



TRIBE ATHLETICS SPORTS OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS 7TH ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN JUNIOR NATIONALS JUNE 25 - 28, 2026 / MESA, ARIZONA

REGISTRATION

Registration fee/s must be paid in full for your team to be entered onto the pool play schedule – NO EXCEPTIONS. Tribal Issued checks, PayPal, Money Order, Venmo, Electronic Transactions by phone of CC Authorization form are all accepted. Entry fee/s and deposits made are Non-Refundable.

ATHLETE'S ELIGIBILITY | REQUIREMENTS

1. Athlete's must meet Indigenous eligibility requirements prior to participating in this event. Athlete's must be enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe, and provide proof of tribal enrollment via tribal identification card, and or letter of enrollment with the tribe's letterhead/tribal seal; If not enrolled, athletes must provide proof of Indian Blood, via Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB/CIB), and or descendency letter from the tribe with tribes letterhead/tribal seal; Other forms of verification i.e., Birth Certificate with parents name along with parents tribal enrollment, CDIB/CIB for proof; Native American, Native Hawaiian, First Nation, Native Alaskan and Indigenous Polynesian People must provide proof by original birth certificate stating ethnicity.
2. Athlete's eligibility and participating divisions are based on the current 2025-2026 grade school, middle school, junior high school, or high school year. This does not include post graduate institutions or programs. (Postgraduate is a student that is continuing formal education after graduation from high school or college.)
3. Participants must provide documentation such as a school ID card, report card, transcripts, online school portal i.e. Infinite Campus.
4. **ALL DOCUMENTATION PROOF MUST BE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, CERTIFIED OR NOTARIZED. PHONE PICTURES OR SCREEN SHOTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. NO VALID PROOF OF INDIGENOUS BLOOD, OR SCHOOL – NO PLAY!**

TEAM CHECK IN | TEAM ROSTERS

1. ALL TEAMS AND ATHLETES ARE REQUIRED TO CHECK IN ON THURSDAY June 25TH, 2026, DURING THEIR DESIGNATED TIME. NO EXCEPTIONS.
2. Teams must arrive one (1) to two (2) hours prior to their first game. Player badges and Coaches wristbands will be issued to each participant based on the submitted team roster. Plan accordingly, there may be teams ahead of you.
3. All athletes must be on the official roster before the first game played.

4. NO athlete can change teams or be added onto the roster after the official roster has been submitted.
5. ATHLETES CAN PLAY ON 2 TEAMS MAXIMUM BUT CAN ONLY PLAY UP IN A HIGHER-GRADE DIVISION IF PLAYING ON 2 TEAMS. NO athlete can play on two different teams in the same grade division. NO athlete can play in a division below their own grade level. If a player is playing on two different teams in the same division and gets caught in the act, or a coach knowingly is aware of it, but does not report it, the team and or player will be disqualified from the event.
6. Girls may not cross over and play in the boy's division. NO EXCEPTIONS!
7. Rosters can have up to 11 players on the official roster, but only a quantity of eleven (11) awards will be given to Champions, Finalist, and 3rd place teams per division, in both Diamond and Platinum brackets. Individual awards for MVP, and All-Star will be selected from teams in the 3rd place game and final rounds of bracket play.
8. All documentation will be verified by our Eligibility Committee.
9. Coaches are entirely responsible to make sure their athletes meet all requirements of eligibility deemed in these Rules, Regulations, & Requirements for participation. If a Coach knowingly violates such requirements, the team will be disqualified from the event with no refund of entry fee(s). Coaches are also responsible to make sure that their players/staff/parents fully understand event rules, regulations, and requirements. All coaches are responsible for making sure each of their athletes have legal proof of age documentation. Examples are: School ID, Tribal ID card, CDIB, Descendent documentation. NO PHOTOS OR SCREENSHOTS WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING TEAM CHECK-IN. MUST PROVIDE ACTUAL DOCUMENTATION

PLAYING RULES

The official rules will be the National Federation High School (NFHS) rules for the current year, except where modified within these TRIBE Athletics Sports Rules, Regulations & Requirements.

1. Have fun!
2. All teams must wear basketball jerseys or tops during every game. Each jersey or top must have the same color, and they must have numbers. No duplicate numbers. No modified jerseys i.e. no tapping numbers. Jerseys numbers must match official roster.
3. All jewelry must be removed. Necklaces, earrings, baller bands, rings and watches cannot be worn during the game, taping is not allowed to cover jewelry.
4. Each participating team must have an adult coach (18+) and graduated high school on the bench at all times. Only two coaches, one Head Coach and an Assistant Coach, are allowed on each team bench when playing. Only one coach can stand up during the game. Only coaches and players that are participating in that game are allowed on the team bench. Coaches need to ensure that all trash is picked when the game is over.
5. Pool Play to Single Elimination Bracket Play Format: This event is for Boys/Teen Boys, and Girls/Teen Girls, with Divisions for (If applicable): 3-4 Grade Boys/Girls, 5-6 Grade Boys/Girls, 7-8 Grade Boys/Girls, 9-10 Grade Boys/Girls, 11-12 Grade Boys/Girls divisions. Each team will play at least 3 games or more (Were applicable) in pool play going straight into Diamond or Platinum Single Elimination bracket play format. Loser of the semi-final game will play in a 3rd Place game. Diamond and Platinum brackets will be determined by pool play records. Diamond and Platinum bracket formats will take place depending on the total number teams participating. If there are not enough teams to form the Diamond/Platinum brackets, Single Elim bracket play may be changed to one bracket structure only, in which the bracket would be considered Diamond.
6. Bracket Seeding: Bracket seeding will be determined by total points allowed during the first three pool play games (where applicable).
7. Equipment - Basketball Size: Size 6/28.5 circumference size ball will be used for the Girl's division. Size 7/29.5 circumference size ball will be used for the Boy's division.
8. Warm-ups/Halftime: Each team will be allowed 3-minutes to warm-up and all games will have a 2-minute halftime.
9. Game Time: Games (Pool Play & Bracket) All divisions will be 18-minute running halves, with the clock stopping the last 2-minutes of the second half for all divisions.
10. Time Outs: Each team is allowed two (2) 60-second (approximately) timeouts for each half (Use or lose, no carry-overs of timeouts allowed). In the first overtime, teams are given one (1) 30-second timeout each only. IF overtime continues, no timeouts will be given. Game clock will stop on all timeouts.

11. Grace Period: There will be NO GRACE PERIOD allowed for any tardiness or no show. A forfeit will be made for a team/s that doesn't show during their scheduled game time. Every team is required to be present ready to play 60-minutes before each scheduled game to avoid a forfeit. Teams must start the game with 5 players but can end with less than 5 players
12. Mercy Rule: NO MERCY RULE FOR ALL POOL PLAY GAMES, but Mercy Rule will be implemented during bracket play. Games will be stopped at 25 points lead with 3mins left in the game to stay on schedule.
13. Overtime: First Overtime will consist of a 2-minute period until a winner is decided, with the clock stopping on all whistles. Teams will each receive one 30-second timeout only. Remaining timeouts will not carry over into an overtime period. Fouls however will carry over into an overtime period. 2nd Overtime will consist of a 1-minute period until a winner is decided. 3rd Overtime is sudden death. First team to score wins. No timeouts will be issued to teams after the First overtime. Championship games will consist of 2 minutes for the first overtime and 1 minute for additional overtimes. There will be no Sudden Death in championship games.
14. Fouls: Five (5) fouls (personal and technical combined) result in disqualification from play. A Second Technical foul infraction committed by a player will disqualify that player from that game. Bonus free throws will be on and after the 7th team foul, teams shoot 1-and-1 free throws, the team will be awarded 2 (two) double bonus free throws on team's 10th team foul.
15. Technical Fouls: All technical fouls will count as a personal foul. If a player receives a second technical foul during the same game, the player will be disqualified from that game. Coaches who receive their second technical foul during the same game will automatically be disqualified from coaching the current game and must exit the facility for the remainder of the game. IF a continuation of technical fouls trends for other games, Coaches and Players will immediately be ejected from the entire event. All Head Coaches are responsible for the management of their team, which includes players, parents, and fans. We understand the atmosphere in games can get intense, but if a technical foul issued to a parent or fan, the technical foul will be applied to the Head Coach. For more in depth rule on ejections, please see the Zero Tolerance Policy. Coaches allowing non-roster individuals on the team bench during game play will result in a technical foul after first warning is issued.
16. Technical Fouls (Flagrant): Will result in an automatic ejection from the game or possibly the event. This decision will be discussed by officials, and the tournament directors. If a second Flagrant foul occurs from the same player, they will indefinitely be ejected from the event. For more in depth rule on ejections, please see the Zero Tolerance Policy.
17. Home and Visitor teams will be decided by score table. There is no selected Home or Visitor team on the pool play schedule or bracket.
18. This is a Drug and Alcohol-Free Event, however. **TRIBE ATHLETICS HIGHLY DISCOURAGES THE USE OF ALCOHOL.** Any coach or player(s) engage in the use of alcohol or drugs while coaching or playing will be disqualified from further participation in the tournament.

SPORTSMANSHIP | CONDUCT | ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

It is the obligation of coaches, players, administrators, volunteers, and other representatives of TRIBE ATHLETICS SPORTS to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and to observe the ethics of competition. Good sportsmanship is defined as qualities of behavior, which are characterized by courtesy and genuine concern for others. The display of good sportsmanship is a statement of the individual's understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.

TRIBE ATHLETICS SPORTS ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY for fighting, bullying, acts of aggression towards another, racial slurs, and discrimination by coaches, athletes, parents or spectators.

Coaches, athletes, parents and spectators are advised that any act of aggression will be met with severe consequences for your team and or club. Please know and understand that formal criminal charges could be pursued if need be. In addition, the team related could be suspended from any TRIBE ATHLETICS SPORTS that it hosts at our discretion.

It is the Coaches/Team Manager's responsibility to maintain their team's sportsmanship. Please share this policy, print and distribute it to your parents and athlete's. Reiterating fighting, bullying, acts of aggression towards another, racial slurs, and discrimination by coaches, athletes, parents or spectators will not be tolerated.

SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

TRIBE ATHLETICS SPORTS requires that all parents and spectators maintain good sportsmanship throughout the course of the event. TRIBE ATHLETICS SPORTS does promote having a great sports atmosphere, and TRIBE ATHLETICS SPORTS EVENTS encourages everyone to cheer, get loud, and support their athlete(s) and their team(s), **BUT** DO NOT let it get out of control.

THIS IS NOT JUST ANOTHER REZ TOURNAMENT!

TRIBE ATHLETICS SPORTS is providing a national platform for Indigenous athletes to compete and perform in front of College Coaches, College Scouts, and national media to expose their athletic gifts and talents, and to provide Indigenous athletes the opportunities to succeed in

their futures. College Coaches, and College Scouts look at all aspects when recruiting athletes, **this includes the parents also! Parents behavior can have an effect on their athlete, their team, and most importantly, the recruiting process.**

As an adult, please set a good example for all athletes at this great event. If you are asked to leave the event, you must leave immediately, no refunds will be given, your athlete may be asked to leave with you, and your athlete's team may also forfeit the game as a result of your unsportsmanlike manner.

TRIBE ATHLETICS SPORTS does not tolerate any of the following:

- Cursing by any parents, athletes
- Yelling at game officials regarding calls
- Yelling or arguing with event staff, fans of the opposing team
- Any negative or derogatory comments towards opposing players

MISBEHAVIOR | EJECTIONS

1. If a fight breaks out, the tournament supervisor will clear the court of all spectators if deemed necessary and no refunds will be given.
2. Any Coach or athlete ejected for fighting will be ineligible for the remainder of the tournament.
3. If a Coach or athlete is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike behavior (not fighting), he/she will be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game
4. Coaches or athletes who leave the bench area to engage coaches, athletes or officials on the playing floor, may be suspended by Tournament Director for any period up to the duration of the tournament.
5. The Tournament Director may impose suspensions or other penalties for misbehavior which occur at any time and at any location during the event.
6. The Tournament Director has the final say on all suspensions

PROTEST PROCEDURES (NOT APPLICABLE)

1. Coaches are asked and required to keep all eligibility documents on hand in order to handle a protest if challenged. If a protest/challenge is made before the start of the game, and the player cannot provide requested information in a timely matter, that player cannot play until the challenge is completed. If a team is found to have added and played ineligible athlete(s) on their roster, the team will be disqualified from further participation in the event, with no refunds given.

MISCELLANEOUS

The TRIBE ATHELTICS SPORTS Director and Co-Director's event staff, participating facilities will not be held liable for any accidents, injury, or theft while participating in this event.

TRIBE ATHLETICS SPORTS has the right to alter rules, bylaws and bracket structure as needed