



NBA season preview 2025-26

NBA Franchises

REGULAR SEASON: OCT 21, 2025 - APR 12, 2026

NBA FINALS TIP-OFF: JUN 4, 2026

Two conferences, each with 15 teams divided into three divisions:

Regular season games

EASTERN CONFERENCE

WESTERN CONFERENCE

82

The 80th National Basketball Association season launches with the *Oklahoma City Thunder* as reigning champions after beating the *Indiana Pacers* in the 2025 NBA Finals – extending a remarkable streak of equivalence across the league, with seven different title holders since 2019

BUILDING DYNASTIES: Oklahoma star *Shai Gilgeous-Alexander* (left) signed four-year extension in July – NBA Finals “Most Valuable Player” averaged lethal 32.7pts in 2024-25 regular season

Oklahoma City Thunder spending power:

\$822m

Spending cap increased to retain crucial “Big Three” core of title-winning roster

\$287m

Jalen Williams (Rookie extension, 2026-30)

\$285m

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2027-30)

\$250m

Chet Holmgren (2026-30)

RACE AGAINST TIME: *LeBron James* (below) is set to become first player to play across 23 separate NBA seasons – despite missing opening fixtures with sciatica

MOST POINTS IN NBA HISTORY
Regular season and play-offs

LeBron James Games: 1854
» Cleveland Cavaliers, Miami Heat, LA Lakers

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar 1797
» Milwaukee Bucks, LA Lakers

Karl Malone 1669
» Utah Jazz, LA Lakers

Kobe Bryant 1566
» LA Lakers

Michael Jordan 1251
» Chicago Bulls, Washington Wizards

Kevin Durant 1293
» Oklahoma, Golden State, Nets, Suns

50,473

44,149

41,689

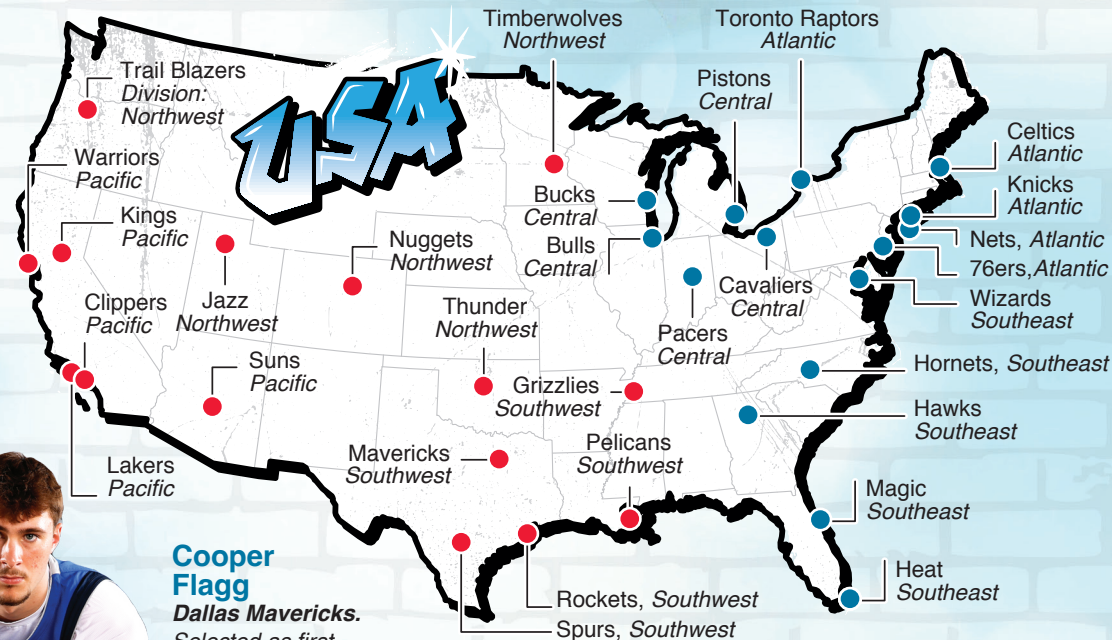
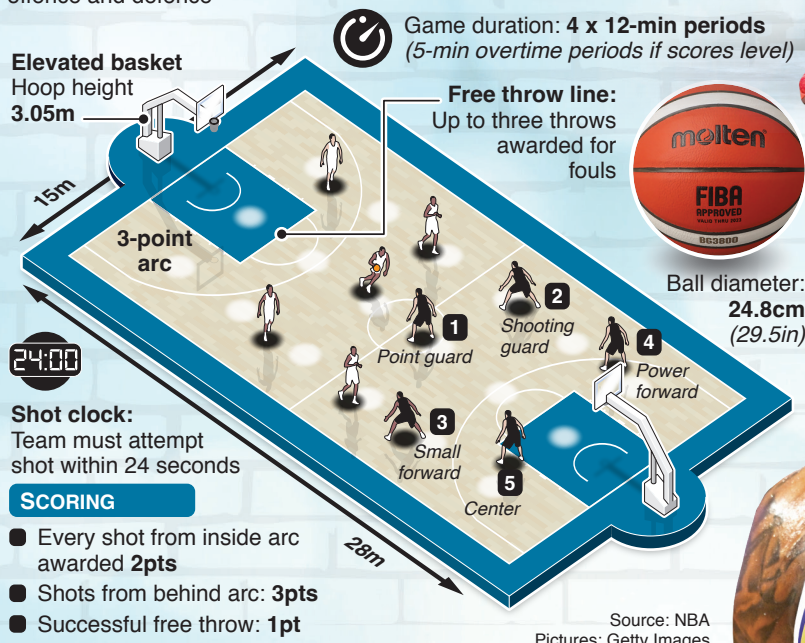
39,283

38,279

35,556

GUIDE TO BASKETBALL: OBJECTIVE

Two teams of five players try to score points by shooting ball into opposition's basket – switching between offence and defence



Cooper Flagg

Dallas Mavericks.
Selected as first overall pick of NBA draft

Opening fixtures

Away team	All games Oct 22 except where indicated	Home team
Houston Rockets	Paycom Center (Oct 21)	Oklahoma City Thunder
Golden State Warriors	Crypto.com Arena (Oct 21)	Los Angeles Lakers
Cleveland Cavaliers	Madison Square Garden	New York Knicks
Brooklyn Nets	Spectrum Center	Charlotte Hornets
Miami Heat	Kia Center	Orlando Magic
Toronto Raptors	State Farm Arena	Atlanta Hawks
Philadelphia 76ers	TD Garden	Boston Celtics
Detroit Pistons	United Center	Chicago Bulls
New Orleans Pelicans	FedEx Forum	Memphis Grizzlies
Washington Wizards	Fiserv Forum	Milwaukee Bucks
Los Angeles Clippers	Delta Center	Utah Jazz
San Antonio Spurs	American Airlines Center	Dallas Mavericks
Sacramento Kings	Mortgage Matchup Center	Phoenix Suns
Minnesota T'wolves	Moda Center	Portland Trail Blazers
Oklahoma City*	Gainbridge Fieldhouse (Oct 23)	Indiana Pacers
Denver Nuggets	Chase Center (Oct 23)	Golden State Warriors

*Interleague game between Eastern and Western conference

NBA FINALS: Eastern Conference teams hold 41-38 series advantage over Western Conference

2025	Oklahoma	bt Indiana	4-2
2024	Boston	Dallas	4-1
2023	Denver	Miami	4-1
2022	Warriors	Boston	4-2
2021	Milwaukee	Phoenix	4-2
2020	LA Lakers	Miami	4-2
2019	Toronto	Warriors	4-2
2018	Warriors	Cleveland	4-0
2017	Warriors	Cleveland	4-1
2016	Cleveland	Warriors	4-3

Victor Wembanyama
San Antonio Spurs.

7ft 4in French prodigy, 21, primed for breakthrough season