

2026 TOP GUN USA WINTER NATIONALS

General Information & Coaches Meeting

We would like to welcome you to the 2026 Winter Nationals and thank you for making this tournament a part of your schedule. We would like to bring to your attention a few housekeeping items that should make your time with us more enjoyable.

Please familiarize yourself with Top Gun rules and in particular, tiebreaker/seeding rules, pitching limitation, time limits and mercy rules.

All teams will play a total of 2 pool games between Saturday with single elimination bracket games starting on Sunday.

November 14,15, 2026

Headquarters:
North Myrtle Beach Sports Complex, SC

GOOD LUCK
TO ALL TEAMS!

PLAY TOP GUN SPORTS
912 Gasser Dr SW
Concord, NC 28027
704-786-4754

www.playtopgunsports.com

Tournament Directors:
Donnie Broome & Don Mason

Ages: (9u, 10u, 11u, 12u, 13u, 14u, 15, 16U, & HS)

Online Rosters:
Please be sure that your rosters are up to date and posted online with Top Gun Sports for this event. This needs to be done prior to playing your first game. We will be using this to post all pitching stats, home runs, wins and losses.

Penalty for not having players listed on online roster:
When discovered, the ineligible player will be ejected from the game at that time. The ejected players spot would be an out each time in the batting order and remain an out for the remainder of the game. No Substitutions will be allowed for the ineligible player that has been ejected. **The head coach will also be ejected for that game and it would carry an additional one (1) game penalty.** At the completion of that game, the ineligible player may be added to the team's online roster and would be allowed to play in the next game if properly added. The intent of this rule is not to remove an entire team or player from the tournament due to a coaching or administrative error. **This is Not a Forfeit.**

Playing Requests:
All teams should be prepared to play this schedule or should not enter this event.
Due to the number of teams and the complexity of the schedule we will not take any playing requests for this event. Games will begin each day at 8:00am.

Coaches, please have the following in your possession at all times with you at all times during tournament:

- Xerox copy of your online roster
- Birth Certificates
- Xerox copy of your team insurance. If you are using another brand of insurance, Top Gun Sports – USA must be listed as additionally insured.

If we have a protest on the field and you are unable to produce these items, it could result in a forfeit for your team.

Age Determination: Age cutoff date is May 1st. See Below Examples:

- 8u-Cannot turn 9 prior to May 1, 2027
- 9u-Cannot turn 10 prior to May 1, 2027
- 10u-Cannot turn 11 prior to May 1, 2027
- 11u-Cannot turn 12 prior to May 1, 2027
- 12u-Cannot turn 13 prior to May 1, 2027
- 13u-Cannot turn 14 prior to May 1, 2027
- 14u-Cannot turn 15 prior to May 1, 2027
- HS-Cannot turn 19 prior to May 1, 2027

The season runs August 1st-July 31st. All teams move up in age on Aug 1st of each year.

Grade Exception Rule:

Players using the grade exception rule must have a birth certificate and report card for verification. See below:

- **8u Division:** Players who turn 9 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 2nd grade. Also, any player turning 10 prior to May 1st will not be eligible.
- **9u Division:** Players who turn 10 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 3rd grade. Also, any player turning 11 prior to May 1st will not be eligible.
- **10u Division:** Players who turn 11 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 4th grade. Also, any player turning 12 prior to May 1st will not be eligible.
- **11u Division:** Players who turn 12 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 5th grade. Also, any player turning 13 prior to May 1st will not be eligible.
- **12u Division:** Players who turn 13 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 6th grade. Also, any player turning 14 prior to May 1st will not be eligible.
- **13u Division:** Players who turn 14 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 7th grade. Also, any player turning 15 prior to May 1st will not be eligible.
- **14u Division:** Players who turn 15 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 8th grade. Also, any player turning 16 prior to May 1st will not be eligible.
- **HS Division:** Players who turn 19 prior to May 1 of the current season are not eligible unless they are in the 12th grade. Also, any player turning 20 prior to May 1st will not be eligible.

All General Rules are listed on www.playtogunsports.com

TOURNAMENT RULES

Enter at your own risk. Beware of inherent risks at ball parks
(Please see General Rules on our Web Site for Disclaimer)

NATIONAL FEDERATION HIGH SCHOOL RULES

National Federation of High School rules will be used with Top Gun Baseball Exceptions.

Violation of Policies or Tournament Rules:

Any parent, coach, team member, or fan that violates the polices or rules of the Top Gun Baseball Event may be removed from any and all venues and future sanctions may be placed on that person or persons.

Head Coaches Responsibility:

The Head Coach of a team is held responsible for the conduct of his assistant coaches, players, and fans. He should make sure that all rules of the tournament are explained to each member above.

Team Insurance:

Top Gun requires all teams to have insurance prior to playing in a Top Gun Sanctioned Event. Teams may purchase insurance on www.playtopgunsports.com

Teams not having Top Gun insurance must have a policy from another source and list Top Gun Sports - USA as additionally insured. This is required before participating in a Top Gun Event.

Tournament Director:

The Tournament Director always has the authority to revise or change the format due to rain or any other reason that he feels is necessary, in the best interest of the tournament.

Teams arriving for games:

Teams should be present one hour before the scheduled starting game time. **Games may be started early if fields are ready for play**. No game may be started more than one hour early, unless the tournament game times have been shortened due to rain, etc.

Coin Flipping:

Teams will flip a coin to determine the home team before each pool play game at the home plate meeting. **Higher seeds have choice for all bracket games.**

Batting Cages:

Available at most sites, teams should share batting cage times.

Clean Dugouts:

Coaches are expected to make sure your dugout is clean after each game.

Team Coolers:

Top Gun does not have a cooler policy for our sporting events. We do recommend that a team cooler is allow in the team dugouts during tournament play but this is a facility issue and teams must abide by the facility guidelines.

Top Gun also does not recommend that the venues provide a team water cooler in the dugout due to issues and concerns of providing and maintaining clean water after each game.
Regulations on a facility to provide and maintain clean drinking water for each game and each team is not recommended by Top Gun Sports due to health issues.

Run Rule – 8U Coach Pitch:
Run Rule is in effect for all games, including the championship games.

- 15 runs after 5 innings

Run Rule – Ages 9u – HS:
Run Rule is in effect for all games, including the championship games.

- 12 runs after 3 innings
- 8 runs after 4 innings

Time Limit:

- 8u pool games will have a 1 hour, 15-minute time limit. 8u championship games will have a 1 hour, 30-minute time limit.
- 9u-HS pool games will have a 1 hour, 45-minute time limit. 9u-HS championship games will have a 2-hour time limit.

Games will be played for the entire time limit; once the time limit has expired that inning will be the last inning. A new inning has begun once immediately after the third out is made of an inning.

International Tie Breaker Rule:
All Top Gun Games will use the ITB Rule for Bracket Games Only. At the end of regulation or when the time limit has expired, teams will place the last three hitters for the previous inning to load the bases to start a new inning. The last hitter goes to 1st base, the hitter before him goes to 2nd base, and the hitter before that goes to 3rd base. There will be one (1) out to start the ITB inning. For all other games, each team will bat until a winner has been determined. There will be no courtesy runners for the pitcher or catcher with this rule. Only eligible substitutes would be allowed to pinch run. See General Rules if a player has been ejected during ITB Game.

Eligibility of Players:
If a player is found to be ineligible prior to the start of the tournament, meaning that this player is too old for an age group, the player will be expelled from the tournament. **If a player is found to be ineligible after the tournament has begun, for age requirements not only the player will be expelled, but the entire team may be expelled from the tournament.** Any questions during a game pertaining to the eligibility of players, must be handled by filing a protest during the game that is in question due to eligibility. If the age of the player is being protested and the coach cannot produce the legal copy of the Birth Certificate of the player in question, the game will be a forfeit and the team may be removed from the tournament. **Teams may not file a protest after the game is over**. Any question pertaining to the eligibility of a player at the tournament may be referred to the Play Top Gun Sports Office. Coaches are responsible to make sure their team meets all eligibility requirements. No Team Refunds.

Pick-Up Player Rule:
Top Gun has an open roster policy. Any team may pick up players from another team as long as the player does not play on two teams in the same tournament or tournament weekend, regardless of age division. Players may not play on two separate teams in the same event or same weekend. No

exceptions to this rule will be allowed. Once the tournament begins, that roster is frozen and no additional players may be added unless approved by the tournament director.

Jewelry:
Top Gun follows the National Federation High School rule with the exception of Phiten Necklaces. All players will be allowed to wear the Phiten break away necklaces during play.

Metal Cleats:
Metal Cleats are not Allowed on portable pitching mounds. Pitchers must wear either rubber cleats, tennis shoes. No Exceptions to this rule.

Substitutions and Re-Entry Rule:
All starting players may be redrawn from the game and re-entered into the game, as long a as a team has a legal substitute. A substitute may not reenter a game.

Trips to the Mound:
Two (2) trips per inning, per pitcher will disqualify that pitcher from the game for pitching only. On the 2nd trip in the same inning, the pitcher must be removed from the game as a pitcher only. Any pitcher removed from the game on the 1st trip of an inning may re-enter the game as a pitcher after one batter is retired if needed. A pitcher may also be pinch hit for during an inning and re-enter as a pitcher. Removal from the mound on the 2nd trip in the same inning disqualifies the pitcher from returning to the mound as a pitcher only in that game.

Score Cards:
After the game is over the final score must be approved by each team's head coach, official score keepers, and the Umpires. Signatures of both head coaches are now required on the score card. This is to verify the correct score, pitching records, and home runs during that game. Once the score card has been signed by both head coaches, that score is now the official score of that game. Failure to sign the score cards by either team or teams is consenting that the score card is correct and that no revisions will be made.

Pitching Rules:

- **9u & 10u: 7 innings**
- **11u & 12: 8 innings**
- **13u & 15u: 9 innings**
- **HS: Unlimited**
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  In ages 9-12u, a pitcher may not pitch more than 6 Innings in One Calendar Day.
  In ages 13-15u, a pitcher may not pitch more than 7 Innings in One Calendar Day.

  Pitching Mandatory Day of Rest: A pitcher that pitches MORE than Three (3) innings in One (1) day MUST REST the next day.

Athletes may pitch these established number of innings in consecutive calendar days, once the athlete has reached the allowed amount of inning in consecutive calendar days then the athlete must rest one calendar day before being allowed to pitch again. Once a player rests for one calendar day, innings will reset. An inning pitched constitutes the toeing of the pitcher rubber by the pitcher, or pitching to one batter, or being officially entered into the pitching position.

PENALTY: If a protest is filed and upheld for a team using a pitcher in violation of the pitching restrictions:

1. **The ineligible pitcher is ejected from that game and suspended for the next scheduled game.**
2. **The Head Coach is ejected for the remainder of the tournament.**
3. **The current game is immediately a "forfeit". a. If the offended team is winning at the time of the forfeit, the score will stand if more than 6 runs in ages 12U and under. If not, a score of 6 to 0 will stand. In ages 13U and above, the score will stand if more than 7 runs. If not, a score of 7 to 0 will stand.**
4. **Like all protests, an ineligible pitcher must be protested during the game that he is ineligibly pitching. If an ineligible pitcher was used and not protested during the game in which he was used, and that game is now an official game, no protest will be allowed.**

Batting Line-Up (9u – HS):

Teams have the option of batting just 9 players, or up to their entire roster. The rule to bat more than 9 players is optional, and it is left up to each individual team. If all rostered players bat, **there will be no substitutes and if an injury or sickness occurs, an out will be taken when that player comes up to bat.** Teams will receive only one (1) out for the sick or injured player; however, the sick or injured player may not return to the game. Top Gun also allows the NFHS DH rule. Teams that choose to use a DH, they must follow the NFHS rule, and only bat 9 players.

Fake Bunting:

- Fake bunts (followed by a swing) are NOT allowed in ages 8-12u. This is commonly called Slash Bunting. Player is out and the ball is dead. All base runner returns to previous base.

Bat Rule:

- 8u-12u: No bat rule applies with exception of banned bats listed on www.playtopgunsports.com A Coach Pitch Bat or a bat recommended for 8u only, shall only be used in the 8u division.
- 13u: -8 bats or lower must be used.
- 14u: -5 bats or below with a USSSA/BPF 1.15 or USA Stamp is legal.
- HS: NFHS rule applies. BBCOR only- Wooden Bats are always approved. See general rules for definition on Wooden Bats.

All bats must have the approved BPF 1.15, USA stamp or BBCOR. BBCOR bats are allowed in any age. Top Gun Sports will follow the NFHS rules on banned bats.

Pyro flite Microwaveable Bat Warner is a Top Gun approved device to keep bats from dropping below the bat recommended temperature. Top Gun feels like this is a Safety Concern and has approved this device. Bats may not be heated in the dugout. All Star Divisions will have different rules posted at All Star Events regarding Legal Bats. Penalty for using an Illegal Bat will follow the penalty of the National Federations of High School Rules.

Base Running:

- 8u: All runners shall be in contact with their bases and shall not leave their bases until the ball has crossed the plate. If a runner leaves the base before the ball crosses the plate, the umpire shall signal to indicate the violation at the time it occurs. Penalty is IMMEDIATE DEAD BALL and the runner is out and removed from the base upon leaving the base early.

Balks:
Balks will be called in 9U-High School. No warnings!

Courtesy Runners:
You may use the last recorded out made to be your courtesy runner if you are batting the entire line up. If you are not batting the entire line up, then a sub or a burnt sub must be used as the courtesy runner.

Ejections in the Lineup:
In case of and ejection in the line-up and you have no eligible subs are available that position will be an out each time at bat.

Forfeits:
All forfeits are subject to review by the Tournament Director and may result in the offending team being declared ineligible for any future Top Gun Baseball Tournament Play. The tournament committee shall administer the rules so that the forfeiting team will not benefit and may not advance to Championship Pool Play or Bracket Play, unless the tournament committee determines there were extenuating circumstances causing the forfeit. Teams not having enough players to participate from either starting or ending a game will not be considered extenuating circumstances.

Umpires Control:
Top Gun umpires cannot forfeit games. Umpires may eject coaches, players, or fans, but do not have the power to forfeit games in tournament play, under any circumstances. When an umpire ejects a person, that person must leave the venue immediately and the game playing time is stopped until that issue is resolved. At this time the site director should be notified of that situation. If the person ejected does not leave the venue immediately, the director should call the police to have the ejected person removed. Games will continue from the point of interruption.

Ejections:
Any Manager/Head Coach, Coach, or Fan/Scorekeeper/Spectator receiving an ejection from an umpire shall be "suspended" for the remainder of that day. If ejection occurred on that teams last game on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, the ejected person must still serve a one game suspension on the first game of the following day. If ejection occurs on the first game on Sunday, the ejected person will be "suspended" for the remainder of that day regardless of number of games that team may play. The game will not start back until the ejected person has been removed from the game venue.

Any Player receiving an ejection from an umpire shall be "suspended" for that ejected game and one additional game. Players are not required to leave the venue. "Player Suspended from his team's next scheduled game," means an ejected player is not permitted to be "in attendance" at his team's next game following the game in which he was ejected.

Any Assistant coach (including a base coach, bench coach, and/or scorekeeper) that is ejected from the game shall also result in the Head Coach being immediately restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. The intent of this rule is reminding head coaches that they are responsible for controlling all team members.

Protests:
Protests must be made verbally with the umpire by the offended team at the time of the play and before the next pitch is thrown. A fee of $100.00 cash (refunded if upheld) must accompany the protest. All decisions of the protest committee shall be final. Only the decision involving the

misinterpretation of misapplication of a rule may be protested. No protest shall be allowed in matters involving solely the Officials Judgment.

Rain:
Teams should report to venues, if there is any doubt of games being played. The responsibility will be on the Head Coach to find out if games are rained out or being resumed. Coaches must come to the venues to find out if games will be played, or if a game has been rescheduled. If possible, games will be played to completion. Games that are stopped before official game status will be continued from the point of interruption. Games stopped after official game status has been reached will be official. Rain delays could last for any period of time. The tournament director has the authority to change the format of the tournament due to inclement weather.

Rain Refund Policy:
If a tournament is cancelled due to rain prior to any games being played, all teams will receive a full refund. If one game is started or completed and the tournament cannot continue, then the team receives ½ of the team entry fee. If a team second game is started or completed, there is no refund.

NO REFUNDS FOR ADMISSIONS DURING RAIN-ETC
There is no refund for gate admission for any reason which also includes rainouts.
Top Gun has a gate admission price and not a game guarantee admission price. Players and coaches may enter ball parks during rain issues. Parents and fans that enter venues during rain are taking a chance of not receiving a game. If games are not played there, is no refund.

Top Gun Does Not Organize Teams:
Play Top Gun Sports events provides rules for play and a tournament structure that leads to end of season tournament opportunities for teams that register to participate in Top Gun events that are overseen by Top Gun directors. We encourage parents (and guardians) who determine the team for a youth team participant, the adult team participants (such as team coaches or team sponsors) of a team, the community organizations who are involved in the organization, creation or management of such teams to thoroughly investigate and screen the background and character of the individuals who coach, manage, volunteer or otherwise come into contact with such teams and their minor participants and to vigilantly supervise any and all activities of any youth team with which they are associated.

Background checks are available, among other places, on-line for a small fee and Top Gun encourages those actually responsible for team activities and the parents (guardians) of youth athletic team members to utilize such tools to limit the exposure of youth athletes to those who might pose a danger.

Because Top Gun is not an organizer, manager or creator of teams, it does not in any way take responsibility for the organization, creation, management or any other activity of the teams (customers) that register to play in Top Gun tournaments, except to provide the opportunity to play Top Gun events under Top Gun rules and overseen by a Top Gun director. Teams that participate in Top Gun events are customers of Top Gun and no more.

When a team chooses to participate in a Top Gun activity, the team, its players, coaches, volunteers, organizers, and its parents and fans must abide by rules found in the Top Gun Rule Book posted on our web site. Since Top Gun has nothing to do with the practice sessions of a team, choosing of team coaches, the picking of which team to play for the activities with respect to any other body, or any other activities of a team (but simply provides registered participation in Top Gun directed activities).

Top Gun takes no responsibility for any such other non-Top Gun event activities of any team. While Top Gun is not responsible for checking the background of each of its customers (including the coaches of the baseball teams that play in Top Gun events), those convicted or charged with a violent felony or a sex offense with a minor are automatically suspended from all Top Gun activities (until found innocent or the charges are dropped). If you are aware of someone who has been charged with or convicted of a violent felony or a sex crime with a minor and that someone may be in any way involved in a Top Gun activity, you should immediately inform the Top Gun Director and upon being provided with proof of such charges or conviction, that individual will be automatically suspended from all Top Gun activities.

For example, if you do a background check on a coach before joining a team and find evidence that he has been charged with having sex with a minor, you should report this to your Top Gun Director, or Top Gun Sports Office, even though you have decided to play for another team. Even more important if you are aware of any one who has committed a violent felony or has had sex with a minor that has not been charged, you are obligated to report those crimes to the proper authorities and you should do so immediately.

Top Gun Baseball:

Top Gun Baseball shall investigate complaints regarding the violation of Top Gun Baseball Rules, by Top Gun athletes, coaches, volunteers, or teams. If Top Gun Baseball determines that a violation has occurred, he may impose penalties as provided in the General Rules. Penalties imposed by Top Gun Baseball may be appealed to the Play Top Gun Sports Board of Review in writing, appointed by CEO/President of Top Gun Sports. Top Gun Baseball may delegate these duties to an infraction committee appointed by him CEO /President to consider Code/Rules Violations, or they may refer cases directly to the Board of Review.

Conduct:

Teams coaches, players, and organizations are subject to sanctions imposed by the Baseball Chairman for misconduct. Sanctions may be appealed to the Play Top Gun Sports board of review committee and may include fines, suspension, forfeiture, probation, or other appropriate action. Misconduct includes but is not limited, sportsmanship detrimental to the program, destruction of property, intoxication, possession of alcohol, drugs, weapons, use of profanity, or commission of a crime during any Play Top Gun Sports competition. Sanctions may be imposed for failure to comply with this publication of the General Top Gun Baseball Rules.

Coaches Dress Code:

All coaches shall be dressed similarly, meaning coaches should have same color shirts, etc. No Flip Flops Sandals only closed toe shoes, No Tank Tops are allowed.

Coaches / Volunteer Code of Honor:

I promise upon my word of honor to help create an environment which primary emphasis is placed upon the emotional and physical wellbeing of Play Top Gun Sports Athletics, rather than winning. I will lead, by example and will demonstrate the value of fair play and sportsmanship to all participates. Lastly, by becoming a Play Top Gun Sports member, I agree to be bound by the Top Gun Baseball General Rules as well as all procedures and policies.

AGES	MOUND	BASES	
8UCP	40’	60’	CLOSED BASES
9U	46’	65’	OPEN BASES
10U	46’	65’	OPEN BASES
11U	50’	70’	OPEN BASES
12U	50’	70’	OPEN BASES
13U	60’6	90’	OPEN BASES
14U	60’6	90’	OPEN BASES
HS	60’6	90’	OPEN BASES

Enter all venues at your own risk.
Beware of inherent risks at all ball parks!
(Visit www.playtopgunsports.com to see complete Disclaimer!