



2026-2027 Season Grade Division Rules & Registration Requirements Game Rules

I. Grade Division Rules & Registration Requirements – School & Open Team Tournaments

Competition shall be in the following Grade Divisions.

Boys & Girls Grade Divisions

Grade Division	
2 nd	An athlete must be in the 2 nd Grade as of September 1, 2026 and cannot turn 10 prior to September 1, 2027
3 rd	An athlete must be in the 3 rd Grade as of September 1, 2026 and cannot turn 11 prior to September 1, 2027
4 th	An athlete must be in the 4 th Grade as of September 1, 2026 and cannot turn 12 prior to September 1, 2027
5 th	An athlete must be in the 5 th Grade as of September 1, 2026 and cannot turn 13 prior to September 1, 2027
6 th	An athlete must be in the 6 th Grade as of September 1, 2026 and cannot turn 14 prior to September 1, 2027
7 th	An athlete must be in the 7 th Grade as of September 1, 2026 and cannot turn 15 prior to September 1, 2027
8 th	An athlete must be in the 8 th Grade as of September 1, 2026 and cannot turn 16 prior to September 1, 2027
9 th	An athlete must be in the 9 th Grade as of September 1, 2026 and cannot turn 17 prior to September 1, 2027
10 th	An athlete must be in the 10 th Grade as of September 1, 2026 and cannot turn 18 prior to September 1, 2027
11 th	An athlete must be in the 11 th Grade as of September 1, 2026 and cannot turn 19 prior to September 1, 2027 Note: Designated tournaments will allow for teams to have up to three (3) Unsigned Seniors to play on 11th Grade teams.

No Grade Exceptions

1. Tournaments designated as “**School Team**”, must consist of players attending the same school or players that all feed into the same high school. Questions regarding a player’s eligibility on a “Feeder Team” should be directed to the tournament director who will make final decision in regards to a player’s eligibility. Players must be in the grade (or lower) for the division that they are participating in.
2. Teams must submit roster with all required information before beginning tournament play complete with parent signature. Should for any reason a team participates without a roster signed by Parents/Guardians, the coach of that team agrees to accept total responsibility for injuries that may occur.
3. Players may only play on one (1) team in any age group. Players may play on multiple teams if each team competes in a separate grade division and the player meets the age requirement of each age group.
4. Coaches should have **Birth Certificates and current Report Cards** available should a protest occur concerning a player’s eligibility.

- Teams electing to protest the eligibility of a player must do so prior to the start of a game accompanied by a \$100 cash deposit. **Team protesting must also produce documentation for players on their team.** No protest will be accepted once a game begins. Protest deposits will be returned only if the player is found ineligible.

NOTE: The Tournament Director reserves the right to rule on any blatant rule violation at any time.

- If a player is found to be ineligible, or if proper documentation cannot be produced, that player will be disqualified from further participation in the tournament and the player's team will forfeit all games in which the player was listed on the official score sheet. The player's team may continue in tournament play, if applicable, without the player. If a player is found to be ineligible once Tournament Bracket play begins, or if proper documentation cannot be produced, that player and the team will be disqualified and cannot advance in Bracket play.
- Players may only play on teams in Divisions of their gender. Girls cannot participate on Boy's teams and Boys cannot participate on Girl's teams.
- Coach Requirements:** Teams must have a coach on the bench that is at least 25 years old. No exceptions.
- Uniforms:** Teams must have uniform tops at a minimum. All the same color with numbers on the back at a minimum.

II. Game Rules

- Ball Size, Goal Height, Free-Throw Line, Length of Games

Grade Division	Gender	Ball Size	Goal Ht.	Free-Throw Line Distance	Length of Game Sept. – Feb. Clock Stops on all Dead Balls	Length of Game March – Aug. Clock Stops on all Dead Balls
2 nd	Boys	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	12 Min. Halves
2nd Grade may opt to use 12ft free-throw line and 9ft goal where available						
3 rd	Boys	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.		12 Min. Halves
3rd Grade may cross foul line from momentum						
4 th	Boys	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	12 Min. Halves
5 th	Boys	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	12 Min. Halves
6 th	Boys	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	12 Min. Halves
7 th	Boys	Regulation	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	14 Min. Halves
8 th	Boys	Regulation	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	14 Min. Halves
9 th	Boys	Regulation	10 ft.	15 ft.	7 Min. Quarters	16 Min. Halves
10 th	Boys	Regulation	10 ft.	15 ft.	7 Min. Quarters	16 Min. Halves
11 th	Boys	Regulation	10 ft.	15 ft.	7 Min. Quarters	16 Min. Halves
2 nd	Girls	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	12 Min. Halves
2nd Grade may opt to use 12ft free-throw line and 9ft goal where available						
3 rd	Girls	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	12 Min. Halves
4 th	Girls	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	12 Min. Halves
5 th	Girls	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	12 Min. Halves
6 th	Girls	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	12 Min. Halves
7 th	Girls	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	14 Min. Halves
8 th	Girls	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	6 Min. Quarters	14 Min. Halves
9 th	Girls	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	7 Min. Quarters	16 Min. Halves
10 th	Girls	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	7 Min. Quarters	16 Min. Halves
11 th	Girls	28.5	10 ft.	15 ft.	7 Min. Quarters	16 Min. Halves

Note: Free Throws - Six (6) players will be allowed on the lane above the block, 4 defensive and 2 offensive in addition to the shooter. An offensive player cannot take the place of a defensive player choosing not to occupy a defensive space. **Movement into the lane is allowed upon release of ball by free-throw shooter.**

2. **Halftime** – 3 Minutes. May be shortened to 3 Min. by Tournament Director if necessary.
3. **Game time is game time** – Games may start early if both teams agree. Each team will be allowed a minimum of 5 minutes to warm-up if game before runs over.
4. **Forfeits**- Teams will be given a grace period of ten (10) minutes after the start of the game to arrive. If a team does not have at least four players present at the end of the grace period, they will forfeit the game and the opposing team will be awarded a 20-point win. Teams may participate with 4 players the first half.
5. **Time Outs** – Each team will be allowed two full 60-second timeouts per half. **No Carryover.**
6. **Bonus Free Throws:** For Games played by Quarter, the Double Bonus will occur on the 5th Foul each Quarter. Foul Count will reset each Quarter. For Games played by Half, the Double Bonus will occur on the 10th Foul each Half. Foul Count will reset each Half.
7. **Head Coach and Players** may call timeout.
8. **Second Half Running Clock– All Grade Divisions:** The clock will run the second half if the deficit is 20 points or greater with the exception of timeouts. Once the lead is below 20 points, the clock will stop on all dead balls.
9. **Overtime** – All overtime periods will be three (3) minutes. Each team will receive one (1) additional full timeout for the overtime period. Unused timeouts from the second half may be carried over to the overtime period. Unused timeouts granted for overtime periods may not be carried over to additional overtime periods.
10. **Pool Play – Seeding into Tournament – Pools where ALL teams are played in your Pool**

Seeding for tournament play will be determined as follows:

1. Most wins in Pool Play
2. In the case of a two-way tie, the first tie-breaker is head-to-head competition.
3. In the case of a three-way tie, seeding will be determined using the highest accumulated winning margin during pool play. The most points credited for a win is +20, and for a loss –20.
4. If there is still a tie using the established point system, seeding will be determined by Points Allowed, the total number of points scored by the opposing teams during Pool Play. The team allowing the least points will receive the higher seed.
5. If the tie is still not resolved, seeding will be determined by the total number of Points Scored by the team over the course of Pool Play. The team scoring the most points during Pool Play will receive the higher seed.
6. If there is still a tie, a coin-toss will be used to determine tournament seeds.

11. Pool Play – Seeding into Tournament – Pools where all teams are NOT played in Pool

Seeding for tournament will be determined as follows:

1. Most wins in Pool Play
2. In the case of a two-way tie, the first tie-breaker is head-to-head competition.
3. If a two-way tie occurs and teams have not played each other, seeding will be determined using the highest accumulated winning margin during pool play. The most points credited for a win is +20, and for a loss –20.
4. In the case of a three-way tie or more, seeding will be determined using the highest accumulated winning margin during pool play. The most points credited for a win is +20, and for a loss –20.

5. If there is still a tie using the established point system, seeding will be determined by Points Allowed, the total number of points scored by the opposing teams during Pool Play. The team allowing the least points will receive the higher seed.
6. If the tie is still not resolved, seeding will be determined by the total number of Points Scored by the team over the course of Pool Play. The team scoring the most points during Pool Play will receive the higher seed.
7. If there is still a tie, a coin-toss will be used to determine tournament seeds.

12. Coach, Parent, Fan Conduct

1. Any game determined to be unsafe due to Coaches, Players, Parents and/or Fans behavior will be terminated immediately by the attending Site Manager. The Site Manager with input from the Officials, will determine the team at fault or if both teams are at fault. That team(s) will be terminated from tournament play for a minimum of one (1) year.
2. Parents and other Fans are expected to be respectful to referees and cheer for their teams. Any Fan deemed to be unruly will result in expulsion from the facility for that game and the remainder of the tournament. Expulsion from the facility will result in that fan's team forfeiting the game where the expulsion occurred.
3. Respectful conversation with referees by coaches is permitted and encouraged. Disrespectful outburst by coaches will not be tolerated. 1st Infraction – Warning. 2nd Infraction – Technical Foul. 3rd Infraction – Technical and expulsion from the game and facility and cannot coach or be present for their team's next game. If the coach ejected does not leave the facility in a respectful manner, the referee may call a forfeit in favor of the other team. A coach ejected twice during tournament play will result in that coach's team being removed from the tournament.
4. Any Coach, Player, Parent or Fan verbally or physically threatening anyone else in the facility will be removed from the facility by Tournament Security and/or local authorities and may not be in the facility for the remainder of the tournament. That Coach, Player, Parent or Fan's team will forfeit the game in progress or the next game to be played.
5. Midwest Basketball Tournament Management reserves the right to not accept registrations from teams or organizations for events if that team or organization is deemed to be a threat to the safety of Players, Referees, Parents, Fans, Employees or Patrons at Midwest Basketball Tournaments.