

# **GUIDE TO BMB FRANCHISED TOURNAMENTS**

## **American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC):**

AABC is a league based program that has eight (8) age divisions that BMB franchises with. They are Willie Mays (U10), Gil Hodges (U11), Pee Wee Reese (U12), Sandy Koufax 13's (U13), Sandy Koufax (U14), Ken Griffey, Jr. (U15), Mickey Mantle (U16), and Connie Mack (U18). AABC is the second largest amateur baseball organization in the US with franchised teams from all 50 states and Puerto Rico, only Little League is larger.

For birth eligibility, AABC uses April 30<sup>th</sup> as their cut-off date. Therefore, if a player turns 14 years old on May 1 or later this player would be considered a 13 year old player for league and tournament play; if the player turns 14 years old on April 30 or earlier this player would be considered a 14 year old player for league and tournament play.

All AABC tournaments for age divisions U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18 are based on a three (3) tier system, State, Regional and World Series. AABC requires that only league winners from an AABC franchised leagues are qualified to advance to the first level AABC Maryland State Tournament. The winner of the AABC Maryland State Tournament then advances on to the AABC North Atlantic Regional Tournament. The winner of AABC North Atlantic Regional Tournament then advances on to the AABC World Series.

All AABC tournaments for age divisions U11, U13, and U15 are based on a two (2) tier system, State and World Series. AABC requires that only league winners from an AABC franchised league are qualified to advance to the first level AABC Maryland State Tournament.

AABC Maryland State Tournaments are comprised of league winners from all AABC franchised leagues in Maryland. The winner of the AABC Maryland State Tournament then advances on to the AABC World Series for all age divisions.

AABC allows the addition of extra players for post-season tournament play. Below is the rule as written in the AABC Handbook:

### ***Extra Players for Tournament Play***

*The following Rule allows for the addition of players to a team's Roster for tournament play. However, in no event can a team's Roster exceed the limits set forth in Rule 105. Also, please remember substitutions for players on a Roster may only be made under limited circumstances under Rule 105 (a).*

### ***Rule 205***

*(a) Each team in AABC Tournament play may after regular season play add to its roster three (3) extra players from other teams in its League. No players may be dropped from the certified Roster except rule 105 (a). Where a League plays its regular season schedule in "divisions," the division in which a team plays shall be interpreted as its League and extra players for Tournament play must be selected from that division,*

*unless the divisions play an interlocking regular season schedule, in which case the extra players for Tournament play may be selected from any of the divisions.*

**Note: Some associations and leagues have more stringent rules governing extra players. Since their rules have priority over National rules, you should be familiar with the rules of your association and league. (Maryland Amateur Baseball holds more stringent rules for all AABC franchised teams in Maryland, these rules are covered in your BMB Official Rules).**

*(b) In addition to the extra players permitted under Rule 205 (a), teams from Leagues drawn from an area embracing a civil population averaging less than 20,000 per team (2000 census), may, with the written approval of the National Office, add up to two (2) additional players for a total of five (5) extra players for 18 AABC Tournament play. These two (2) additional players may only come from other teams in the League. To add additional players under this section: (1) the Association director must apply in writing to the National Office and the Regional Vice President on or before June 1st of the given year (an application form will be provided); and (2) individual Leagues must secure written permission from the Association director no later than June 1st of the given year. Such certification must be on file in the National Office no later than June 1st of the given year. (This rule does not apply to any AABC franchised teams in Maryland)*

*(c) In addition to the extra players permitted in Rules 205 (a) and 205 (b), teams advancing to National Competition may select up to two (2) extra players from any team in its respective Association or Region. One or both of these selections may be deferred until completion of the Regional Competition, but the host team for the AABC World Series shall have priority of choice within their region.*

*(d) The host team in an AABC World Series may select their two (2) extra players from any team in their respective Region.*

*(e) Any team in Regional or [National Competition; Definition includes Regional Play] may defer the selection of their extra players under Rule 205 (a), 205 (b) and 205 (c) until after other teams from their League have been eliminated in Association competition.*

*(f) Where a selected extra player submitted on the Roster but not yet certified, who has not yet actually played, fails to appear with the team, another player eligible under Rule 205 may be selected and substituted for him.*

*(h) If a player refuses a valid request to play as an extra player for a team, he may not be added as an extra player by another team. Note: Regional Qualifier & National Qualifier winners shall make their choices of extra players only after all other advancing teams have made their selections unless otherwise prescribed by the respective region.*

The team that qualifies in their league and advances to the AABC Maryland State Tournament is allowed to add extra players under the aforementioned rule remembering that the team roster cannot exceed a total of eighteen (18) players. For the AABC Maryland State Tournament the Extra Player pick-ups can only be added from teams in their league providing that team submitted a MAB Final Roster (two page document), and it must be on file with the AABC Maryland State President. All teams must follow

the rules and guidelines of their league before talking to or adding a player to their team for AABC Tournament play. (**BMB has very specific rules on the requirements that teams must adhere to before adding players for tournament play. This rule applies to all BMB Franchised tournaments and for any other tournament that a BMB team chooses to participate in.**)

The team that wins the AABC Maryland State Tournament can add one (1) bonus player, not to exceed a total roster of nineteen (19). This bonus player can be drawn from any eligible AABC team in your age division that is franchised in Maryland, providing that team submitted a Team Roster and is on file with the AABC Maryland State President. Therefore, before you ask any player to join as the bonus pick-up, you must first check to make sure he is eligible. Failure to follow any of the aforementioned guidelines for tournament pick-up players will result in these players being ruled ineligible to play for your team.

Financially, there is no compensation or financial assistance provided to a team at any tournament level, except for those teams that qualify for the AABC World Series; this does not apply to the AABC U11, U13 or U15 Age Division World Series tournaments. For the AABC Maryland State Tournament each team will be required to supply baseballs and pay one of the umpires at each game (two umpires will be used) for each of their tournament games. For the AABC North Atlantic Regional Tournaments and Single-Age Division World Series teams will be required to pay their own travel and living expenses, but there will be no additional fees required (tournament, game and/or umpire), nor are there any requirements to supply baseballs. (**All teams advancing to an AABC tournament that is held outside the State of Maryland will be eligible for one-share of the BMB Tournament Opt-Out Fund.**)

All AABC tournaments in the U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 are double-elimination events that follow a special bracketing system that requires that all teams keep playing. You can read more about this bracketing system in the AABC Handbook, Rule 211. For U11, U13 and U15 these are typically pool play events.

Tournament Field Sizes:      U10, U11, U12 -- 50'6" Pitching; 70' Bases  
  U13 – 54' Pitching; 80' Bases  
  U14, U15, U16, U18 – 60'6" Pitching; 90' Bases

Rules and tournament information can change from time to time, so it is important that you check their official web site @ [www.aabc.us](http://www.aabc.us) for updated information. If you are not a league champion advancing on to a AABC Tournament, **DO NOT** call the National Office requesting information for a tournament that you have not qualified for. If you have questions, call your AABC State Representative.

### **DIZZY DEAN Baseball:**

DIZZY DEAN is a league based program that has five (5) age divisions that BMB franchises with. They are Minor (U10), Freshman (U12), Sophomore (U14), Junior (U16), and Senior (U19).

Just like AABC DIZZY DEAN uses April 30<sup>th</sup> as their cut-off date for all age division except the Senior (U19) division which uses August 1 as the cut-off date.

All DIZZY DEAN tournaments for these age divisions are based on a two (2) tier system, Maryland State Tournament and World Series. DIZZY DEAN requires that only league winners from a DIZZY DEAN franchised league are qualified to advance to the first level DIZZY DEAN Maryland State Tournament which is comprised of league winners from all DIZZY DEAN franchised leagues in Maryland. The winner of the DIZZY DEAN Maryland State Tournament then advances on to the DIZZY DEAN World Series.

Teams that qualifies in their league and advances to the DIZZY DEAN Maryland State Tournament **ARE NOT** allowed to add players to their DIZZY DEAN Tournament Roster, only the players listed on their original DIZZY DEAN "Team Certificate of Entry," are eligible to participate in DIZZY DEAN tournament play.

For the Minor (U10) and Freshman (U12) age division no player can live more than fifteen (15) miles from their teams' home base to be eligible for DIZZY DEAN tournament play; for the Sophomore (U14) age division no player can live more than twenty (20) miles from their teams' home base. There is no mileage restriction for the Junior (U16) and Senior (U19) age divisions.

Financially, there is no compensation or financial assistance provided to a team at any tournament level. For the DIZZY DEAN Maryland State Tournament each team will be required to supply baseballs and pay one of the umpires at each game (two umpires will be used) for each of their tournament games. All DIZZY DEAN World Series teams will be required to pay their own travel and living expenses, but there will be no additional fees required (tournament, game and/or umpire), nor are there any requirements to supply baseballs. **(All teams advancing to a DIZZY DEAN World Series will be eligible for one-share of the BMB Tournament Opt-Out Fund.)**

All DIZZY DEAN tournaments are straight double-elimination events, modified pool play or pool play tournaments. This is determined for each age division tournament prior to the start date by the National Commissioner for DIZZY DEAN Baseball.

Tournament Field Sizes:      U10 – 48' Pitching; 60' Bases  
   U12 -- 50'6" Pitching; 70' Bases  
   U14 – 54' Pitching; 80' Bases  
   U16, U198 – 60'6" Pitching; 90' Bases

Rules and tournament information can change from time to time, so it is important that you check their official web site @ [www.dizzydeanbbinc.org](http://www.dizzydeanbbinc.org) for updated information. If you are not a league champion advancing on to a DIZZY DEAN Tournament, **DO NOT** call the National Office requesting information for a tournament that you have not qualified for. If you have questions, call your DIZZY DEAN National Board Member representing Maryland.

## **National Amateur Baseball Federation (NABF):**

NABF is a league based program that has four (4) age divisions that BMB franchises with. They are Sophomore (U14), Junior (U16), High School (U17), and Senior (U18).

All NABF tournaments for these age divisions are based on a two (2) tier system, NABF Regional Tournament and World Series. NABF requires that only league winners from a NABF franchised league are qualified to advance to the first level NABF Regional Tournament. The winner of the NABF Regional Tournament then advances on to the NABF World Series. Note – There is no Maryland State Tournament required with NABF.

NABF also offers their Classic World Series Tournaments age divisions U10, U11, U12, U13, and U15. These World Series are open to all NABF Franchised teams that wish to pay the required entry fee. These teams do not need to be League Winners to participate. Further, teams that pay to enter these tournaments do not have to play any other qualifying tournaments to participate in the Classic World Series.

For birth eligibility, NABF uses April 30<sup>th</sup> as their cut-off date except for the High School (U17) division, here they use January 1 as the cut-off date.

For some age divisions NABF allows advancement directly to the World Series (i.e., U17 High School Division). This is determined by the Executive Director for NABF prior during the spring of the current playing season. This can change from year to year so you need to check the NABF tournament schedule.

The team that qualifies in their league and advances to NABF Tournaments is allowed to add six (6) players to their NABF Tournament Roster, not to exceed a total of twenty-one (21) players. These players can only be drawn from teams in their league, providing that team submitted a Team Roster, and it must be on file with their League president, the NABF Tournament Director for their age division and the NABF National Office. Before you ask any player to join your team for NABF Tournament play, you must follow the rules and guidelines of their league and verify that he is eligible. Failure to follow any of the aforementioned guidelines for tournament pick-up players will result in these players being ruled ineligible to play for your team. **(BMB has very specific rules on the requirements that teams must adhere to before adding players for tournament play. This rule applies to all BMB Franchised tournaments and for any other tournament that a BMB team chooses to participate in.)**

Financially, there is no compensation or financial assistance provided to a team advancing to a NABF Regional Tournament; or to a NABF World Series that allows direct entry. Teams that are required to play in a NABF Regional Tournament and advances to the NABF World Series for their age division will receive travel money based on the round trip mileage from the regional tournament site. The total amount paid is pre-determined by the NABF National Office. In all cases, teams will be required to pay their own travel and living expenses, but there will be no additional fees required (tournament, game and/or umpire), nor are there any requirements to supply baseballs. **(All teams advancing to an NABF tournament that is held outside the State of Maryland will be eligible for one-share of the BMB Tournament Opt-Out Fund except for those teams that participate in an NABF Classic World Series.)**

Most NABF tournaments are pool-play events, but in some of their tournaments that may use double-elimination brackets. The type of tournament bracket used is at the sole discretion of the NABF National Office.

All U14, U16, High School Division and U18 require the use of wooden bats ONLY.

Tournament Field Sizes:      U10, U11, U12 -- 50'6" Pitching; 70' Bases  
   U13 – 54' Pitching; 80' Bases  
   U14, U15, U16, U17, U18 – 60'6" Pitching; 90' Bases

Rules and tournament information can change from time to time, so it is important that you check their official web site @ [www.nabf.com](http://www.nabf.com) for updated information. If you are not a league champion advancing on to a NABF Tournament, **DO NOT** call the National Office requesting information for a tournament that you have not qualified for. If you have questions, you're your League President.