

# NATIONAL ADULT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

## 2023 Tournament Entry and Eligibility Rules

**Age Requirement:** This rule is what makes the NABA philosophy of operating fair, well-organized and enjoyable amateur baseball tournaments possible. In tournaments with 25+, 35+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+ and 65+ divisions, players must have reached their 25th, 35th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> birthday respectively before the end of the calendar year to be eligible to play on a team within that division. Any exceptions to those rules will be listed in the player eligibility rules below. You must be a minimum age of 18 by the tournament play date to play in any NABA tournament. Women are eligible to participate in any NABA tournament provided they meet the age requirement eligibility rules for their respective divisions. A manager of a team may at any point during a game question the age of opposing team members. We request that all managers have copies of their player's contracts, tournament ID cards, or Driver's License with them during games to afford proof of player eligibility. It is required that all players have a valid picture ID in the event a player's age or identity is questioned. Managers whose players cannot produce identification when requested to offer them by an opposing manager may face possible protest and investigation of their roster. Any player unable to produce a valid ID will be ineligible to continue in the game and any subsequent game until a valid ID is produced. If it is found that the player or players in question is/are ineligible, then the offending team may potentially forfeit the game of the filed protest, and may potentially forfeit all games played up to that point in the tournament, regardless of whether the ineligible player participated in the previous games. The sole decision of this penalty will be the tournament rules committee.

**Concept:** All NABA tournaments use the mix'n match concept. NABA tournaments are open to all players and teams both NABA affiliated and Non-NABA Affiliated. Simple majority will determine division eligibility (if a roster has 8 – 18 Open players and 7 – 18 Minor players, that team must play in the 18 Open division).

**Division Selection Requirements:** All division determinations are subject to final approval and/or the decision of the Tournament Rules Committee. While most teams have the ability to determine what division they will play in, an over-ruling can and will be made by the National NABA Tournament Rules Committee if one or more of the following applies to the team: 1) You must move up a division if you won a World Championship Tournament in the NABA the year before; 2) Previously played in the past 2 years any NABA tournament and made the playoffs in a respective division; 3) Previously played in the past 2 years in any NABA tournament Championship game in a respective division; 4) Previously played in the past 2 years any NABA tournament and had a record of .500 or better in a respective division; 5) Does not meet the ex-professional player requirement rules stated below; 6) Your team is represented with 4 or more players from a team that won the World Championship the prior year, and 7) If your team deposit is received after a division has completely filled you may be moved to another division. Again, the National NABA Tournament Rules Committee reserves the sole right to align divisions and determine player and team participation and eligibility. If a team drops out of a division upon check-in the NABA will do everything we can to fill the void. However, the NABA reserves the right to begin the tournament without said team and issue a forfeit win to the opposing teams when necessary, and/or to delete a division and add it to another division.

PLEASE NOTE: NABA may choose to combine two divisions for purposes of pool play only and make it an Open Division for pool play. If that happens, NABA will advise all teams as soon as possible to you can adjust your roster to add players if needed. After pool play is complete, NABA may take the records of each team in the combined division and re-seed each team into a higher and lower division based on each teams' record for playoffs and championship games. For example: where a 6 team pool is needed, if 16 teams sign up for the 18A division, and 4 teams sign up for the 18AA division, obviously the NABA cannot create an 18AA division. We may therefore, combine the 16 teams in 18A with the 4 teams in 18AA for purposes of pool play only. After pool play is complete, each team will be re-seeded for the playoffs and championship games. For purposes of this example, if NABA at the World Series has 8 teams in the playoffs for 18AA and 8 teams in the playoffs for 18A, the NABA would take the top 8 teams during the re-seeding to the 18AA playoffs and the next best 8 teams to the 18A playoffs.

**Ex-professional Player/College and Independent Player Requirements:** Players who are under verifiable professional baseball contracts are ineligible to play. A player must be out of any level of professional baseball (Major League, AAA, AA, A, Fall League, Instructional, Rookie Leagues, or any other leagues affiliated with MLB) for 30 days prior to the start of a World Series or National Championship Tournament to be eligible to participate. **NABA does not consider any Independent players/leagues or the *Liga Mexicana de Beisbol*, or LMB League which are unaffiliated with MLB as professional baseball per NABA requirements. Any players from the Mexicana de Beisbol or LMB league will be defined as Independent Baseball Players for tournament eligibility in the NABA.**

**A participant in the NABA tournament is not considered an ex-professional ballplayer if:** 1) The player has been out of a contract of any level of professional baseball for 12 complete seasons, and/or 2) The player is 45 years old and has been out of professional baseball for three seasons. Final resolution in such a situation is at the sole discretion of the Tournament Rules Committee.

**A participant in the NABA tournament is not considered an independent ballplayer if:** 1) The player has been out of playing independent unaffiliated baseball for 5 complete seasons.

**A participant in the NABA tournament is not considered a college ballplayer if:** 1) the player has been out from playing college baseball for 10 complete seasons. Final resolution in such a situation is at the sole discretion of the Tournament Rules Committee. Players who have played or are playing on a college team or college practice squad, including a club college team are eligible to play only in those divisions according to the NABA rules specified below. Any player who has played or is playing with a college team, practice squad or club team in NCAA Divisions I; II; III; NAIA and Junior/Community College must play in the divisions as outlined below. The National NABA Tournament Rules Committee reserves the right to alter these requirements or make special considerations to these rules.

**The following are eligibility rules for each division, as well as ex-professional player and college player requirements, which must be adhered to:**

**In the 18 Wood - Open** division anyone is allowed to play and it is considered an open division.

**In the 18 Wood - Minor** division a team may have up to (5) ex-pros on their roster with no more than (2) being a pitcher and an unlimited number of independent and college players.

**In the 18 Wood - Rookie** division, no team may have ex-pros on their roster, and may have up to (5) players who have played college baseball on their roster with no more than (2) being a pitcher. Furthermore, a team may only have up to (3) players who have played independent unaffiliated baseball during the past 5 years with

none of those players allowed to pitch. **ALL PITCHERS IN A ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE CHECKED TO MEET THE AGE AND EX-PROFESSIONAL EILIGIBILITY RULES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.**

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**In the 25 Wood - Open** division anyone is allowed to play and it is considered an open division.

**In the 25 Wood – Minor** division a team may have up to (5) ex-pros on their roster with no more than (2) being a pitcher and an unlimited number of independent and college players.

**In the 25 Wood - Rookie** division, no team may have ex-pros on their roster, and may have up to (5) players who have played college baseball on their roster with no more than (2) being a pitcher. Furthermore, a team may only have up to (3) players who have played independent unaffiliated baseball during the past 5 years with none of those players allowed to pitch. **ALL PITCHERS IN A ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE CHECKED FOR MEETING THE AGE AND EX-PROFESSIONAL EILIGIBILITY RULES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.**

**EXCEPTION:** In the 25 Aluminum or 25 Wood divisions, each team is allowed to have two (2) players under the age limit provided:

- the (2) players in question are no more than two (2) calendar years younger from the start of the tournament in the age limit they are playing in
  - Furthermore, any players under age, must be marked on the lineup card for the opposing manager and on the roster at check-in
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**In the 35 Wood - Open** division anyone is allowed to play and it is considered an open division.

**In the 35 Wood – Minor** division a team may have up to (3) ex-pros on their roster with no more than (1) being a pitcher and an unlimited number of independent and college players.

**In the 35 Wood - Rookie** division, no team may have ex-pros on their roster, and may have up to (5) players who have played college baseball on their roster with no more than (2) being a pitcher. Furthermore, a team may only have up to (3) players who have played independent unaffiliated baseball during the past 5 years with none of those players allowed to pitch. **ALL PITCHERS IN A ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE CHECKED FOR MEETING THE AGE AND EX-PROFESSIONAL EILIGIBILITY RULES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.**

**EXCEPTION:** In the 35 Aluminum or 35 Wood divisions, each team is allowed to have two (2) players under the age limit provided:

- the (2) players in question are no more than two (2) calendar years younger from the start of the tournament in the age limit they are playing in, and
  - any players under age, must be marked on the lineup card for the opposing manager and on the roster at check-in.
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**In the 45 Wood** division anyone is allowed to play and it is considered an open division. This division will be one pool, unless the division is large enough to create a National and American divisions, which will be determined by each teams past standings, performance and records. **ALL PITCHERS IN THE LOWER BRACKET GAMES WILL BE CHECKED FOR MEETING THE AGE AND EX-PROFESSIONAL EILIGIBILITY RULES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME.**

**EXCEPTION:** In the 45 Aluminum or 45 Wood divisions, each team is allowed to have two (2) players under the age limit provided:

- two (2) players in question are no more than two (2) calendar years and the month of January of the next year younger than the age limit they are playing in
  - and, any players under age, must be marked on the lineup card for the opposing manager and on the roster at check-in
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**In the 50 Wood** division anyone is allowed to play and it is considered an open division. This division will be one pool, unless the division is large enough to create a National and American divisions, which will be determined by each teams past standings, performance and records.

**EXCEPTION:** In the 50 and over divisions, each team is allowed to have three (3) players under the age limit provided:

- three (3) players in question are no more than two (2) calendar years and the month of January of the next year younger than the age limit they are playing in
  - and, any players under age must be marked on the lineup card for the opposing manager and on the roster at check-in.
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**In the 55 and 60 Wood** division anyone is allowed to play and it is considered an open division. This division will be one pool, unless the division is large enough to create a National and American divisions, which will be determined by each teams past standings, performance and records.

**EXCEPTION:** In the 55 and 60 and over division, each team is allowed to have four (4) players under the age limit provided:

- the (4) player's in question are no more than two (2) calendar years and the month of January of the next year younger than the age limit they are playing in; and will be allowed to pitch in the playoffs and championship games.
  - any players under age, must be marked on the lineup card for the opposing manager and on the roster at check-in.
  - any player younger than two (2) calendar years and the month of January younger must have a waiver from the Tournament Rules Committee to participate in the tournament.
  - In a tournament that offers doubleheaders in pool play, to be eligible to play in the playoffs and championship game, a player must have had at least one plate appearance in (2) pool games or have pitched a combined total of 3 outs in (2) pool games. A player may have one plate appearance in one pool game and pitch 3 outs in another pool game as well. In a tournament that offers a single game each day in pool play, to be eligible to play in the playoffs and championship game, a player must have had at least one plate appearance in (1) pool game or have pitched a combined total of 3 outs in (1) pool game. A player may have one plate appearance and pitch 3 outs in the same pool game as well. Each team must have documented proof of each player and pitcher's participation with your scorebook and your opponent's scorebook if questioned for a player to be eligible, and must follow the proper eligibility protest rules.
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**In the 65 Wood** division anyone is allowed to play and it is considered an open division. This division will be one pool, unless the division is large enough to create a National and American divisions, which will be determined by each teams past standings, performance and records.

**EXCEPTION:** In the 65 and over division, each team is allowed to have four (4) players under the age limit provided:

- the (4) player's in question are no more than two (2) calendar years and the month of January of the next year younger than the age limit they are playing in; and will be allowed to pitch in the playoffs, but not in the championship game.
- any players under age, must be marked on the lineup card for the opposing manager and on the roster at check-in.
- any players younger than two (2) calendar years the month of January younger must have a waiver from the Tournament Rules Committee to participate in the tournament.
- In a tournament that offers doubleheaders in pool play, to be eligible to play in the playoffs and championship game, a player must have had at least one plate appearance in (2) pool games or have pitched a combined total of 3 outs in (2) pool games. A player may have one plate appearance in one pool game and pitch 3 outs in another pool game as well. In a tournament that offers a single game each day in pool play, to be eligible to play in the playoffs and championship game, a player must have had at least one plate appearance in (1) pool game or have pitched a combined total of 3 outs in (1) pool game. A player may have one plate appearance and pitch 3 outs in the same pool game as well. Each team must have documented proof of each player and pitcher's participation with your scorebook and your opponent's scorebook if questioned for a player to be eligible, and must follow the proper eligibility protest rules.

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The NABA reserves the right to refuse any player or team permission to participate in a tournament. The NABA reserves the right to add, delete or merge divisions based on the number of teams entered at any time before the tournament, and will give every effort to give teams advance notice, however, the NABA may not be able to do so. If a team planned to enter a deleted division, that team may play in another division or receive a refund minus the deposit, or transfer the balance to another NABA National or World championship Tournament, provided it is at least 5 days prior to check-in. The NABA also reserves the right to make changes to the rules or make changes in prizes and/or giveaways (but with a substitute or equal or greater value), which would then be effective upon notice to the teams participating in the tournament. (UP-01/23)