



2026 National Championship Information Packet

You MUST read through ALL info below and understand everything before coming to Nationals!!

Note: please check back to this info packet as changes could be made or more info could be posted later and make sure you are checking the website for new info posted there as well.

Schedule

The schedule will be posted on our website (www.playntba.com) and on our free NTBA Smart Phone App (see info below for downloading instructions).

Note: The app is the best way to view the schedule (but make sure you are checking the website and click on the "TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES" page as we will post other important information and documents there as well).

***Once the game schedule is posted on our NTBA App, make sure to check back daily for updates/changes to the schedule (and especially check back the day before and the first day of the tournament for any last-minute changes to the schedule)**

NTBA App

Make sure you download the FREE NTBA app if you have a smartphone from your app store or google play store on your phone. Simply search "NTBA Basketball" and our free app will come right up. This is by far the BEST way to view the schedule and to see what seed you will be for bracket play (and to view the pre-set brackets ahead of time as well).

*Make sure you sign up for “notifications” through our NTBA app as we will be texting updates & important info throughout the tournament. Once you click on your team in the app, then click the “Follow” (+) button in upper right corner and enter your info to get notifications from NTBA.

Please contact the NTBA office if you have any questions about this.

****Make sure to check your game score following each game and make sure the score was put in EXACTLY correct as this will affect seeding for bracket play.**

Team / Coach Check-In

You can check in anytime during the scheduled check in times available that we have posted on our website. Every team MUST be checked in at least 2 hours before their first game so that NTBA can verify all players. Reminder: anyone that is getting a coaches pass/wristband MUST come to team check-in to pick their pass up personally. Other coaches not checking the team in can come at anytime to pick up their coaches pass in person at the Myrtle Beach Sports Center. Any coach showing up to a game without a coaches pass will be required to pay to get into the gym.

Reminder for teams choosing “Option #2” (*See Team Check-In and Player Verification Info*) to get your players verified and bringing all paperwork with you to team check-in and you must turn in a Hard Copy of your roster (a blank one will be posted online to print and fill out). We also need “proof of age” and “proof of the grade” the players were in this past school year for ALL players. Each player must have a parent/guardian to sign the NTBA Waiver before they can play as well (waivers can be found on our website).

For proof of age, you can use a copy of a birth certificate or a state certified document/ID (such as a DMV identification card, passport, Walker ID, or driver’s license)

For proof of the grade the player was in school, you can use any school certified document from anytime this past school year which can be a copy of a report card, progress report, or online Power School portal print off that shows the player’s grade.

All players MUST be on the Roster turned into NTBA in order to be eligible to play. Note: If all players are verified through NSID and your team is verified with a green “check mark” through NSID then you do not have to bring any paperwork with you to team check-in.

National Sports ID

NTBA highly recommends all teams get verified online before Nationals through National Sports ID (NSID) for proof of age and proof of current grade the players are in. You will need to show us the “Green Check Mark” that your entire team is verified for NTBA eligibility. **Please make sure you add your team to the NTBA Nationals on the NSID website to get verified for our NTBA eligibility rules!** If you have any problems connecting to the NTBA National Championship, please “chat” with NSID on their website (found in lower left corner of their website as ‘online help’) and ask NSID to connect your team to the NTBA Nationals for you on their end.

If you get ALL players verified through NSID then you do not have to bring any paperwork with you to the Coach/Team Check-In.

For more info and to get your players verified through NSID:

Visit: <https://www.nationalsportsid.com/ntba-age-grade-verification/>

We HIGHLY encourage all teams to get verified through NSID!

Roster Rules

- Teams can have a maximum of only 15 players per roster/team
- All players must be on the team roster turned into NTBA (or NSID) in order to play in the tournament (you can NOT add players to your team roster once turned into NTBA or once NTBA checks your roster on NSID)
- As long as a player is ON the roster turned into NTBA, that player can play at any point during the tournament
- Players can play on two different teams as long as it is within the SAME organization (same team name), it is two DIFFERENT age groups, and the player meets the eligibility requirements for BOTH age groups
- Post Grad/Prep School players are not eligible to play (a player must have been in high school this past year to participate)

Parking Fee for the Myrtle Beach Sports Center

The John T. Rhodes Myrtle Beach Sports Center is a city owned facility and the city of Myrtle Beach charges all vehicles entering the parking lot during events (note: NTBA has nothing to do with this). For regular vehicles the current charge is a \$5 per vehicle fee per day fee (you can come and go as much as you like during that particular day once you pay). Big Vehicles such as 15 passenger vans, buses, etc. are charged more.

This fee is only charged at the Myrtle Beach Sports Center. All other gyms are free to park.

Forfeit/Arriving Late to games

There is ONLY a 5-minute grace period once it is time for your game to start before the game becomes a forfeit. You MUST arrive in plenty of time for your games! Traffic delays are NOT an excuse. Make sure you leave in plenty of extra time to get to your gym. If it is the first time you are playing at a particular gym, make sure you leave early to find it. Multiple gyms are being used so give yourself plenty of extra time to find each gym (and to account for traffic delays). As long as a NTBA staff member can see the team within the 5-minute grace period the full game will be played, but otherwise it will be a forfeit win for the other team.

A forfeit score will be 25-0 (which is the maximum point differential)

Sportsmanship

Coaches are responsible for themselves, their assistants, their players, AND their players' parents and fans. NTBA will not tolerate any unsportsmanlike behavior. We will dismiss any team from the tournament for anything we consider worthy of doing so (no refunds of any kind to anyone). *Players can not leave the bench for any reason. If a player leaves the bench (even if it is to break up a fight) that player may be dismissed/ejected from the game. Coaches and Refs should break up any altercations (not players or parents).

If a player or coach is ejected from a game, they MUST sit out the next game as well.

Coaches: make sure your players are aware of what happens if they are ejected from any game. No appeals can be made as they are judgment calls from refs/officials. Please talk with your players ahead of time about this so they know the rules! If a player gets a technical foul during a game, make sure that player is aware they will have to sit out the next game if they get a 2nd technical in that game.

Please note there is a nationwide shortage of referees/officials. Many officials have publicly stated they are not officiating travel basketball games anymore due to the bad sportsmanship/behavior from coaches, players, & parents. Please keep this in mind when coming to our National Championship as the officials we have are all trying their best so please be courteous to them. Please also note some officials are quicker with giving out technical fouls than others so you need to be aware of this and make sure your players are aware of this as well.

Bottom line: please be on your BEST behavior (and tell your player's parents to be on their best behavior as well) so that no one is ejected from a game or the tournament.

Gyms Locations

Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to find each gym. The gym addresses are posted on the schedule and on the NTBA app under venues. You MUST pay close attention to the EXACT gym of each of your games as NTBA uses multiple sites.

Game Scores

Scores will be posted on the schedule and on our App. It is very important to check the app after each of your games to make sure the score is EXACTLY correct. This will determine seeds for bracket play so you want to make sure everything is exactly correct (point different could determine your seed). Contact NTBA immediately if your score is not correct on the app.

Seeds for bracket play will be posted on the NTBA App as soon as we know what seed your team is based upon your pool play record.

Bench Personnel / Scorekeeper info

Each team can have a maximum of 3 coaches on the bench and another scorekeeper at the score table. Any more than 3 coaches on the bench must first have prior approval from NTBA. **Only players on the roster, in uniform, for that particular game are allowed to sit on the bench. Players from other teams, even if it is a younger or older team from the same organization, cannot sit on the player bench.**

The “home” team will be the official scorebook so please make sure you have someone available to keep the scoresheet/scorebook, especially if you are the home team. NTBA will provide blank scoresheets which will be at each score table and on our website to print out. Please have your scoresheet filled ahead of time before your game time.

The “home” team is the team listed first (or on TOP) on the schedule.

NOTE: The away team scorekeeper should close enough to be able to communicate with the home team scorekeeper to make sure both teams have the exact same info at all times.

Note: NTBA will provide someone to keep the score clock.

Determining Seeds for Bracket Play

Please do not assume your seed. Make sure you look at the updated brackets/seeds posted on the schedule (and on our App) after pool play is over with all teams in your pool. Based upon pool play record, the top half of the teams from pool play will go to the Gold Bracket and the bottom half of the teams will go to the Silver Bracket (NTBA will crown a National Champion in each).

Teams will be seeded from their pool first according to their record. If two teams are tied with the same record, we will look at head-to-head to determine the higher seed first.

If 3 or more teams are tied then NTBA will look directly at point differential to determine the seeds (no head to head outcome is used in a 3 way tie). If the point differential is the same for teams, then the team giving up the fewest amount of points will get the higher seed. If this is the exact same then the NTBA App will flip a coin to determine the higher seed. *Note: this is very rare and has never happened in the past.*

Note: There is maximum of 25 points for point difference. If a team wins by 41 points then they will get a +25 for their point differential for that particular game and the losing team will get a -25 for that game. Forfeit scores will be 25-0.

NOTE: Pools for pool play are randomly assigned

All teams will play all other teams in their pool. In a pool of 5, the top 3 teams will go to the Gold Bracket and the bottom 2 teams will go to the Silver Bracket. In a pool of 4, the top 2 teams will go to the Gold Bracket and the bottom 2 teams will go to the Silver Bracket. In a pool of 3, the top 2 teams will go to the Gold Bracket and the bottom team will go to the Silver Bracket.

Note: If you play a team in a different pool then that particular game will not count towards your pool play record to determine your seed for bracket play.

***Important Note:** Bracket play games can NOT be moved! NTBA will try its best to accommodate coaches that coach multiple teams for pool play, but we cannot accommodate this for bracket play as bracket play games are set with the original schedule and because we won't know what seed a team will be we cannot control when/where you play in bracket play. Please make plans if your teams end up playing at the same time.

NTBA Store

"2026 National Championship" apparel will be on sale during the tournament. Our great apparel will be on sale in the lobby of the John T. Rhodes Myrtle Beach Sports Center.

Gym Time Opening

The gyms will not open until approximately 30 minutes prior to the first game of the day at that particular gym. Check the NTBA App for Venue Schedules to see what time the first game is at a particular gym.

Wristbands

Wristbands MUST be worn on the wrist at all times...NO EXCEPTIONS! Wristbands can not be put on belts, handbags, etc. They must be worn on the wrist only. Coaches will be required to wear wristbands the entire tournament. Any coach not wearing a wristband will be asked to pay at the door. NTBA is not responsible for any lost coaches passes (wristbands). These are "hospital" type wristbands and can go in the ocean/shower/etc. and the only way they can come off is to cut them off.

Cost for Admission

See website for daily cost for spectators at Nationals

- No Week/Tournament Passes sold
- Kids 9 years old and under are free
- Seniors (62+ years old) will receive a discounted rate
- Kids (10-17 years old) will receive a discounted rate
- Daily passes are good for all games/gyms for that particular day (make sure you keep your wristband on in order to get back in the gym)

Game Rules

All National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) apply **except:**

Time

3rd – 6th grades (9U-12U): Two 14 minutes halves

7th – 11th/12th grades (13U and above): Two 16 minute halves

(Clock stops on all whistles unless the “mercy” rule is in effect)

Mercy Rule

If a team is up by 25 points, then the clock will continue to run except during team or official time-outs (clock will stop again on all whistles once the score is back under 20).

Teams can not full court press when winning while the Mercy Rule is in effect.

Time-Outs

Each team is given (2) two full time outs and (2) two thirty second time-outs per game/regulation time period. These time-outs do NOT carry over to overtime. Each team is awarded (1) one thirty second time-out for each overtime period.

Overtime

Overtime is two minutes long for the 1st and 2nd overtime periods. Starting with the 3rd overtime, the overtime periods will be 1 minute long and continue with 1 minute overtimes until a winner is determined. This overtime rule will be for both pool play and bracket play.

Game Ball Size

3rd – 5th grade boys (9U-11U): 28.5 intermediate size basketball

6th – 11th/12th grade boys (12U+): official men’s size basketball (29.5)

3rd – 11th/12th girls: official women’s size basketball (28.5)

Note: 12U/6th Grade Boys may use the 28.5 basketball only if BOTH coaches agree

Half time and Pre-Game allotted time

Half time: 2 minutes (but tournament director holds the right to shorten if needed)

Pre-Game: 3 minutes (but tournament director holds the right to shorten if needed)

Each team should be stretched and ready to go

Scorebook

The “home” team will provide someone to keep the official scorebook. The “away” team scorebook keeper should sit close to the home team scorebook keeper to communicate and make sure everything is the same. NTBA will provide someone to keep the scoreboard/clock.

Jersey numbers

NTBA allows all/any numbers to be worn on jerseys.

Free Throws/Bonus Rule

Teams will shoot the double bonus (2 free throws) on the 10th team foul per half. No 1-and-1 free throws.

Players can enter the lane on the release of the shot. Shooter (and any player behind the 3 point line) can enter the lane once the ball hits the rim.

Coaches Passes

Each team will be given three (3) free coach's passes and one (1) extra coach's pass can be purchased (during team check-in) for \$50

NTBA does not care who gets the coach's passes, but a team is only allowed a maximum of 4 passes.

Coaches Agreement Form

One representative from each team must sign the "Nationals Coaches Agreement Form." This form will be posted on our website along with all other info and you can print the form off from our website. **Make sure you are aware of all the NTBA rules/regulations.*

"Home" team on the schedule

The team on TOP (or listed FIRST) on the schedule is the "home" team (for pool play and bracket play). The home team will provide the official scorekeeper (NTBA will provide someone to work the scoreboard). The home team will wear light color jerseys (make sure you bring both colors to every game in case you need to change due to similar colors). The away team scorekeeper should sit close enough to the home team scorekeeper so that you can make sure both always have the exact same info.

For bracket play, the team on TOP of the bracket will be the "home" team (no matter what seed a team is).

Note: The officials will choose the best game ball to use.

Dress Code

No flip flops or beach attire allowed while coaching. Shorts are fine. Please wear a polo shirt or "team t-shirt." Simply look "nice and professional." NTBA reserves the right to ask any coach or scorebook keeper to change clothes.

MBSC policies

All teams/players/spectators must adhere to all Myrtle Beach Sports Center policies along with all NTBA policies.

No chewing gum allowed. Shirt/Shoes must be worn at all times. Any fighting by any teams (players or spectators) may cause for an automatic dismissal from the tournament with no refunds of any kind (to teams or spectators). Please see other MBSC policies at the facility.

NTBA Rules/Policies

Make sure you are up to date with all current NTBA rules and policies posted on our website and all rules/policies posted on the Coaches Agreement Form.

Forms/Info posted on our website

NTBA will post new forms and new info on our website for Nationals so make sure you are checking daily for new/updated info. This will be posted on our "TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES" page on the website.

www.playntba.com

Pre-Game Warm Up Music

Music is not allowed to be played in gyms that have multiple courts. A staff member will ask anyone that is playing music to turn it off.

Artificial Noise Makers

Per NFHS rules, no artificial noise makers are allowed during games.

Basketballs

Each team should ONLY bring two (2) basketballs to warm up with for games. Make sure at least one of them has the NFHS stamp on it to use for a game ball. Coaches are in charge of keeping up with balls in between games (not players) and both basketballs should be kept in a ball bag so that basketballs are not being dribbled/used when not playing or warming up on a court.

Players entering Gyms

ALL players MUST have FULL uniforms on in order to get into the gyms for free. Any player that doesn't have a uniform on will be asked to pay. Make sure players have their uniforms on BEFORE arriving to the gyms.

Acknowledgment Policies for playing and registering for a NTBA Tournament:

Registering for a Tournament/Event Waiver Acknowledgement Policy

By signing up/registering and paying for a National Travel Basketball Association (NTBA) tournament or event, all coaches, players, and player's parents/guardians hereby affirm and fully acknowledge there are risks with their participation in all events associated with the NTBA and willingly and voluntarily assume such risks. These risk may include, but are not limited to, broken bones, strains, sprains, cuts, bumps, bruises, concussion, exposure to all criminal activity, heat exhaustion, and all other related activities including death.

By signing up and paying for a NTBA tournament you are aware of all physical requirements needed to participate in all NTBA related events and certify all players have all the physical abilities needed to participate in such events. You are aware NTBA does not warrant the adequacy or competency of any coach, leader, vehicle driver, or any other persons affiliated with each team. In consideration of participation with all related NTBA events, all persons on their own behalf and on behalf of all players hereby forever release and covenant not to sue the NTBA, shareholders, directors, officers, employees, members, representatives, agents, affiliates, contractors, volunteers and anyone else associated with NTBA from any and all claims resulting from any physical injury including death that may occur while participating in or preparing for any program or event sponsored by the NTBA or while traveling to or from any NTBA sponsored event or while the NTBA event is occurring.

By signing up and paying for a NTBA tournament/event, coaches agree to the following:

- You have read and understand and will adhere to all the current/updated NTBA rules and policies (including eligibility rules which can change at anytime) posted on the NTBA website at: www.playntba.com.
- You understand all current roster rules which include but are not limited to: (i) players can play on two teams as long as the two teams are from the same organization, two different age groups, and the player meets the eligibility requirements for both. (ii) players must be on both team rosters turned in to NTBA or NSID (National Sports ID).
- You understand that only players on the team roster of the current team playing can sit on the bench.
- You understand NTBA cannot change bracket play times and organizations with multiple teams need to be prepared to play at the same time should that occur.
- You understand that any players or coaches that are ejected from a game will have to sit out the remainder of that game AND the following game. No appeals can be made.
- You understand no players from the bench should step on the game floor for any reason. Players coming onto the playing surface (even if it is to break up a fight) can be dismissed immediately for that game and must sit out the next game if ejected.
- You understand that you are in charge of yourself, your assistant coaches, your players, and all the player's parents & fans. You understand that any unsportsmanlike conduct from anyone (coaches, players, parents, or fans, etc.) associated with your team can cause your entire team to be removed from the tournament with no refunds of any kind.

- You understand you must wear my coaches wristband on your wrist at all times for the entire tournament. You understand you will have to pay to enter the gym if you don't have your wristband on your wrist (and wrist ONLY).
- You will double check the score after each game on the NTBA App or online to make sure the score is EXACTLY right. Any score discrepancies should be reported to an NTBA official immediately.
- You will adhere to the officials/referees decisions and calm anyone within your organization down (or ask them to leave if the referee requires). This includes assistant coaches, players, parents, or anyone else associated with your team.
- You understand the officials will choose the best game ball to use between the teams.
- You understand that if your team is late for a game you will forfeit (traffic delays or getting lost is not an excuse). There will only be a 5 minute grace period and you understand if you are more than 5 minutes late we will forfeit the game.
- You understand all official protest must be done prior to the start of a game and done under official NTBA rules/policies listed on the website including paying a \$100 fee to protest.
- You understand the "home" team will be the official scorebook keeper that the officials/refs will go by. However, please be aware that NTBA states the "away" team scorekeeper should sit close enough to communicate with the home team scorebook keeper to make sure everything is the exact same in both score books.
- You understand you must adhere to the rules/policies of each gym/facility.
- You understand you are in charge of making sure everyone associated with your team follows all safety protocols and procedures.
- You understand all players must sign the NTBA waiver before playing in a game and that all players are insured with accident insurance should they get injured (either through their parents insurance or through a team/player insurance that you have purchased).
- You understand that NTBA has the final say so in all matters pertaining to the tournament and any rules/policies can be changed at anytime

NOTE

Info in this Coaches Info Packet and/or on our NTBA website can be updated at any time so please continue to check for updates.