

OFSAA BOYS' BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The sole basis for the very existence of high school sport is the contribution it makes to the general educational experience of those students who participate.

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. Events and/or Classification:

The OFSAA Baseball Championship shall be conducted in an Open Classification.

2. Championship Structure and Procedure:

(a) General Structure

(i) For an eighteen (18) team structure: There will be two (2) regional elimination tournaments with nine (9) teams at each site. See Schedule in **Convenors' Manual - Sport Specific Directives - Baseball**

(ii) For a twenty (20) team structure: There will be two regional elimination tournaments with ten (10) teams at each sight. See Schedule in **Convenors' Manual - Sport Specific Directives - Baseball**

(iii) The tournaments will use a double knockout format, with the 2 finalists at each site advancing to the OFSAA Championship semi-finals.

(b) Seeding:

All teams will be assigned to a site with consideration given to geographical location, and an attempt to equitably balance the stronger teams at each site.

(c) Registration materials will only be given to the teacher accompanying the athletes upon receipt of all required entry materials as outlined on the OFSAA Baseball Championship website.

(d) The teacher-coach /supervisor must attend the coaches' meeting. If the coach is a non-teacher, then both the teacher and the coach must attend the meeting.

3. Entry:

(a) Entries shall be accepted from Association convenors or designates only.

(b) Entries must be received by the deadline as outlined in the coaches' information on the OFSAA Baseball website. Late entries will only be accepted if they can be accommodated and an additional entry fee shall be charged.

(c) Each Association may enter one (1) team in the Championship.

(d) Each team may register a maximum of twenty-two (22) participants, which includes players and team personnel. Only registered participants may represent the school and/or attend Championship activities. (ref. OFSAA By-Laws, Appendix XV)

(e) Any suspension or disciplinary actions in Association play shall be carried forward into OFSAA competitions. The Association convenor shall be responsible for

reporting such players and the nature of the disciplinary action on the OFSAA entry form.

4. Expenses:

(a) Those schools having entries are responsible for arranging and financing their entry fee, their own travel, meals and accommodation for the event.

(b) All schools entering a Federation Championship shall, by signature of the school principal on the Championship Entry Form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for damage resulting from misconduct by their participants.

5. Eligibility:

(a) School/Team Eligibility

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation, a school/team must:

- (i) conduct a 'bona fide' high school program consisting of a minimum of nine (9) practices during a three (3) week period in the current school year and under the supervision of a teacher as certified by the school principal
- (ii) participate in an Association-approved league if one is held ...or play a minimum of six (6) games
- (iii) participate in the Association Championship or OFSAA-qualifying event
- (iv) use only eligible players in any competition during the school year or the school forfeits the right to participate in the OFSAA Championship

(b) Individual Student Eligibility

To represent a school in any activity co-ordinated by the Federation, a student must:

- (i) be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which his/her school belongs;
- (ii) be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school;
- (iii) meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that he has not reached his 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held;
- (iv) be in Grades 9-12;
- (v) be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy; (By-Law 5, Section 4(f)).
- (vi) be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (By-Law 5, Section 4(g));
- (vii) have signed the Rules of Behaviour signature form for the competition;
- (viii) have executed the Federation's "Release of Liability" form.
- (ix) have participated in a 'bona fide' high school program as outlined in (a) above, and attended the majority of practices/games
- (x) have participated in the Association Championship or OFSAA-qualifying competition
- (xi) not participate in both the OFSAA Championship and any other event in the same sport in the same day.

(c) Sport Specific

No competitor is eligible for the OFSAA Baseball Championship if he has signed with a major league baseball team. Any high school team that includes said player on their eligibility sheet will forfeit all games in which the player's name appears on the game

sheet.

6. Rules and Officials:

- (a) The Official Rules of Baseball shall govern play at the OFSAA Championship with the following exceptions:
- (b) **Format**
 - (i) All games will be seven (7) innings except when a team is leading by 10 or more runs after five (5) inning, four and a half (4 ½) innings if the home team is ahead. Then the mercy rule will apply and the game is ended.
 - (ii) With two outs, and the catcher on base, the last player making an out may be substituted for the catcher.
- (c) **Tie games** will be broken as follows:
 - With no outs in their offensive half of the extra inning the teams will place a runner at second base (last player who made an out) and play extra innings until a winner is declared.
- (d) With the exception of the pitcher each starting player may re-enter the game once. (a pitcher who once removed may not pitch again if removed from the field)
- (e) Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid making contact with a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless he/she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected from the game.
- (f) Any individual ejected from a game shall be automatically ineligible to participate in his team's next game; subject to review by the Competition Committee.
- (g) The use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco by all on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, trainers, umpire, etc.) is prohibited at all times and is subject to automatic ejection from the game.
- (h) **Pitcher Rules;**
 - (i) A pitcher, who pitches 75 or more pitches, cannot pitch the next calendar day.
 - (ii) A pitcher, who pitches 100 pitches maximum per day, must be removed.
 - (iii) A pitcher may not pitch on 3 consecutive calendar days unless the pitcher threw 30 pitches or less on each of the first 2 days and the maximum pitches on the 3rd day is 50.
- (i) **Pitch Count Limits**
 - i) Action**

If the maximum limit is reached while facing a batter, the pitcher may pitch to the earlier of

 - (i) the completion of that batter, or
 - (ii) the end of the inning.
 - (iii) It is the Manager's Responsibility to remove the pitcher from the pitching position and must not wait for the umpire to check the pitch counts

ii) **Special Notes:**

When counting pitches, a balk will be considered a pitch if the ball is thrown.

(i) An official Pitch Count Recorder must be identified by the score keeper and must provide

the pitch count to either manager or the umpires.

(ii) It is the Pitch Count Recorder's responsibility to inform the home plate umpire that the pitch

count limit is reached. If Pitch Count Recorder fails in this action, it is still the responsibility of the defensive team's manager to remove the pitcher.

(iii) A player in- eligible to pitch or removed from pitching can play in another position

- (j) The home team at the regional games and the OFSAA gold medal and bronze medal games will be determined by a coin toss conducted by the site convenor no later than twenty minutes prior to game time. At the OFSAA semifinals each regional champion shall be declared the home team.

7. Uniforms and Equipment:

(a) General

(i) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos. All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt.

(ii) No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi sport programs.

(iii) Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in By-Law 6, Section 2(h). Coaches must be uniformly dressed in team colours - no shorts.

(iv) Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform in the competition area, AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire

(v) The above criteria must be met both on and in the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards ceremonies. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Competition Committee for resolution.

(b) Sport Specific

(i) All players and coaches must wear their official team cap.

(ii) Shoes with metal cleats or rubber moulded cleats are permitted.

(iii) Catchers must wear a helmet and mask with adequate throat protection at all times.

Note:

This includes practice and warm-ups. Coaches must wear at least a mask in all practice and warm-up situations.

(iv) Only solid wood or composite bats will be allowed.

(v) Only baseballs approved by Baseball Canada for use by Midget age and up (16 and over) shall be used in High School Competition.

(vi) No visible jewelry is allowed.

8. Awards:

- (a) OFSAA gold, silver, bronze and antique bronze medallions (22) shall be presented to members of the top four(4) teams in the Championship.
- (b) The school represented by the Championship team will receive an OFSAA Championship banner to be retained by the school, and will be presented with the Prentice Cup.

9. Supervision: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 1)

A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent.

- (a) For team sports ("A team consists of all athletes from the same school who qualify for Federation competition as a unit..." {reference By-Law 5, Section 3}), a teacher from the same school, or a retired teacher, as approved by the principal of the school, must accompany and be responsible for the team.
- (b) For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated in (a) and (b) above, is not of the same sex as the athlete(s), and where the athlete(s) are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the athlete(s), must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation.

10. Deportment: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 2)

- (a) Definitions:
 - (i) A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an OFSAA Championship event".
 - (ii) A participant is defined as, "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area." "Restricted area" includes "those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited."
- (b) Codes of Behaviour
 - (i) All participants are expected to abide by the, "Rules of Behaviour for Participants to OFSAA Championships". (see Appendix to By-Laws)
 - (ii) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Championships.
 - (iii) Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the "Rules of Behaviour".
 - (iv) All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Coaches to OFSAA Championships. (See Appendix II)
 - (v) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Statement of Principle on Recruiting. (See Appendix IV)
 - (vi) Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour for Spectators. (See Appendix III)
 - (vii) All coaches are expected to adhere to the "Return to Play Guidelines". (See Appendix VI)
 - (viii) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements. (See Appendix IX)

(c) No artificial noisemakers are permitted at OFSAA events.

11. Social:

(a) If a social event is arranged, all team members and coaches must attend.

(b) Participants are expected to wear “dress casual” attire. No jeans, shorts, tank tops or hats are permitted.

(c) Should there be an instance of improper attire, the Competition Committee shall deal with the matter and forward a report to the OFSAA Board of Reference - Sanctions.

12. Medical:

(a) Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, Band-Aids, ice packs) for their athletes.

13. Protest Committee

All disputes during an OFSAA Championship/Festival shall be directed to the Protest Committee for resolution.

(a) The Protest Committee shall consist of three (3) individuals; the chairperson of the Sport Advisory Committee or designate, a tournament committee member, and one other member appointed by the Championship convenor. The Head official in some cases, may serve as a member of the Protest Committee. Members of the Protest Committee must not have any conflict of interest relevant to the incident under protest..

(b) All protests must be submitted in writing to the Championship convenor or designate, shall fully outline the incident under protest, and shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee (refundable if protest is upheld).

(c) A protest must be submitted within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the game/event in which the incident under protest occurred, or within thirty minutes of the occurrence if protesting an incident outside the field of play.

(d) The following areas may not be protested at a Championship/Festival:

- Officials’ decisions
- Eligibility of transfer students

(e) Any disputes or protests re: tournament structure and procedure must be addressed no later than the coaches’ meeting.

(f) The Protest Committee shall be the body empowered to delay/modify/cancel an event due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather conditions) at the site(s).

(g) Decisions of the Protest Committee shall be final.

A report of all appeals and decisions shall be forwarded to the OFSAA Board of Reference – Sanctions, who may determine that additional sanctions are necessary.

***All Federation Championships are non-smoking events.
This includes the use of all tobacco related products.***

Participants must obey the Ministry of Education’s Code of Conduct.

**Sport Specific Directives
For
OFSAA BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

1. Championship Structure and Procedure

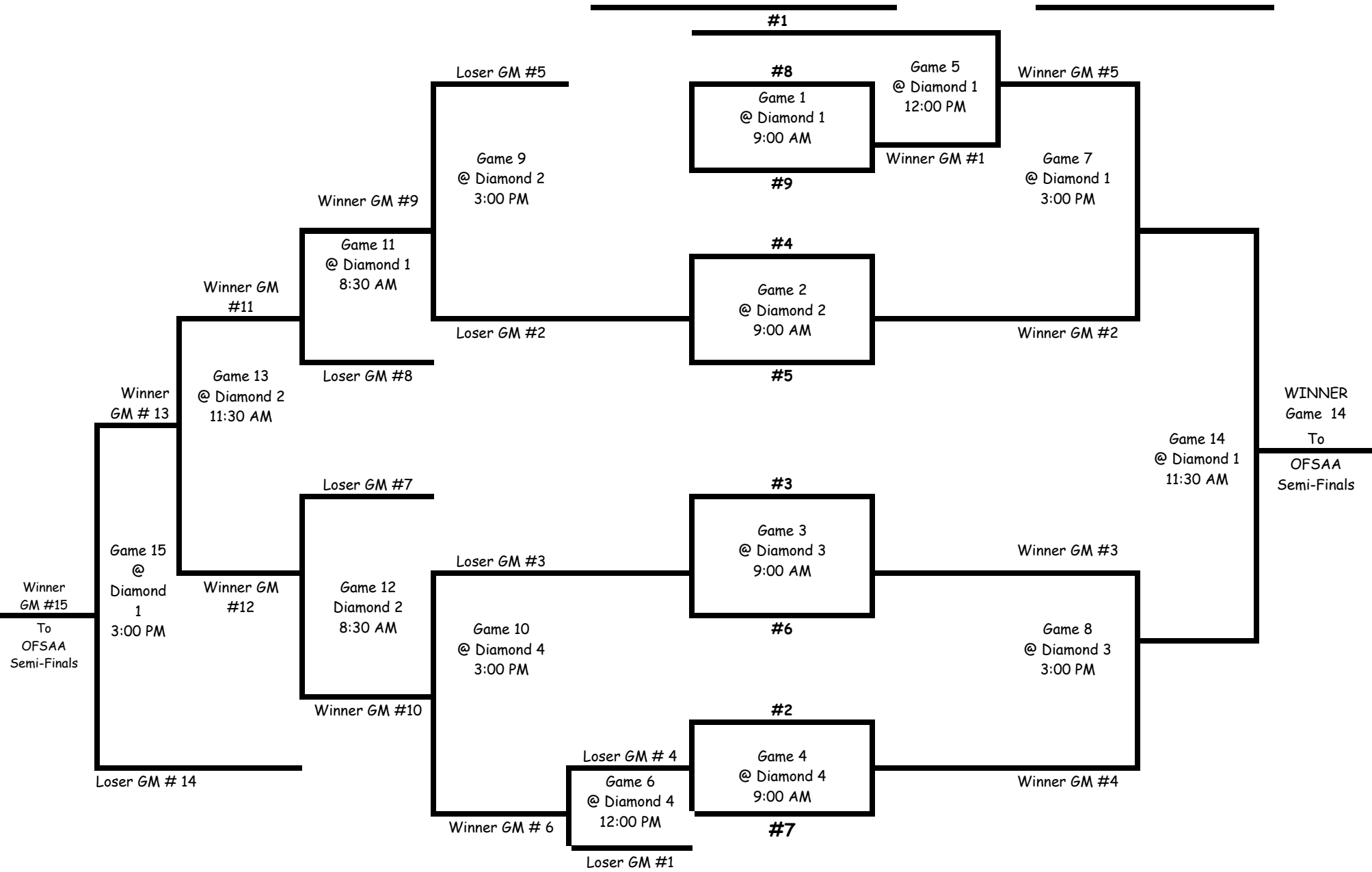
- (i) The placement of teams will be done by the tournament convenor in consultation with the OFSAA coordinator of baseball, and the chair of the baseball Sport Advisory Committee.
- (ii) **Location:** The semi-final and final championship games will be held at the Rogers Centre if possible. The location of the championship shall be decided no later than June 1st of the school year prior to the championship. Preliminary playoff games will be held at sites determined by the regional convenors. Convenors, whenever possible, should ensure that all participating teams are rotated throughout all Championship sites during the preliminary rounds of competition.
- (iii) The home team at the regional games and the OFSAA gold medal and bronze medal games will be determined by a coin toss conducted by the site convenor no later than twenty minutes prior to game time. At the OFSAA semi finals each regional champion shall be declared the home team.
- (iv) Draw format...as in chart below

APPENDIX A OFSAA BASEBALL PRENTICE CUP REGIONAL - TOURNAMENT DRAW

ROUNDS FOUR, FIVE, SIX - Day 2

ROUND ONE, TWO, THREE - DAY 1

DAY 2ND

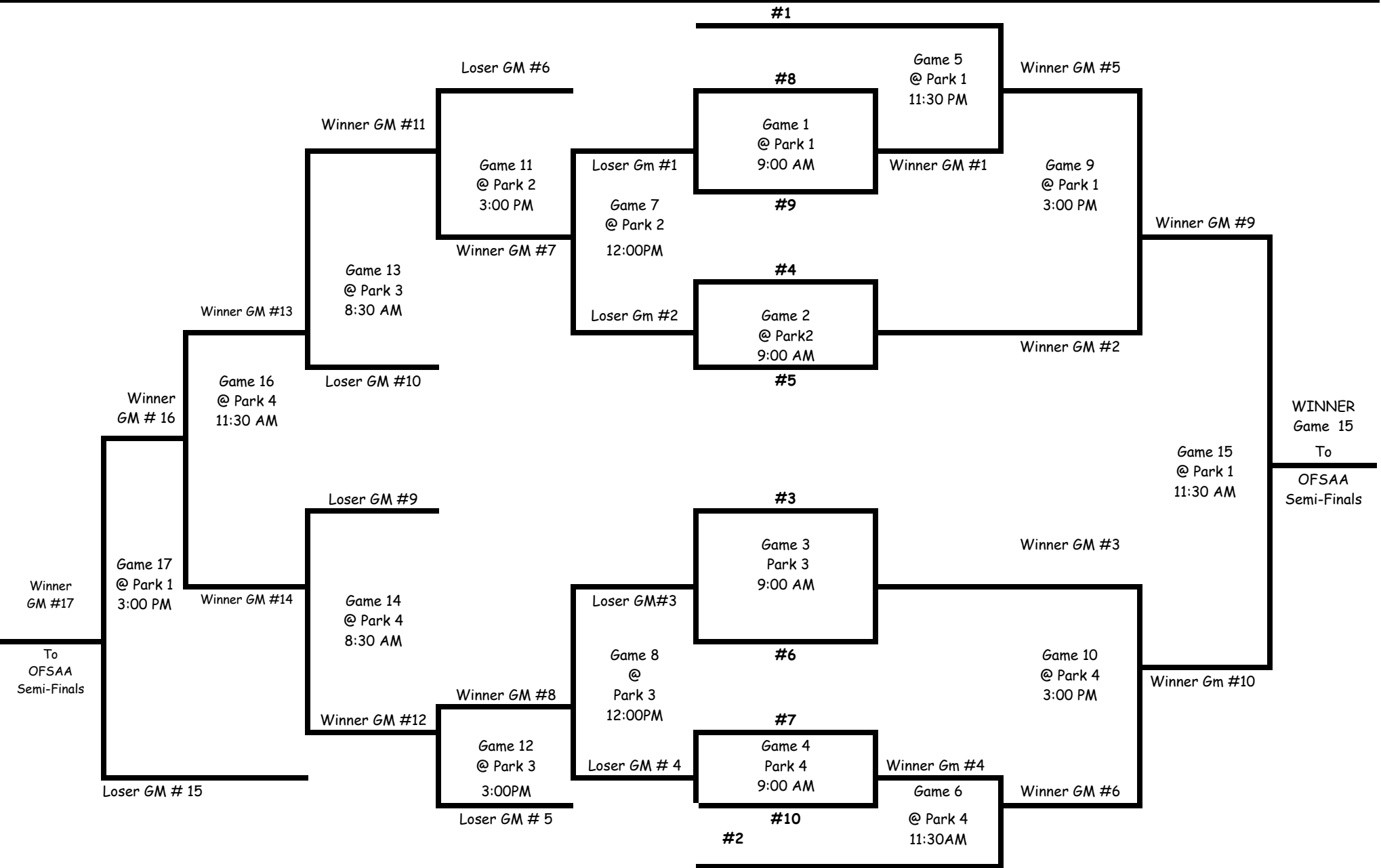


APPENDIX B - 20 team tournament

ROUNDS FOUR, FIVE, SIX - THURSDAY, JUNE

ROUND ONE, TWO, THREE - WEDNESDAY, JUNE

THURSDAY, JUNE



2. Medical

- a) Provision shall be made by the Convenor to have medical assistance in attendance or readily available and to follow appropriate hygienic precautions with regard to bodily fluids (injuries with visible blood must be treated and covered) and communicable diseases.
- b) Qualified first-aid personnel and equipment shall be available at the Championship site(s).