/abuse by players, managers, coaches or fans, causing disorderly conduct, as determined by the Tournament Director, shall at a minimum result in ejection from the park for the current game plus the next 3 games.

Any threat, or act of violence, shall result in the removal and possible arrest of the responsible individual(s). It is a felony to assault any umpire in the cities where the World Series is played. Any person on the premises who is intoxicated shall also be removed from the premises by security personnel. Any person(s) removed under these circumstances shall be prohibited from entering park grounds including parking lots, for the duration of the tournament. Refunds will not be given to anyone ejected from the park. If the ejected party then causes a scene that results in the local Police Department being called the entire team will be disqualified from the tournament and no refunds will be issued. Should any player, coach, manager, or fan take part in any fighting, those individuals shall be ejected from the tournament on the first occurrence. Should any member of the team subsequently become involved in a second incident of fighting, the

entire team will be ejected from the tournament and barred from participating in any AAYBA event of a length of 24 months.

#### **40. TOBACCO**

Use of tobacco products of any kind is strictly prohibited on the fields and in the dugouts during any AAYBA event ... this includes umpires and tournament officials.

#### **41. DISRESPECT FOR THE GAME**

Any team(s) that conspire with another to determine the outcome of any game, or any team that makes a mockery of the game by intentionally failing to play to the best of its ability; or any team that intentionally, by its play, attempts to limit the score, or lose a game, which could affect other teams and standings, shall be immediately disqualified and will be prohibited from further competition in the event.

#### **42. PARENTS WITH CAMERAS**

**Parents are welcome to videotape and/or photograph their teams, however under no circumstance are they allowed in the dugout or inside the fence on the field. Parents ignoring this rule will result in both the parent and the manager being ejected from the game.**

### **MANAGERS ONLY**

For Rule Interpretations or Questions

For questions during an ongoing tournament use the Tournament Director on site. At other times you may call one of the two Umpires in Chiefs (UIC). Please do not call the UIC about any questions regarding tournament information unless it pertains to the rules. When calling please identify yourself as the Manager of (Team ?). If they are not home, please leave a message and they will get back with you as soon as possible. Do not depend on or expect a response if you send an email during a tournament as emails are not checked every day.

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