

ARTICLE 4 PARTICIPANTS: MEMBER CITY & AFFILIATE MEMBERS

NO PLAYER SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY IN ANY T.A.A.F. SPORTS UNLESS THE PLAYER MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- 4.1** Must be an amateur in said sport and shall receive no pay to play for any team. An amateur is defined as "one who engages in sport for pleasure and for the physical, mental or social benefits, which he or she derives from that sport and to whom the sport is nothing more than an avocation."
- 4.2** Any player who has played professional sports shall be ineligible to participate in that sport for one (1) year after his last day as a member of a professional team. This rule shall not conflict with AABC rules in baseball.
- NOTE: The protesting individual(s) bear the entire burden of proof regarding a player's participation as a member of a professional team. The T.A.A.F. state commissioner has the final authority to accept or reject the protesting individual(s) "proof".
- 4.3** Meets all team qualifications in Article 1.
- 4.4** Does not play under an assumed name.
- 4.5** In order to compete in any T.A.A.F. play, a foreign player must reside in the state of Texas continuously for a minimum period of one (1) year prior to being eligible to play. EXCEPTION: Men's and Women's Fast Pitch foreign softball players' eligibility will be determined by the National Governing Body (NGB) for Softball. To be eligible to participate in T.A.A.F. softball, a copy of any document required to be on file by the NGB for softball must also be filed with the T.A.A.F. state office. The same filing deadline applies for the NGB and T.A.A.F.
- 4.6** An adult player may play on more than one team within a region, but must choose one team as his own prior to T.A.A.F. championship play.
- .01 No player may be on more than one roster, in a T.A.A.F. division, during T.A.A.F. championship play (region and state tournaments).
 - .02 A player must be on the sports roster by the deadline stated in the Participant Guide.
- 4.7** A player forced to transfer from one region to another by his employer may participate in the new region providing the player has been employed by the firm for at least one (1) full year prior to the transfer and the player remains employed by the same firm.
- 4.8** INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT
- .01 All individual sports participants must reside in the State of Texas.
- 4.9** No participant in an individual sport or a team in team sports may attempt to qualify through more than one city, region or affiliate. Should any team or individual be discovered in violation of this rule, he/she, or they shall be disqualified from that sport for that year. The team or individual attempting to qualify for state competition must attempt to qualify through the regional qualifier of the region in which they are registered.
- 4.10** PLAYER IDENTIFICATION:
- .01 A player must be prepared, at all times, to provide proof of identification. A driver's license or comparable identification, which includes a current photograph and signature, is acceptable.
 - .02 PROOF OF AGE: A player must be prepared, at all times, to provide proof of age when participating in T.A.A.F. sports categorized by age classifications or divisions. A driver's license or copy of a birth certificate from the Bureau of Vital Statistics is acceptable.
 - .03 A player failing to provide appropriate proof of age or identification, when requested by a Meet Director, Tournament Director or State Commissioner, may be declared ineligible and the team subject to disqualification.

4.11 AGE DETERMINATION DATES FOR YOUTH SPORTS

Sport	Age Determining Date
Basketball (Boy's & Girl's Winter)	September 1 of Current <i>School</i> Year
Basketball (Boy's & Girl's Summer)	September 1 of Current <i>Calendar</i> Year
Boxing	Based on age as of Games of Texas dates
Cheerleading	September 1 of <i>Current</i> Year
Flag Football - Youth	September 1 of <i>Current</i> Year
Golf - Youth	September 1 of <i>Current</i> Year
Inline Hockey	September 1 of <i>Current</i> Year
Kickball – Youth	September 1 of <i>Current</i> School Year
Youth Softball	December 31 of <i>Current</i> Year
Swimming	June 1 of <i>Current</i> Year
Tennis	Based on age as of Games of Texas dates
Track & Field	Based on <i>the Year</i> the Athlete was born
Volleyball - Youth – Fall season	September 1 of <i>Current</i> School Year
Volleyball - Youth – Spring season	March 1 of the <i>Current</i> School Year

- 4.12 All participants in adult team sports must have attained the age of sixteen (16) prior to the registration date for teams in that sport, unless specific sport regulations provide otherwise.
- 4.13 All teams must wear like colored, non-duplicated numbered jerseys for regional and state tournaments.

ARTICLE 5 CHURCH SPORTS

- 5.1 All tournaments held under the name of the church T.A.A.F. tournaments will be conducted according to the regular T.A.A.F. rules as set forth in this handbook, unless otherwise stated in this section.
- 5.2 In the event T.A.A.F. obtains 15 or more Church Members, those members and any member with church registrations will vote on location of church state tournaments.
- .01 Vote calculations for these tournaments will be determined by the members' church classification registrations.
- 5.3 A church member is one who regularly attends the religious services of the sponsoring congregation. If a church member attends the services of two or more churches and is on a "BONAFIDE" membership role of one of the churches, then the player is ruled a member of the church where his name appears on the membership role. Rosters must be certified by the pastor (rabbi, priest, minister, reverend, etc.) of the church and must meet all other church sports requirements.
- 5.4 A player may play on his church team as well as any other non-church (open) team, providing he meets the eligibility requirements of church sports to participate on his church team.
- 5.5 Any church that uses a player who is ineligible under Rule 5.3 at any time during the regular season will not be eligible for T.A.A.F. regional and state tournaments.
- 5.6 Teams registered as "Church" teams must include the name of their church or sponsoring congregation in their team's name.

ARTICLE 6 RETURNING TEAMS

6.1 All T.A.A.F. team champions (except youth basketball, baseball and Church Men's Class B and C) shall be eligible to return to state tournament as defending champions provided they have not been reclassified and have the following minimum returning players:

SOFTBALL SLOW PITCH	10 PLAYERS
SOFTBALL FAST PITCH	9 PLAYERS
FLAG FOOTBALL	6 PLAYERS
BASKETBALL	4 PLAYERS
VOLLEYBALL	4 PLAYERS