

# KINGS/NATIONS TOURNAMENTS

Hosted by Kings Sports, LLC

## 2017 Tournament Rules

Updated 11/10/16

All rules will correspond with the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules, with the following exceptions:

- 1) TEAM ROSTERS ARE FROZEN AND MUST BE ONLINE AT [WWW.NATIONS-BASEBALL.COM](http://WWW.NATIONS-BASEBALL.COM) PRIOR TO YOUR FIRST TOURNAMENT GAME. No additions to your roster are permitted during the event and players are only allowed to participate for one team.
  - *Teams should have your players birth certificates readily available at all times. If a player's age is questioned, you have 5 minutes to provide proof of age. If you can not provide proof of age, the player will be removed immediately from the tournament and a forfeit will be awarded.*
  - *There is a protest fee of \$100 cash for this and must be paid to file a protest a player's age. Money will be returned if protest is upheld. If the Tournament Director believes a coach has intentionally used an ineligible player, that team will forfeit all past and future games and will be removed from the tournament and not receive a refund.*
- 2) TOURNAMENT FORMAT. When in pool play teams will earn 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. Based upon those standings, teams are seeded and advanced to the single elimination brackets. In the event of a tie in the pool games, tiebreakers in the following order will be used:
  - *Most Points*
  - *Head to head (only when two (2) teams are tied)*
  - *Fewest Runs Allowed*
  - *Most Runs Scored*
  - *Coin toss.*
- 3) EXTRA HITTER RULE and ROSTER BATTING. Teams may elect to Roster Bat or you may also choose to bat 1 extra hitter (10) as an EH and that player can go into the game defensively without penalty, and you may also use a DH. Free substitutions when teams elects to Roster Bat. You also have the option to bat nine (9) in accordance with major league rules and may have a DH for any player in the field. Starters can re-enter, subs cannot.
- 4) BATS. BBCOR stamped bats acceptable for NFHS use are permitted at any age level if the participant is strong enough to do so. Wood and/or composite bats are also permissible. In addition, in age levels 14 and under, bats bearing the 1.15 BPF stamp on the bottom of the bat barrel are permissible. We will permit 1.15 BPF bats of 2 3/4" (2 5/8 is the standard) diameter for tournament play. If a

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player uses an illegal bat, the batter is out, the player is ejected and the coach is ejected from the game.

- 5) **WOOD BATS.** In a wood bat tournament, bats must be made of all wood only. Bamboo and composite bats are not allowed.
- 6) **PLAYER INJURY.** If a player becomes injured (as ruled by the umpire) and is unable to continue playing, his spot in the batting order shall be skipped with no penalty. Once an injured player leaves the batting order, he is done playing for the remainder of that game.
- 7) **CONCUSSION RULE.** Any player that shows signs of a concussion, and is removed from a game, cannot return to play the remainder of the tournament. Only the player's Coach, Umpire or Tournament Director can remove a player from a game due to concussion symptoms. No penalty shall be incurred by a team that has a player removed due to concussion symptoms. If a removed player returns, the team will be disqualified from the tournament.
- 8) **INTENTIONAL WALK.** There will be no pitches thrown to intentionally walk a batter. Notify the umpire and the batter will be awarded first base.
- 9) **FIELD DIMENSIONS:**

Age Group	Pitching	Basepaths
9u/10u	46 ft	65 ft
11u	50 ft	70 ft
12u	50 ft	70 ft
13u	54 ft	80 ft
14u +	60 ft 6 in	90 ft

- 10) **TWO TRIPS TO THE MOUND.** Any time a coach or manager makes two trips to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher, on the second trip that pitcher must be removed and may not pitch the remainder of that inning. Anytime a pitcher is removed they cannot pitch again in that inning.
- 11) **PITCHING LIMITATIONS.** Pitching will be logged at [www.nations-baseball.com](http://www.nations-baseball.com) (Limitations of pitching are based upon recorded outs while the pitcher is on the mound)
  - a. In all age groups that are scheduled for six innings, a pitcher cannot pitch more than 18 outs (6 innings) in any given day.

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- b. In all age groups 16 and younger that are scheduled for seven innings, a pitcher cannot pitch more than 21 outs (7 innings) in any given day.
- c. For six-inning games, a pitcher cannot pitch more than 27 outs in a three-day tournament, regardless of game guarantee.
- d. For seven-inning 16U and younger games, a pitcher cannot pitch more than 30 outs in a three-day tournament, regardless of game guarantee.
- e. Any pitcher in the 16U or younger divisions that has pitched three days in a row must rest the 4th day regardless of outs recorded. 17-18u only – No restrictions/limitations
- f. Pitching limitations stop for the day when the park is shut down for the night and the teams leave the park. h. When games are suspended and continued the next day, pitching imitations are split between the two days. i. In the case of a double or triple play, there is no penalty for exceeding outs recorded.
- j. Any outs recorded during a game once it is ruled a forfeit count toward the pitcher's recorded outs.
- k. A violation of the pitching limitation is determined when the pitcher has delivered a pitch to the next batter after reaching his pitching limit. If the limit is reached at the end of an inning, it shall be a violation if the pitcher toes the rubber to begin a new inning. If the pitcher is protested after reaching their limitation after delivering a pitch to the next batter after reaching his pitching limit and prior to recording an additional out exceeding their pitching limit, the pitcher shall be ejected from the game. If the pitcher records an additional out or outs exceeding their pitching limitation, the game shall be ruled a forfeit. An illegal pitcher can be protested anytime during the game. Once the game has ended, the official scorecard has been signed and the umpires have left the field, the game will be considered official & a protest for pitching violation shall not be allowed. Additional penalties, including suspensions and ejection from the event may apply.
- l. A pitcher removed from the pitching position cannot return to the pitching position during the game, but can re-enter to any other position.

- *Pitching Limitations – Make sure you know the rules – do not penalize your team/players. Do not blame the tournament, its directors and or association if your team or staff does not follow the rules and or does not catch an infraction. Pitching is tracked and recorded and it is available online for viewing, but it is up to each team to make sure pitchers are eligible (including your opponent). If the online score and pitching is not updated, send a team coach to tourney HQ to get any updates. Pitching limitations/restrictions can be found in the NATIONS Guidelines Manual or main items listed above. Tracking of pitching will be done by recorded outs. Make sure your pitching is correct prior to signing your official game card at the conclusion of your game. Protests and or complaints on pitching will not be discussed after the game is completed, official game card is signed by both team representatives and recorded at tournament headquarters. SEE BELOW PROTEST PROCEDURES*
- *Pitching Protests:* *Make sure you stop the game with the proper protest fee. Do not rely on your parents or tournament help to determine whether or not something is a*

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*valid protest. KNOW THE RULES and the PROTEST PROCESS. If a team protests, the manager must immediately notify the home plate umpire and the umpire will summons a tournament director to the field to address the protest. The protest fee is \$100.00 in cash. The fee is returned if the protest is ruled in favor of the protesting team. Judgement calls cannot be protested. \* No protests will be allowed after the next legal pitch is made or after a game is completed, score cards are signed and the umpires have left the field of play\* Do not come to tournament headquarters to try to file a protest or complaint after everyone has left the field of play, game is recorded and or the event is completed, it is your duty and responsibility as a manager to know the rules and to file a correct protest (especially pitching infractions). KNOW THE RULES AND PROCESS – DO NOT PLACE BLAME ON THE TOURNAMENT AND OR DIRECTORS IF YOU MISS SOMETHING. IT IS NOT OUR DUTY TO NOTIFY YOU AND YOUR PARENTS OF ANY VIOLATION OR INFRACTION DURING A GAME.*

12) LENGTH OF GAME. 7 inning games (13u+), 6 inning games (9u-12u) No inning can begin after two (2) hours.

- For 13u-17u, for Championship Bracket or Consolation games, no inning can begin after one hour & fifty minutes (1:50). The time limit begins when the game starts, not when the game is scheduled to start. Only pool and consolation games can end in a tie. Championship Games in any bracket do not have a time limit. *All games within a Championship Bracket have a time limit, except for the final Championship Game.*

13) COMPLETE GAME – If a game is suspended due to weather, it's considered a complete game if three (3) full innings of play have been completed. The score is taken from the last fully completed inning. If the tournament is shortened by weather delays, the Tournament Director has the discretion determine a game complete and take the score from the last completed inning as final, .

14) RUN RULE. If the home or visiting team has an eight (8) run lead or more at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the game shall be called.

15) FORFEIT POLICY BECAUSE OF LACK OF PLAYERS. A team will be allowed a 10-minute grace period from the scheduled starting time of a game to field nine (9) able-bodied players before a forfeit may be declared. Teams arriving late give up all rights to infield and warm-ups other than the usual 8 pitches for the starting pitchers.

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*If at any point in the game a team can not field nine players they may continue playing with less than nine players provided an automatic out is recorded to the vacant spot(s) in the batting order.*

*In the event of forfeiture, the winning team is assigned a final score of 7 to 0. Teams that forfeit a game in pool play are not eligible to win their pool, unless approved by the Tournament Director.*

- 16) METAL SPIKES. No metal spikes are permitted for 9u – 12u teams, they are permitted for 13u and older teams. Metal spikes are not permitted on any of the turf fields we may use in our tournaments. Metal spikes are not allowed on any artificial turf field.
- 17) SLIDE RULE. Players do not have to slide at any base, but MUST avoid malicious contact. The result of malicious contact will result in runner being called out and player will be ejected for the remainder of that game ONLY.
- 18) SLIDING BASE RULE – When sliding, the runner shall remain on the ground until the umpire calls time. If the player gets up and moves before the umpire calls time, the runner will be called OUT if tagged and not standing on the original spot of the base. If the player moves the base and gets up and makes it to the next base, the future runner will go to the original spot of the base. *(This only applies when bases are not pegged or tied down)*
- 19) SCORE KEEPING. Home team book will serve as the official book. All scores must be reported by the winning team to the Tournament Director after each game. Failure to report scores within 45 minutes after the end of the game, will result in forfeit of the game. If available, Away team will provide a scoreboard operator.
- 20) PRE-GAME INFIELD – There will be NO infield practice. No hitting into fences. Please do not step on foul lines. No practice is allowed on any unused fields during the tournament.
- 21) HOME TEAM. Will be determined by coin flip prior to the game for pool and consolation games. Games in Championship Bracket, the team with the higher seed will be home, if a higher seed cannot be determined then a coin flip.
- 22) DISORDERLY CONDUCT. Any player, coach, or parent/fan whose conduct is unsportsmanlike or “out of place” will be at the least warned, but may be removed from the playing field at the discretion of the tournament officials or the

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umpires. Additional infractions may result in team being disqualified from the tournament.

23) **MANAGER, PLAYER or COACH EJECTION.** If a manager, player or coach is ejected from the game, he/she must sit out the remainder of the tournament, unless approved by the Tournament Director. The manager, player or coach must be removed from the facility for all remaining games. It is the responsibility of the manager and/or coach to remove themselves. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the entire team being removed from the tournament.

24) **PROTESTS.** No Protests allowed. Umpire decisions will be final, only interpretation of the tournament rules will be allowed to be questioned during the game.

25) **TIE BREAKER RULE.** This only applies to games played in the Championship Bracket and not the Championship Game, pool games or consolation games. This format can be used in other games, at the discretion of the Tournament Director to speed up games.

This is the continuation of the original game, teams remain HOME and AWAY as determined by the original coin toss. Each inning of the format will begin with two (2) outs, with home team taking the field. Base-runners are placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base, based upon the last two hitters in the lineup. Play continues in this manner until there is a winner of the game. Strict adherence to the batting order shall be maintained, and all game/tournament rules remain in effect. Innings pitched do not count towards limits within tournament rules.

26) **SPEEDUP RULE.** Teams may use a courtesy runner for both the pitcher and catcher of the previous inning. Courtesy runner would be the player that made the last recorded out if batting the roster, or a player not currently in the lineup when batting 9 or 10 batters.

27) **BASEBALLS.** Each team will supply one new baseball and one good condition used baseball for each game. Baseballs are provided for Championship Games.

28) **PROCEDURE FOR BETWEEN INNINGS.** Each team will be allowed no more than five (5) pitches for their pitcher. All infield warm-ups must end when the pitcher has finished their five (5) warm up pitches.

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- 29) OFFENSIVE CONFERENCES. Teams will not be permitted to continually stop the game for offensive conferences such as talking to batters, base runners, on deck batters or other offensive team personnel. If a team makes many requests for time outs, umpires may limit such conferences per half inning.
- 30) MODIFICATIONS TO SCHEDULE/FORMAT – The Tournament Director may modify the number or length of games when necessary due to weather, field or scheduling issues. This includes modifying the time limit or number of innings if games get delayed for any reason.
- 31) REFUND POLICY. In the event of weather related cancellation of games the following will be the policy for refunds, upon request:
- a) No Games Played – 60% of the entry fee, or credit to future event.
  - b) 1 Game played – Refund will be 50% of the entry fee.
  - c) No Refunds will be permitted once the second game has been started.
  - d) Once a game is started, it's considered a "game played"
  - e) No refunds will be provided to teams that withdraw less than 60 days before the event or once the event is sold out.
  - f) No refunds will be provided for forfeited games.
  - g) Any refund owed to a team will be paid within 60 days of request
- 32) AWARDS – Team and individual trophies will be awarded to the winner and runner up of the Championship Game in each age group and bracket, individual trophies awarded to runner-up team. 14 trophies per team maximum.