

National Adult Baseball Association

Father/Son/Daughter Tournament Rules

1. **Approved Player Combinations:** Each player must meet the criteria outlined in the "Approved Player Combination" chart shown below. Anyone is allowed to play, but they must meet the Father/Son/Daughter Eligibility rules to determine their division.

Father Designation

Father
Grandfather
Uncle (50 yrs or older)
Son (50 yrs or older)

Son Designation

Son/Step Son/Son-in-law
Grandson
Nephew
Uncle (49 yrs or younger)

The minimum age to play is 16 years of age in the calendar year. You must obtain a waiver to allow a player under the age of 16 to participate in the tournament. Uncles or Sons 50 years of age or older qualify to play as "Fathers." Uncles 49 years and under must play as "Sons." Uncles and Nephews qualify as "related" fathers/sons under the exception rule explained above. Players who have a son and a father participating in the tournament will decide whether to play as a father or a son, according to the player combination schedule. "Daughter" and "Niece," etc., can be substituted for "Son" and "Nephew."

2. **Pitching Guidelines:** Fathers and Sons must each pitch four complete innings (12 outs) of each eight- or nine-inning game; three complete innings (9 outs) of each seven-inning game; and two complete innings (6 outs) of each legal five- or six-inning game. Note: If a team pitches the first four innings of a scheduled nine-inning game with just "fathers" or with just "sons" and then switches to the other designation the next four innings (*or to the remainder of the game*), the game cannot be declared a forfeit due to a shortened game. If the game does go nine innings, the ninth inning may be pitched by either "fathers" or "sons."
3. **Offense:** 15 players must complete at least one at-bat in every scheduled 9-inning game, and 12 players in a scheduled 7-inning game. **No more than two sons may bat consecutively. Ten minimum batting order slots are required. Batters must use bats with a wood or composite hitting surface only.**
4. **Offensive Batting Order:** Each manager has the prerogative to bat as many players as they desire in their initial lineup. If the manager wishes to add players to the bottom of the lineup (i.e., hitting positions 11, 12, 13, 14, etc.), he may do so at any time. Added players to the bottom of the line-up may be added as individual hitters or as A/B. Any added player to the bottom of the lineup or pinch hitter must notify the opposing team manager of the batting order change. If no notification is made, and proper protest is made, an automatic out will be assessed to that batter. If a starting player is pinch-hit for, they may re-enter the game in the same spot as a hitter one time. However, the pinch hitter will now be out of the game offensively but may stay in the game defensively. Batters may not be deleted or skipped over, regardless of their batting position or the time at which they were added to the game. If a team increases the size of its lineup to 15 hitters, it must always have 15 hitters in its lineup.
5. **Electing to bat, any number of players may be included, and the A/B Batting Position Rule may be used. A team may declare at the time that lineups are exchanged before the start of play that two players in each such position will occupy any batting order position.** That is, 3A/3B, 10A/10B, and so on. The first time position 3 gets an at-bat, 3A would hit, and the next time this slot comes up, 3B would be up. Then 3A hits the third time this spot in the order comes up, and so on, alternating between these two players throughout the game. Once a team declares the use of this A/B system, it must continue using it for the remainder of the game. Hitters in the A/B position from the batting order may be pinch hit for, just as any other player. An A/B position may be added to the bottom of the lineup at any time during the game. Teams cannot add a "B" batter to an existing lineup spot once the game begins. A player batting in a "shared" slot may vacate and substitute for an injured player who does not have a "shared spot" in the lineup without an out.

The shared position must be Father/Father or Son/Son). A shared position in the offensive batting order may be initiated at any time at the manager's discretion. Managers must notify opposing managers when players in shared-batting order positions are being switched. A player batting in a "shared" slot may vacate and substitute for an injured player who does not have a "shared spot" without penalty of an out.

An out will be assessed if an injured father is unable to bat in his designated batting position and there is no available father to bat in his place, resulting in 3 sons batting consecutively. **Exception:** A father batting in a "shared" slot may vacate that spot and substitute for an injured father batter who does not have a "shared" spot without penalty of an out.

6. **Batting order and offensive starter re-entry rule:** A starter in the batting order may be removed, and a substitute may bat in that player's place at any point during a game, but it must be a father for a father and a son for a son. The starter may return to bat again, but only in the original spot in the batting order and only after the replacement has had at least one plate appearance. The substitute may not bat

again once removed from the batting order. Please remember that only the starter may re-enter during the game. Any other player re-entering the order will be treated as batting out of order under Official Baseball rule #6.07

7. **Pinch Runners:** Pinch runners replace batters in the batting order. Sons must pinch run for sons, and fathers must pinch run for fathers.
8. **Defense:** There must be a minimum of 4 fathers on defense at all times.
9. **Start Times:** Game start times will be approximately 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted on your schedules. Should a team fail to arrive or have an entire team ready to play (8 or more under the 8-man start and finish rule) by the scheduled start time, a maximum 1-hour grace period will be allowed and the exact amount of time given to that team will be deducted from the original starting time so that the game will be shortened by that amount of time. (Example: If the game starts 15 minutes late due to one team's being late, no full inning will start after 2 hours and 45 minutes have passed since play began.) Assuming the game starts within the 1-hour grace period, the late team will forfeit one run for every 15 minutes to the other team, and the game will begin at 1-0, starting with the first minute. In other words, if the start time is 8:30, the score is 1-0 at 8:31; 2-0 at 8:46; 3-0 at 9:01; 4-0 at 9:16 and a forfeit at 9:31. (However, the actual forfeit score "in the scorebook" for tiebreaker purposes will be 9-0.) This rule will not apply if the late team is coming off a back-to-back game. Additionally, games that start late due to the previous game running over (and not due to a team's lateness) will not be shortened. (E.g., if both teams arrive at a scheduled 3:30 p.m. game on time and have to wait until another game finishes and do not start until 4:00 p.m., that game will be allowed the whole time under the 3-hour Time Limit rule, provided there is adequate light.) **START TIMES WILL BE ENFORCED.**
10. **Time Limit:** A 3-hour time limit applies to all pool play games. No new inning may start after the 3-hour mark. If two teams are tied after 9 innings in pool play and have not played for 3 hours, they may continue to play for up to 3 hours. However, no new inning may start after the 3-hour mark, and all extra innings will use the International Tiebreaker Rule, as explained in Rule 2A below. All games tied at the end of the 3-hour mark will remain tied. There is a 3-hour time limit for all playoff games. There will be a 3-hour time limit on all Championship games. There is an extra inning rule for all playoff and championship games.

10A. Extra Innings Rule: If two teams are tied at the end of nine innings or 3 hours, whichever comes first, of a playoff or championship game, the teams will use the following rule:

- *The extra inning after the 9th inning will begin with a runner on second base. The runner on second base will be the player in the batting order position previous to the leadoff batter of the inning (or a substitute for that player). By way of example, if the number five hitter in the batting order is due to lead off the 11th inning, the number four player in the batting order (or a pinch-runner for such player) shall begin the inning on second base. Any runner or batter removed from the game who is an original starter in the offensive lineup shall be eligible to return to the game, but only after the substitute has had at least one at-bat in the game, as per the Official NABA Baseball Rules.*

11. **Games Called Due to Darkness:** Except for Playoff games, any game that has gone at least (5) complete innings before being called because of darkness (on an unlighted field) will be deemed a "complete game" or "regulation game" for "pool play purposes" by the 2025 Official Baseball Rule (4.10(c)(1)). The NABA will do its best to minimize travel times between games, ensuring that games can begin on time. Additionally, games scheduled at 3:30 p.m. on fields without lights can also start on time and be completed with 9 innings of play. If a game during pool play has progressed to (5) complete innings and is called due to darkness by an umpire before the bottom of the inning is completed, then the score of the game will revert to the previous inning, and the game will be ruled complete. For Playoff games only, at the discretion of the umpires and the tournament director, games to be "called due to darkness" will either be moved to an available field with lights the same evening (after checking in with the Tournament Directors' office) or continued until the next day at another field (to be determined by the Tournament Director) so that these games can go a full 3 hours or nine innings of play; provided, however, the "continuation of the game" is under the 2025 Official Baseball Rule (4.12(d)).
12. **Games Called Due to Rain:** Except for Playoff games and Championship games, any game that has gone at least (5) complete innings before being called because of rain will be deemed a "complete game" or "regulation game" for "pool play purposes" under the 2025 Official Baseball Rule (4.10(c)(1)). NABA will do its best to ensure that all pool play games are given every consideration to complete as many innings as possible (as determined by the tournament director) in the event of rain. If a game during pool play has progressed to (5) complete innings and is called due to rain by an umpire before the bottom of the inning is completed, then the score of the game will revert to the previous inning, and the game will be ruled complete. For playoff or championship games only, at the discretion of the umpires and the tournament director, games will be "suspended due to rain". They will be continued at the point where the game is suspended on an available field that is playable the same day or evening or continued the next day at the same field or another field (as determined by the tournament director) so that these games can go a full 3 hours or nine innings of play.
13. **Mercy Rule:** There is a 10-run mercy rule after seven innings in effect for all pool play and playoff games. The mercy rule will not apply to Championship games.

14. **Eligibility Protest: NEW-IMPORTANT:** All protests regarding the identity of a player must be made on the field with the umpire and opposing team manager, specifying the number of the player in question. If a team is caught CHEATING with a player who is not on the roster or who cannot verify their eligibility with a valid driver's license or identification card; the team will be assessed a forfeit for that game. The NABA rules committee will then determine whether a protest or consequence should be imposed on the team for the entire tournament due to the violation. If a protest is made, please do the following:

- a. Inform the umpire of the protest and the reason for it, providing them with \$100 and your cell phone number to contact the Head Umpire Assigner.
- b. Ensure the game has stopped from the moment of the protest and note the inning and number of outs. If not, the protest will not be heard.
- c. The home plate umpire will contact the NABA Umpire Assigner or the NABA Tournament Office to report the protest. He will give the phone to the manager to explain the protest. Once done, give the phone back to the umpire.
- d. The umpire will ask the opposing manager to provide proof of age and identity for the specific player, which may include a valid driver's license or picture ID.
- e. After consulting the tournament rules committee, the umpire assigner and the tournament director will decide on the protest. Any player unable to produce a valid driver's license or picture ID will result in an immediate forfeit for the team in question for only that game.

15. **Protests:** All protests must be filed with the plate umpire at the time in the game the manager believes an umpire's decision violates these rules. We will follow the rules precisely by the 2025 Official Baseball Rules (4.19) from the National Baseball Congress, except for the regulations published in this section. By filing a protest, the manager agrees, under this rule, to submit a \$100 non-refundable cash fee (refundable only if the protest is upheld) to the umpire at the field. If a protest is made, **please do the following:**

- a. Inform the umpire of the protest and the reason for it, providing them with \$100 and your cell phone number to contact the Head Umpire Assigner.
- b. Ensure the game has stopped from the moment of the protest and note the inning and number of outs. If not, the protest will not be heard.
- c. The home plate umpire will contact the NABA Umpire Assigner or the NABA Tournament Office to report the protest. He will give the phone to the manager to explain the protest. Once done, give the phone back to the umpire.
- d. After consulting the tournament rules committee, the umpire assigner and the tournament director will decide on the protest.

No time will be added to the clock during a protest. The clock will continue to run to keep the tournament on schedule. If the protest is upheld, the umpire will return the money to the manager; if the protest is denied, the umpire retains the money. Remember, an umpire's "judgment" call cannot be protested; only rule interpretations can be protested. PLEASE NOTE: Only the tournament director has the authority, if needed, to stop the clock or to add time remaining to the game. If the protest rules are not followed exactly as stated, the protest will not prevail.

16. **Reporting Scores:** Both teams must report all scores within one hour of the game's completion to the tournament scoreline. It is the team manager's responsibility to verify their team's score with the official tournament headquarters records. No discrepancies will be altered after seeding for playoffs.

17. **Tiebreakers:** See the official NABA Tournament tiebreaker rules attached.

18. **Additional Rules:**

- f. If a team registered for the tournament decides not to come and does not communicate with tournament officials until after the schedule has been completed, the following rule will apply: The schedule will be played as written, and each team scheduled to play the said team which did not show up for the tournament will receive a forfeit win of 9-0. No pro-rated refund of a team fee will be given as a result of a forfeit win.
- a. If a team that can make the playoffs decides not to play a pool game, or if any team decides to stop playing any game and leave for any reason, the following rule will apply: The game will be called a forfeit loss for the team or teams who decides not to play or decided to leave or stop playing the game regardless of the importance of the game. If the game is a playoff or championship game, the win or championship will go to the remaining team.
- b. Furthermore, if the weather does not permit championship games to be played, the team with the best overall winning percentage, or, if still tied, as determined by the NABA Tiebreaker Rules, will be declared the champion. There are no Co-Champions, as every game in pool play matters.
- c. No warming up in the infield or around the dugouts. Use ONLY the outfield area to warm up. Do not warm up in front of the dugouts—no SOFT-TOSS or hitting baseballs into the fences. There is no alcohol on the baseball fields or in the dugouts at all. No smoking is allowed on the baseball fields or in the dugouts at any time—tobacco is strictly prohibited on the baseball fields and

in the dugouts. Use only the restrooms provided. If you are caught not using the restrooms, both the player and the team will forfeit their game, be ejected from the facility, and will not be allowed to play at that facility for the remainder of the tournament.

- d. NABA uses a mix-n-match uniform rule in all tournaments for combination teams. You can use the same uniform number with or without the same type of uniform as long as it is declared at the plate meeting with both players' last names and numbers on the lineup card.
 - e. All other rules of baseball (outlined in the 2025 Official Baseball Rules published by the National Baseball Congress), amended by the rules outlined in the NABA Manager's Rulebook and Guidelines, except as amended above, apply.
19. **Bat Requirements:** The Father/Son division is a wood bat-only tournament. In the wood bat divisions, NATURAL WOOD BATS, COMPOSITE WOOD BATS, AND METAL/WOOD BATS are permitted for use during play.
20. **Courtesy Runner:** Fathers can declare up to 4 players who can have another player run for them in the event they reach base. Son's can have up to 2 players who can have another player run for them in the event they reach base. Those who require the courtesy runners are called non-runners ("NR"). The courtesy runner will always be **the last recorded out**. Fathers must run for fathers, and sons must run for sons. It is not mandatory to use this rule, as the manager has the option to do so, depending on the situation. But if a change is made, it must be at the furthest base the player reaches safely on that play. If the non-runner advances to any base beyond that reached before the next pitch, a courtesy runner may not be used. The courtesy runner must enter the game before the next pitch, or the use of the courtesy runner is forfeited on that play. Failure to promptly send the courtesy runner to the field may result in a "delay of game" call, which could lead to the original runner being called out. Players who will not run must be designated as such on the lineup card, with the "NR" symbol next to their name, before the game begins. This rule applies only to the player(s) and not the position in the batting order. If a listed available substitute is a "Non-runner", they must be so designated on the lineup card. If the non-runner is the first player up in the first inning of a game, the courtesy runner will be the last player in the batting order. There is a speed-up rule allowing runners for the catcher only and with two outs only. Any improper use of a courtesy runner, including the use of the improper or wrong replacement, shall result in the non-runner being scored as an out if the it is appealed in the appropriate manner by the opposing team.
21. **Roster Limits:** NABA's maximum roster size is limited to 30 players.
22. **No Collision/Slide Rule:** The NABA has a No Collision/Slide Rule defined as follows: The intent of this rule is to ensure the safety of the defensive player. This is both a safety and an interference rule. Whether the defense could have completed the double play has no bearing on the applicability of this rule.
- A. The runner must slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases.
 - i. **EXCEPTION** – A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making deliberate contact or altering the fielder's play.
 - ii. "On the ground" means either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground.
 - iii. "Directly into a base" means the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk, and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.
 - iv. **Example 1** – If a runner enters a base standing up and does not make contact or alter the defensive player's play, interference shall not be called.
 - B. Contact with a fielder is legal, and interference shall not be called if the runner:
 - i. Makes a legal slide directly to the base, or
 - ii. Is on the ground at the time of contact, and the fielder moves directly down the line between the two bases to attempt a play.
 - iii. Makes a legal slide and makes contact with a defensive player who is on or over, but not beyond, the base.
 - iv. **Example 2** – When the base runner slides beyond the base but does not (1) make contact with or (2) alter the play of the defensive player, interference shall not be called.
 - C. Actions by a runner are **illegal**, and interference shall be called if:
 - i. The runner slides or runs out of the baseline in the direction of the fielder;
 - ii. The runner uses a rolling, cross-body, or pop-up slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of a fielder;
 - iii. The runner's raised leg makes contact higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position;
 - iv. The runner goes beyond the base, and either makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder ("Beyond the base" means any part of the offensive player's body makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder beyond the base.)
 - v. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg;
 - vi. The runner illegally slides toward or contacts the fielder even if the fielder does not attempt to throw to complete a play.

PENALTY for 1-6:

1. With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out, and no other runner(s) shall advance.
2. With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out, and no other runner(s) shall advance.
3. If the runner's slide or collision is deemed flagrant, the umpire may eject the runner from the contest based on their judgment.

Note: The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, and unsportsmanlike actions by the runner, specifically for the purpose of crashing into the fielder rather than attempting to reach the base. This is a judgment call by the umpire.

It is the umpire's judgment whether a collision or slide intentionally violates this rule. This includes using elbows or lowering a shoulder in an attempt to cause a fielder to drop a held ball. The umpires may, at any time, eject any player who makes contact with another player to cause injury. A player may not block the base path or a base without possession of the ball. For example, a catcher may not block the plate without the ball. The right of way belongs to the runner. Most catchers should know to offer the runner part of the plate to make him slide inside or out.

The NABA reserves the right to refuse permission to any player or team to participate in a tournament. The NABA reserves the right to add, delete, merge, or create divisions or divisional formats based on the number of teams entered at any time before the tournament, and will make every effort to provide teams with advance notice. However, NABA may not be able to do so. Suppose a team plans to enter a division that has been deleted. In that case, it may be transferred to another division, receive a refund minus the deposit, or have the balance transferred to another NABA National or World Championship Tournament, provided the request is made at least 5 days before check-in. The NABA also reserves the right to modify the rules or adjust prizes and/or giveaways (with a substitute of equal or greater value), which would take effect upon notice to the teams participating in the tournament.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NUMBER OF GUARANTEED POOL GAMES WILL BE FIVE (5) FOR ALL THE DIVISIONS (AS PUBLISHED ON PROMOTIONAL FLYERS) AND THERE WILL BE ONE OR TWO ROUNDS OF PLAYOFFS, FOLLOWED BY CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES, FOR EACH SEPARATE DIVISION UNLESS ALTERED BY EVENTS OR HAPPENSTANCE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE NABA, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INCLEMENT WEATHER, WAR, RIOTS, CIVIL DISORDER, FIELDS BEING OUT OF ORDER, OR ACTS OF GOD.

(UP-01/01/25)