



9TH Annual
**AMERICAN HEROES VETERANS
TOURNAMENT**
(2020)



“This Tournament is dedicated to ALL of our Veterans and Military Personnel who Protect and Serve our Country”

RULES

The American Heroes Veterans Tournament will be played in accordance with the National Federation High Schools (NFHS) rules with the following inclusions.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Junior Varsity Division: Players are required to be presently enrolled in Grades 11 and below. Senior (12th grade) players are not eligible to play in this Division.

Varsity Division: Players are required to be presently enrolled in any grade and must be of high school playing eligibility.

PENALTY: The Team will forfeit any game where an ineligible player has participated.

BAT SPECIFICATION

Bat must be stamped with BBCOR .5 or must be one-piece solid wood (ash, maple, or birch).

PENALTY: For use of an illegal bat, the NFHS penalty will be enforced.

BATTING ORDER

Teams will have the following batting order options:

- Batting 9 with an option to use a Designated Hitter (DH) for any defensive player.
- Batting 10 with one (1) Extra Hitter. The DH is not permitted if team bats 10.
- Batting 11 with two (2) Extra Hitters. The DH is not permitted if team bats 11.
- Continuous batting order is not permitted.
- Extra Hitters (EH) can go into the game defensively.
- If a player gets injured or leaves the game and there are no eligible substitutes, the line-up is compressed without penalty. **NOTE: Applies only when the batting order has either 10 or 11 hitters in the line-up.**
- If a player gets ejected and there are no eligible substitutes, when that spot in the batting order comes up in the game, it will be recorded as an Out.
- A team that bats 9 and a player gets injured and leaves the game, or gets ejected and there are no eligible substitutes, the order compresses to 8 batters with the 9 spot becoming an Automatic Out.

BASEBALLS

- The tournament will provide four (4) game baseballs to the umpires prior to each game.
- If additional baseballs are needed during the game starting with the Home Team and rotating as needed.
- Teams are responsible for tracking down foul balls that go out on their side of the field.

PITCHING

There is no pitching limitations or pitch count. Coaches are recommended to observe the safety of a pitcher's arm as it relates to pitches, innings and days pitched in the tournament.

A Balk is an automatic dead ball.

Intentional Walk: No pitches are required to be thrown. The Coach will advise the Plate Umpire of the intentional walk to the batter.

All other pitching rules fall under NFHS Rule 6.

Charged conferences – NFHS Rule 3-4.

SUBSTITUTION

A starter will be permitted to re-enter the game in the same batting order spot. A substitute that is removed from the game is no longer eligible to play in the game.

A Courtesy Runner for the pitcher or the catcher is permitted under NFHS Rule 10 (Speed-Up Rules).

All player substitutions are to be posted and reported to the game's official scorer and Plate Umpire. Per NFHS Rule 2-36 an unannounced substitute is a player who, by rule, can be in the game but has entered without reporting.

LINE UP CARD

Line up card is required and will include uniform number, player last name, first initial and position (if a starter)

Player substitutions are to be posted on the line-up card.

The line up cards will be exchanged at home plate between the coaches and the home plate umpire.

Each game designated home team is the official scorebook and all substitution changes for the game must go through the Home Plate Umpire, who will then announce the change(s) to the official scorer. **NOTE: The game will not start until a individual/coach is identified by the home team at the plate meeting as maintaining either a scoring application or a hand written scorebook.**

STARTING/ENDING GAME

Team can start and finish a game with eight (8) players. Should a team play with 8 players and lose a player for whatever reason, the game is over and forfeited to the opposing team.

GAME LENGTH

Pool Play:

- Seven (7) innings or no new inning after 2:00 hours (whichever comes first)
- **An Inning starts must be completed. There is no “drop dead” time for any game.**
- No extra innings.
- The base umpire will maintain the official clock for the game.

Bracket Championship Rounds:

- Seven (7) innings or no new inning after 2:00 hours (whichever comes first)
 - **EXCEPTION: Semi-Finals & Championship Game there is NO TIME LIMIT.**
- An Inning that starts must be completed. There is NO “drop dead” time for any game
- Games that are tied, will have extra innings until a winner is determined.
 - **1st extra inning – regular baseball is played.**
 - **2 or more extra innings – The last batted out of the previous inning will become a runner and placed at second base (with no outs) until a winner is determined.**

RUN RULE

- Ten (10) runs after 4 ½ - 5 full innings
- Coach may “Quit” at any time during the game.

FORCE PLAY SLIDE RULE

The force play slide rule under NFHS rules 2-32 will be in effect.

UNIFORM

Players: matching colored jerseys with a number on the back, baseball cap (no visors), and baseball pants.

If there are duplicate numbers, the coach is required to place a letter after each duplicated number on the line-up card so they can decipher between the two players.

Coaches are to dress neat and appropriately. Coaches can wear baseball pants if they wish, but it is not required. Cap or sun protection hat to be worn when coaching on the bases

CONDUCT

A player or coach that is ejected from a game by the umpires shall immediately leave the field and shall be suspended for their team's next tournament game.

Ejected individual must leave the playing field and go directly to the parking lot. Out of sight out of mind. If the ejected player is under 18 years old, he must be accompanied by a coach or an adult.

Failure of the ejected individual to leave the field immediately or is still around the field area (i.e. sitting in the bleachers, standing in the outfield, etc.) will result in the game being stopped by the umpires until the individual has left to go to the parking lot.

DUGOUTS

First come first serve basis.

No buckets, chairs, coaches, or player(s) will be permitted outside the dugout. Umpires will issue a warning for any violation. A second violation during the same game will result in the individual being ejected from the game.

HOME TEAM

A coin toss prior to each pool play game will be conducted between the coaches to determine the game's Home Team.

Bracket rounds higher seed is the HOME TEAM.

The Home Team is responsible for providing the Game's Official Scorer. At the plate meeting the home team coach will identify the location of the official scorekeeper to the umpires and opposing team coach. A coach from the Home Team is permitted to be the Game's Official Scorer.

SAFETY

Batting Helmets:

- Chrome helmets are not permitted
- No tape is to be affixed to any helmet
- Umpires can remove any helmet if they deem it unsafe for use (cracks, thin pads, etc.)
- Teams will need to bring adequate number of helmets to each game.
- C-flap attached to the helmet is permitted.

Players warming up the pitcher must wear a mask.

No jewelry/adornment is permitted to be worn by any player as per NFHS Jewelry Rule.

Hydration: Players and coaches must bring adequate amount of drinking water. [Due to COVID-19 there will be NO water provided for the dugouts.](#)

It is permitted and recommended that each team bring a team cooler with ice, additional water, and towels. There will be no concession stand available to obtain ice, etc.

WEATHER/REGULATION/SUSPENDED GAMES

DELAYS: Weather issues (lightning/rain) that result in games being halted will be delayed as long as possible by the tournament officials and umpires. Determination pending weather forecast, field conditions will be a factor in whether a halted game is resumed or suspended. If a tournament game has reached regulation 4 ½ - 5 full innings and a game can no longer be resumed due to weather or field conditions, the game is official, and the team ahead is declared the winner. If the game is tied at end of regulation, the game is official (as a Tie).

LIGHTNING: In the event there is any lightning that comes within 5 miles or less to the fields, the game will be suspended by the umpires. Teams are to leave the dugout/playing field area and go directly to the parking lot. Spectators are to leave the park and go to the parking lot as well. The umpires shall wait 30 minutes. For any further lightning strikes within the five miles during the initial 30 minutes.

During a lightning delay, teams are NOT to leave the parking lot. If the game is resumed and the team does not have at minimum 8 eligible players to continue the game, the game will be declared a forfeit.

REGULATION GAME: Games that reach minimum regulation 4 ½-5 full innings and a game can no longer be resumed due to weather the game is declared official and the team that is ahead at this time is declared the winner. If a Pool Play game is tied at regulation and can no longer be resumed, the game is official as a tie game.

SUSPENDED GAMES: Games that do not reach regulation and are called due to weather are considered suspended games and will be resumed from the point that the game was halted and completed. For suspended games the time limit starts over.

TOURNAMENT COVID-19 SAFETY POLICY

The Kino Baseball League, Pima County Natural Parks and Recreation, and the Pima County Stadium District objective is to assure that COVID-19 safety practices are in place that will allow the Tournament to be played.

The success and implementation of the plan will be contingent on the accountability of the players and coaches to practice the plan that is set forth.

It must be understood that any individual(s) that do not comply with the requirements of the plan, are subject to removal for the remainder of the tournament.

SELF ASSESSMENT:

1. Players and coaches that have symptoms (fever, chills, aches, cough, trouble breathing, headache, loss of taste and smell, etc.) must stay home and not come to the park.

SPECTATORS:

1. Spectators ARE permitted to attend the games played at Pima County Park fields (Arthur Pack, Curtis Park, Thomas Jay Regional Park-Littleton and Lawrence Park).
But...they are required to physical distance and if they cannot, they are required to mask up per Pima County ordinance.
2. Spectators **WILL NOT BE PERMITTED** to enter and attend the Tournament Games scheduled at the Kino Sports Complex.

GATE ENTRY (KINO SPORTS COMPLEX):

1. The main entry gate is located south of the Main Administration building (south of the Stadium).
2. The main entry gate will open 45 minutes prior to the first game of the day.
3. The entry gate schedule for player and coach access only will be posted on the game schedule.
4. **Players and coaches must wear a face covering as they enter and exit through the gate. No face covering - No entry.**
5. Once the players are through the gate, it will be closed.
6. The gate will be open for umpires who must be wearing a face covering upon entry and exit as well.

COMMON AREAS (KINO SPORTS COMPLEX):

1. Congregation of players and coaches in the common area (by batting cages) is prohibited.
2. Use of the Batting Cages is prohibited.
3. Players and coaches are asked to go directly to their assigned field location.

DUGOUT/FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED:

1. County Parks (Littleton, Arthur Pack, Curtis Park, Lawrence Park) Dugouts—all players and coaches must be wearing face covering.
2. Kino Sports Complex: The dugouts and adjacent bleachers have been marked with an “X” that identifies the six-foot distance that players and coaches are to use where a face covering is not required.

3. In the event there is a large contingency of players and coaches in a dugout or bleacher area, they are required to be wearing face coverings.
4. The game will be stopped by county or league officials if face covering/physical distancing policy is not being complied with. [A second stoppage in the same game involving the same team will result in the game ending, and the team terminated from the Tournament with no refund.](#)

FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED WHEN:

1. **Entering and exiting the facility (Kino Sports Complex).**
2. On the coaching lines.
3. Visiting the pitcher on the mound. Only the catcher (physical distance from coach and pitcher). All other infielders are not permitted on the mound surface.
4. Attending to an injured player.
5. Meeting with any player(s) whether it be an offensive or defensive conference.

HAND WASHING:

1. Players and coaches are to provide their own personal hand washing supplies, i.e. hand sanitizer, or soap and water.
2. Periodic hand washing after handling equipment, baseballs, etc. is highly recommended.

PRE-GAME PLATE MEETING:

1. The coach that represents the team at the pre-game plate meeting is to stand outside of the batter's box.
2. The home plate umpire will stand in the catcher box and the base umpire will stand at a point between the grass line and home plate.
3. Face covering is not required if this distance is maintained during the meeting.

TEAM MEETINGS:

1. Prior to and during the game, meeting with the players is permitted but physical distancing must be maintained. If unable to maintain the distance, everyone in the meeting must mask up.
2. **POST-GAME:**
 - a. **NO post-game team meetings will be conducted on the field or in the common areas (both county parks and at Kino Sports Complex).**
 - b. Pick up ALL equipment and dispose of ALL trash.
 - c. Leave the field/park through the exit as designated by officials.

EXITING KINO SPORTS COMPLEX FIELDS:

1. When leaving the complex fields, coaches and players will be required to wear a mask. They will then be directed to a specific gate (Main Gate entry or the dirt path that runs alongside the batting cage) to the parking lot.

IN-BETWEEN GAMES - KINO SPORTS COMPLEX:

1. The county staff will be sanitizing the dugouts, restrooms, etc.
2. A Team remaining to play another game and is scheduled for the same field may leave or remove their equipment from the dugout while the county staff sanitizes the dugout area.
3. The county staff will be sanitizing with a light mist of material that will be sprayed on areas of the dugout.

CONCESSIONS:

1. There will be no concessions available at either county parks or the Kino Sports Complex.
2. Coaches are permitted to bring a cooler with ice, towels, additional drinking water, etc.
3. Players are to bring water and any drink (Gatorade/Powerade) that they will need during the game.

FIRST AID:

1. Tournament will provide a first aid kit for minor cuts and abrasions.
2. Teams are highly recommended to have a first aid kit in their dugout.