

**OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT BOARD**

2026 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. **SEEDING PROCESS.** Per the decision of the State Board of Directors, all teams competing in a bracketed tournament will be seeded using MaxPreps RPI rankings. Tournament managers will send draw procedures and any additional materials to each coach following the tournament manager's meeting.

Tournament seed results shall be made available by the Tournament Manager to schools assigned to compete within that board's respective district no earlier than 24 hours and no later than two hours prior to the first team going onto the tournament bracket.

The mandatory **VIRTUAL** coaches meeting will be held on the following dates based on divisions:
Girls

Division 3-7 – Sunday, February 8th – 2:00 pm
Division 1-2 – Sunday, February 15th – 2:00 pm

Boys

Division 3-7 – Sunday, February 15th – 2:00 pm
Division 1-2 – Sunday, February 22nd – 2:00 pm

The virtual draw will now be a combined draw including both the North and South together. The North and South divisional draw will be conducted simultaneously, and the manager will rotate back and forth between North and South depending on year until all lines of both brackets are filled. In EVEN numbered years (North will draw first), in ODD numbered years (South will draw first). North schools can only draw onto available North lines and South schools can only still draw onto South lines.

Once the seeds have been determined for each team in the tournament, the seeds will go onto the brackets in order of seed. The first seeded team, in North or South based on draw year, will go on followed by the first seeded team, in the North or South based on draw year.

By board action, starting with the 2025-26 tournaments, Passing shall be permitted as follows:

The number of schools advancing to the regional tournament may pass but will be divided proportionately to those qualifiers between number of teams in North and South. Below are the number of teams that can pass:

For 2026 the number of seeded teams that may pass are:

GIRLS	NORTH	SOUTH	BOYS	NORTH	SOUTH
D1	1	4	D1	2	4
D2	1	3	D2	1	2
D3	2	2	D3	2	2
D4	2	2	D4	2	1
D5	1	2	D5	2	2
D6	2	0	D6	2	1
D7	2	1	D7	2	1

All others must place themselves on the bracket when their seed is called.

At each point where a seeded team places itself on the bracket, the seeds above that team which previously passed shall be given the option to place themselves on the bracket starting with the highest seed going first. Those teams may choose to pass again.

Example: Seed No. 1 places itself on the bracket. Seeds No. 2 and 3 pass. Seed No. 4 places itself on the bracket. Instead of going to Seed No. 5, Seed No. 2 shall then be given the option to place itself on the bracket followed by Seed No. 3.

This process will continue until the brackets are filled.

By Board Action, beginning with the 2025-26 tournaments:

Policy for Penalizing a School that Does Not Send a School Representative to the Draw/Seed Meeting and a School Representative Cannot be Reached in Accordance with Policy or Does Not Participate in the Tournament Seeding Process

9.g.1.) Schools that fail to send a school representative to the draw/seed meeting, and a school representative cannot be reached in accordance with Policy 9.f., shall mean the respective District Athletic Board shall be given the discretion to place that school(s) on the bracket to ensure the integrity of the draw (e.g. *missing the draw/seed meeting does not create an advantageous situation for the missing school*).

9.g.2.) Schools that fail to send a school representative to the draw/seed meeting, and a school representative cannot be reached in accordance with Policy 9.f, shall lose the privilege of hosting tournament contests in that sport should that school qualify to host.

9.g.3.) Schools that fail to send a school representative to the draw/seed meeting shall be fined \$150.

Note: A school shall be considered not at the meeting at any time after the first team is placed onto the tournament bracket

TOURNAMENT DRAWINGS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS:

The District Board shall pre-draw District Brackets and assign all qualifying teams to a determined position on the bracket. The pre-drawn brackets and assignments will be available on the District website. District times will be announced on the website once all teams have been determined. **The top team on the bracket will be the home team and wear white.**

3. Please send results of brackets to Cheryl Brandenburg (E-mail: cbrand@woh.rr.com for posting to the Southwest District website www.ohsaa.org/swdab .
4. Assignment lists of officials will be given to each Manager by the Tournament Official Assigner after the drawing is completed. **OFFICIALS LIST IS NOT TO BE REVEALED BY THE MANAGER TO ANYONE.**
5. Officials will work only one (1) game per session. Officials working at any tournament site will be permitted admission for the evening they work, as well as one (1) other person accompanying them. **SPECIFICALLY - ADMISSION IS ONE AND ONE THE NIGHT OF EMPLOYMENT, AND NO MORE.**
7. When a forfeit occurs, officials will be paid for the contest. If officials are at the site and a forfeit occurs, he will be paid the game fee.
8. **EMERGENCY** -In case an official does not show up as per assignment, or makes a last-minute cancellation, the Manager shall notify the SWDAB Secretary and Tournament Assignor to fill that vacancy. Failure of an official to show up or to notify the manager shall result in disciplinary action by the District Board.
9. Brackets as submitted by Managers have been approved by the District Board. The District Board grants Managers, with the approval of the District Board, the right to assign sites for participating teams as the tournament progresses.
10. All programs will be provided by the District Board as per the board's contract with Royal Publishing.
11. Parking – Per District Board action, Charging is only applicable at District Championship site at \$5.00 per car. A sign indicating what group parking is benefiting is required. Tournament managers must communicate to participating schools that they plan to charge and the amount per car prior to the tournament games.

Each tournament manager will also provide five (5) complimentary parking passes to participating schools per contest to be used at their discretion. Parking fee for officials or OHSAA observers is strictly prohibited.
12. Radio rights fees for live broadcasting have been established by the State Board of Control. See attached sheet. Anyone wishing to televise games must contact the host site or the Secretary of the Southwest District Board for fee structure and the site tournament manager for permission to broadcast.
13. Per the ruling of the Southwest District Board, bands will be permitted at the District Basketball

Championship games. Also, directional signs shall be posted at every entrance directing crowds to respective school sections. Board action has stated there will be no crash sheets for teams coming onto the floor. The OHSAA does not have a ruling governing painted faces and this rule would be hard to enforce considering faces can be painted after admittance to the site. Therefore, any damages that would be incurred either through painted faces or damages to property are the responsibility of the participating school(s). The Tournament Manager should notify the school(s) involved and the Treasurer of the SWDAB of the damages and a deduction will be made from their share of tournament receipts.

14. The Manager is responsible for seeing that adequate police protection is provided--before, during, and after the games.
15. Tournament hosts should complete google form based on number of games hosted. Extraordinary expenses need approval for District Secretary or Treasurer. Questions, email to Joe Roberts at SWDAB-treas@ohsaa.org. Flat Fees for Basketball will be \$900 per game for all games hosted at High School sites.
16. By District Board Action. In the case of unsportsmanlike conduct by players, coaches, or fans, the tournament manager is required to file an incident report with the District Board and send the report to Phil Poggi via email (SWDAB-sec@ohsaa.org).
17. By District Board Action. A new Weather Cancellation Policy was adopted:

The Southwest District Board has established the following policy for cancellation or postponement of tournaments.

Schools participating in Boys/Girls Basketball and located in a county that experiences a Level Two (2) or Level Three (3) weather emergency, shall have the contest postponed. The weather emergency must be verified by the Tournament Manager.

Tournament managers must contact each schools Coach, Athletic Director, or Principal.

Schools are also encouraged to make use of the Board website for updated information regarding postponements and cancellations. All results will be posted to the Southwest District website www.ohsaa.org/swdab.

The Tournament Manager will contact the Board Secretary, Phil Poggi (SWDAB-sec@ohsaa.org) who will work with the managers to contact the "News Media".

Prior to the start of tournaments, the Managers will be instructed to make available to the Board, a contingency plan for weather emergencies.

18. Media Credentials. Reservations are made directly with the site manager.
19. BOARD MOTION: The District Board has the right to change sites, dates, and times of any contest at their discretion. Board adopted, April 1997.