

2026 NBA ALL-STAR GAME FORMAT

FORMAT

The 2026 All-Star Game will feature a three-team round-robin mini tournament consisting of a total of four 12-minute games.

- In round-robin play, each of the three teams will play one game against each of the other two teams.
- The top two teams based on round-robin play will play in the championship game.

TEAMS

There will be three teams of at least eight players each:

- Stars: U.S. All-Stars
- Stripes: U.S. All-Stars
- World: International All-Stars

TOURNAMENT BRACKET

Game 1: Stars vs. World | Game 2: Stripes vs. Winner of Game 1 | Game 3: Stripes vs. Loser of Game 1
Game 4: Championship Game -- Top Two Teams

RULE SET

- After the three-game round-robin mini-tournament, the three teams will be ranked using the following criteria in the following order:
 - Record
 - Point Differential
 - Total Points
 - Random Drawing
- The top two teams based on ranking will play in the championship game and the higher ranked team will be designated the home team.
- NBA Official Playing Rules will generally apply to these games, except that:
 - Each game will have one 12-minute period in regulation play, and overtime if needed.
 - Timeouts
 - Each team will be entitled to two team timeouts per game (duration – 1:15)
 - Each game may have up to two mandatory timeouts (duration – 3:30), in accordance with the following:
 - If neither team has taken a team timeout prior to 6:59 on the game clock, then there will be a mandatory timeout at that point, which will be charged to the home team.
 - If only one timeout has occurred prior to 2:59 on the game clock, then there will be a mandatory timeout at that point, which will be charged to whichever team has not previously been charged with a timeout.
 - Each team is allowed only one Coach's Challenge per game, regardless of the outcome of the Challenge.
 - Individual fouls will be kept, but a player will not foul out.
 - The rules that apply to the last two minutes of the fourth quarter according to the NBA Official Playing Rules will apply beginning when the game clock reaches 2:00 in each game.
 - Overtime
 - Overtime will be played to a target score of 5. There are no quarters and no game clock. A game will end, and a team will win, when a team reaches or surpasses the target score.
 - Each team is entitled to one timeout during the overtime period (regardless of how many timeouts a team called in regulation).
 - A team reaches the penalty on the second team foul in the overtime period.
 - All rules that apply for the final two minutes of regulation apply during the overtime period.