



## **BOYS' 18 & 16 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Kalamazoo

### 2026 TOURNAMENT FAQ'S 5/26

The FAQ's listed here are merely to provide you with information when applying to Boys Nationals. Any other pertinent information can be found at: [www.kzooumps.com](http://www.kzooumps.com)

#### **GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

##### **ARE ALL MATCHES CHAIRED?**

- Yes, all main draw singles, doubles and FIC matches are chaired using USTA rules, procedures, and regulations.
- All matches will be scored using iOnSport via tablets provided by the tournament.
  - No personal cell phone will be used to score the matches.

##### **DO CHAIR UMPIRES CALL ALL LINES?**

- No. There are no solo chairs held at the event
- Players call their own lines with any necessary overrules made by the chair umpire.

##### **ARE LINE UMPIRES USED?**

- Yes. The tournament uses Line Umpires (LU) starting with the semifinals on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- No ELC (Electronic Line Calling) will be used at this year's event.

##### **HOW MANY CHAIRS WILL I GET PER DAY?**

- All matches are chaired, and most officials average 3-4 chairs per day.
- Matches are assigned by the respective Site Chiefs based upon experience and performance.

##### **WILL I GET CHAIR FEEDBACK?**

- Coaches will be provided from the USTA Training staff from August 7<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>.
- They will be available at the morning meeting(s) and throughout the day.
- Field Staff will also offer feedback and support.

##### **HOW WILL MY WORK ASSIGNMENT BE RECORDED?**

- The respective site staff will record daily chair counts.
- At the end of the tournament, your work record will be entered into OFFICIALS FIRST (O1st), along with your associated chair counts and any associated line days.
  - There is no need to enter your own work record.



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### WHAT ARE THE DAILY REPORT TIMES?

- Matches are currently scheduled to start at 9:00a, with a report time of 8:00a on August 7<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>. Any changes will be communicated based upon the needs of the tournament.

### COMMUNICATION

- Most information can be found on the official website: [www.kzooumps.com](http://www.kzooumps.com). This should be your first step when seeking information.
  - Site assignments
  - Reference material
  - Listings
- Daily communication will be via the WhatsApp Group set up for the event. The group information to join will be sent out the week before the event.
  - If you choose to opt out using WhatsApp, you are responsible for getting the information provided.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

#### WHAT IS THE PAY RATE?

- 2026 daily rate is **\$170**. You will receive payment details (of days, travel, and chair count) upon completion of the tournament
- Pay is remitted via ACH (Automated Clearing House). ACH is an electronic network for financial transactions and the default and the preferred method of payment\*.
  - \*-NOTE: Checks can be drafted on an individual basis and will take much longer to process.
- Barring any issues with your forms, most payments are received within four to six weeks of the end of the event.

### TRAVEL

#### WHAT IS THE TRAVEL ALLOWANCE?

- Limited travel assistance is provided.
- \$250 provided based upon flight receipts or one-way mileage per the IRS rate. The tournament would certainly wish to offer more but with the considerable number of officials, who is not possible.
- As an independent contractor, you can claim all expenses you incur with this event on your taxes (mileage, airfare, train, rental car, hotel).

For any items not covered here, please contact: DOUGLAS RICE – 260.402.9918 - [D. Rice email](mailto:drice@usta.com)



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### HOUSING

**IS HOUSING PROVIDED?** Yes, shared rooms will be provided from the night prior to your first day of work through the final night of your assignment. Every effort will be made to release you as soon as possible on your last scheduled day, based upon the needs of the tournament.

- Single rooms can be provided at half the room rate (at no additional cost to the tournament) if someone does not want to share a room; that shared cost is ~ \$70-75 per night.
  - Room costs will **NOT** be deducted from your tournament fees and **must be settled by you via the front desk.**
  - The Housing Chair will send confirmation numbers closer to the start of the tournament.
  - Tournament Hotel:
    - **Radisson Plaza Center – 100 West Michigan Avenue - Kalamazoo, MI 49007 – 269.343.3333**
- A listing of available roommates will be provided (upon selection) when you register.
- You are not required to stay at the tournament hotel. If you choose, you are welcome to arrange your own accommodation (at your expense).
- Those officials working the finals on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> will have the option of receiving lodging that evening.
- **Any hotel inquiries should be made directly to Doug Rice. Under no circumstances should anyone contact the hotel to make inquiries regarding the tournament.**

### TRANSPORTATION

#### **TRAVEL TO KALAMAZOO:**

- Some officials choose to fly to other airports instead of Kalamazoo. For example, Kalamazoo airport (AZO) is small and can be expensive.
  - Chicago (Midway or O'Hare): take the CTA downtown, walk to Union Station. Take the train to Kalamazoo.
    - At the time of this posting, the cost of using the train from Union Station to Kalamazoo is ~\$30.
    - ~2.5-hour drive to Kalamazoo from O'Hare.
    - The Amtrak station and Bus Terminal are located downtown and a few blocks from the tournament hotel and site.
  - Grand Rapids, MI (52-minute drive) to Kalamazoo.
  - Detroit, MI (~2-hour drive) to Kalamazoo.
  - South Bend, IN (~1.5-hour drive).
- Rental cars are normally at a premium, and availability can be scarce and expensive.
- Ride shares and/or taxis (e.g., Uber) are available and reasonably priced.

For any items not covered here, please contact: DOUGLAS RICE – 260.402.9918 - [D. Rice email](#)



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### HOW DO I GET FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL?

- There will be volunteer shuttles coordinated by both the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo airports for **arrivals only**. There is a hotel shuttle service from the Radisson to/from Kalamazoo airport.
- There is no coordinated transportation for departures when your assignment is completed.
- There will be tournament shuttle times posted on [www.kzooump.com](http://www.kzooump.com) after July 15<sup>th</sup>. If you need time other than what is provided, you may have to find your own transportation.

### HOW DO I MANAGE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION?

- There are usually enough officials willing to drive to get people to and from the tournament sites.
  - A list of officials with cars will be provided via the website ([www.kzooumps.com](http://www.kzooumps.com)) closer to the start of the event.
- There are plans to have shuttles leaving the hotel in the morning to the tournament sites (details forthcoming).
- Stowe Stadium is a 10-minute walk from the tournament hotel.
- We are planning to have some vans for personal use for officials throughout the event (pending).

## FOOD

### WHAT MEALS ARE PROVIDED?

- Coffee and rolls/bagels are at each site in the morning.
- The hotel will provide a “breakfast-to-go” service. Details will be provided when you check in.
- Lunch is provided. Based upon the registration information, the tournament tries to accommodate the many food options.
  - There will be some vegetarian lunches, but no special considerations will be made to provide vegan, gluten-free, nor non-GMO meals based upon the considerable number of officials.
- If you require specific dietary needs, it is suggested you provide your own food.
- Some evening food is provided for umpires who may work if/when matches run late.

## MEETINGS

### TOURNAMENT WEBINAR

- There is a REQUIRED Pre-Event Preparation Training Webinar scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00p (EST). Details forthcoming.
- There is an iOnSport Training Webinar on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00p (EST). Details Forthcoming.



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**WHERE IS THE PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING?**

- Details will be communicated closer to the event.

**UNIFORM**

**WHAT IS THE UNIFORM REQUIREMENT?**

- Each official is required to bring and wear their blue USTA shirts. This is a high-profile and high visibility event! Please take stock in the quality and condition of your standard official shirts. There is enough time to replenish or replace your shirts.
- You will be issued a tournament cap (more than likely the color will be white). **You will not need to bring your red hats.**
- Bring your own khaki shorts/pants, shoes, and belt.
- Please wear USTA-approved outerwear (or plain navy, no old USTA logos). See below.
- Kalamazoo can be hot or cool, so watch the Michigan weather in late July to determine how much outer wear to bring.
- Anything pertaining to apparel or styles, etc. not outlined here needs to be approved **PRIOR** to the tournament. Please contact Doug Rice, 260.402.9918 or driceusta10s@gmail.com.
- [CLICK HERE FOR USTA UNIFORM GUIDELINES.](#)