

2. BASKETBALL — BOYS AND GIRLS

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1) Interscholastic Participation

1.1) Mandatory practice may begin:

1.1.1) Girls – October 30, 2026

1.1.2) Boys – November 6, 2026

1.2) Grades 9-12 are allowed 6 scrimmages or preview (See 1.13 for Foundation Games).

1.3) PREVIEW/SCRIMMAGE — A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. Previews must be played according to National Federation Basketball Rules and shall meet all definitions in Sports Regulation 23.

1.4) SPECIAL WAIVER — A scrimmage or preview scheduled against a Special Olympics team, or a team of similar designation, may be approved by the OHSAA to be played in addition to the maximum allowable number of scrimmages or previews. A waiver for approval of such contests can be found on the “Basketball” section of the OHSAA website. This waiver must be submitted to, and approved by, the OHSAA Basketball Administrator prior to the contest taking place.

1.5) Any scheduled regular season basketball game which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as failure of team to arrive, strikes or school closings is considered “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics and cannot be considered “Forfeits.”

1.6) A student athlete in grades 9-12 may play in a maximum of 132 quarters plus OHSAA sponsored tournament. (Penalty — See General Sports Regulation 20.)

1.7) A student-athlete in grades 7-8 may play in a maximum of 96 quarters plus one postseason or league/conference tournament not to exceed four games by one team. (Penalty — See General Sports Regulation 20.)

1.8) 7th and 8th grade students shall not practice with 9th through 12th grade students, and vice versa.

Exception: If a member high school sponsors a basketball team but is unable to field a roster of at least ten (10) players (grades 9-12), the school can petition the Executive Director’s office to approve combined practices with the high school and 7/8 grade teams as long as the following criteria are met:

- Both the high school and the 7/8 grade school are OHSAA member schools and;
- Both the high school and the 7/8 grade school are part of the same district/system and;
- Coaches at the high school are permitted to have contact with the 7/8 grade students under an exception to Bylaw 4-9-2 (recruiting) and;
- The request is for an entire 8th grade team or combined 7/8 grade team to practice with the high school team, and not for individual 7/8 grade students to practice with the high school team.
- The Superintendent of the district/system signs off on the request to the Executive Director’s Office.

Any request for combined practices other than for low numbers will not be considered. If approved, the 7/8 grade students SHALL NOT be placed on any high school roster, nor are they permitted to play in any high school contests. The approval shall only be granted for practice purposes.

1.9) A student shall not be permitted to participate in more than six quarters during any one day. Any part of a quarter is to be considered as a full quarter. In an overtime game, the extended time shall be considered an extension of the fourth quarter.

1.10) Penalty for participation in more than six (6) quarters per day:

- When discovered during a contest, the student shall be disqualified from the game and the game shall continue to completion. The contest will result in a forfeiture by the offending team. All quarters played by the individual shall count toward the maximum permitted. The OHSAA Basketball administrator shall be notified.
- When discovered after a contest is completed, the contest will result in a forfeiture by the offending team. Additionally, all quarters played by the individual shall count toward the maximum permitted for the player in a season. The OHSAA Basketball administrator shall be notified.

1.11) Length of quarters:

- Varsity — 8 minute quarters.
- Freshman, reserve or junior varsity — 6 minutes recommended, maximum of 7 minutes.
- Grades 7 & 8 — 6 minutes maximum.
- Overtime — 8 minute quarters – 4 minute overtime; 6 or 7 minute quarters – 3 minute overtime.

1.12) Member schools electing to participate in the *Basketball Service Week Foundation Game* are permitted to use

one of their **six** allotted scrimmages to play a regulation game under all normal game conditions. Foundation games do not count against a team's won-lost record and may be played any time between November 9 and the first Sectional tournament contest (Girls) and November 16 and the first Sectional tournament contest (Boys).

- 1.13) Game Ball: The official game ball adopted by the OHSAA is the Rawlings CompOhioCB (boys) and the Rawlings CompOhio28.5CB (girls) and is required to be used for all regular season and tournament contests in grades 7-12.
- 1.14) Rule 5, Section 5, Article 3 - Note in the NFHS Rule Book states: A state association, by adoption, may institute a running clock when a specified point differential is reached at a specific time in the game." Ohio has adopted this rule and is defined as follows: Any time a score differential reaches 35 points during the second half, a running clock will be utilized. After the 35-point differential has been met but the score drops below 30 points, the clock reverts to regular timing. Should a game reach the 35-point differential in the second half, the clock shall only be stopped for an injured player on the court, team timeouts or when there is an unusual delay deemed necessary by the contest officials.

2) Out-of-State Travel

A basketball team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, a basketball team may travel out of state one time per interscholastic season (Bylaw 9-2-1). Schools must complete the form from the following link when they are participating in a non-contiguous state: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/NonBorderingStateApproval.pdf>

Penalty for violation: The school shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

3) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

See *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations.

4) Transfer Bylaw

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students wishing to play basketball please go to this link <http://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer> to assist in understanding this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all varsity regular season contests and including the OHSAA tournament beginning with varsity regular season game #12.

5) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 5.1) Basketball Players Who Have Not Competed for Their School This Season: A sports regulation identified as the Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date stipulates that a basketball athlete who has not participated for the school team in basketball that season must cease non-interscholastic basketball participation by the first allowable competition date in basketball in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided all other applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in basketball who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in basketball shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in basketball in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Girls: November 23, 2026 – No non-interscholastic competition permitted on or after this date

Boys: November 30, 2026 – No non-interscholastic competition permitted on or after this date

- 5.2) A member of an interscholastic basketball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of basketball during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2).
- 5.3) A member of an interscholastic basketball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic basketball prior to and after the school season under the conditions of General Sports Regulation 7.3 and 7.5.
- 5.4) All-Star Games — "All-Star" events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these "all-star" competitions outside the school basketball season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulations 7.3 and 7.6 that address Non-School Team Competition.

The purpose of this special "All-Star" regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her school. Coaches are permitted to coach in "All-Star" contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

Participation during the no-contact period for coaches is permitted.

6) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 7 of the General Sports Regulations.

7) **No Contact Period — Coaches**

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

8) **Penalties**

8.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic basketball squad while a member of the school's interscholastic basketball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad, EXCEPT a senior, is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic basketball season or the ensuing basketball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

8.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence or such other penalty as the Executive Director may deem appropriate.

B. **SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 9-12**

- 1) **Tryouts, coaching, instruction may begin —** Girls: October 30, 2026
Boys: November 6, 2026

First game — Girls: November 23, 2026
Boys: November 30, 2026

- 2) **Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament —** Girls: February 1, 2027, DIII-DVII
February 8, 2027, DI-DII
Boys: February 8, 2027, DIII-DVII
February 15, 2027, DI-DII

- 3) **Tournament draw/seeding meeting —** Girls: February 7, DIII-DVII at 2 p.m.
February 14, DI-DII at 3 p.m.
Boys: February 14, DIII-DVII at 2 p.m.
February 21, DI-DII at 2 p.m.

- 4) **Coaching and Regular Season end —** Girls: March 13, 2027
Boys: March 21, 2027

- 5) **Scrimmage or Previews —** Maximum of six scrimmages or previews (any combination)
(Note: An approved OHSAA Foundation Game may replace one scrimmage)

- 6) **Regular season games —** Maximum of 22 games

- 7) **Rules —** National Federation Basketball (NFHS)

8) **Officials:**

8.1) Varsity — Class 1 Basketball Only. In the event only one OHSAA registered basketball official arrives to officiate the game, the game may be played provided the participating coaches agree

8.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Class 1 or Class 2 Basketball Only. In the event only one OHSAA registered basketball official arrives to officiate the game, the game may be played provided the participating coaches agree

8.3) Freshman — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 basketball official required. All other officials are required to be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or basketball official in training

C. **SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 7 & 8**

- 1) **Tryouts, coaching and instruction may begin —** Girls: October 30, 2026
Boys: November 6, 2026

- 2) **First game —** Girls: November 23, 2026
Boys: November 30, 2026

- 3) **Coaching and Season end —** Girls: February 22, 2027
Boys: March 1, 2027

- 4) **Scrimmages or Previews —** Maximum of three scrimmages or previews (any combination)

- 5) **Regular season games —** Maximum of 16 games

- 6) **Postseason games —** 1 league/conference tournament or 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 game-
Maximum of two (2) contests can be played in one calendar day

- 7) **Rules —** National Federation Basketball (NFHS)

BASKETBALL 2026-2027

- 8) **Basketball** — The approved ball shall have a circumference minimum of 28 1/2 inches to a maximum of 29 inches for 7th & 8th grade competition
- 9) **Officials** — One OHSAA Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 basketball official required. All other officials required to be an OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or basketball official in training

BASKETBALL CALENDAR

Girls Basketball	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	10/30	10/29	
Season Begins	11/23	11/22	
Tournament Draw DIII-DVII	2/7	2/6	
Tournament Draw DI-DII	2/14	2/13	
Sectional	2/15-2/20	2/14-2/19	
District	2/22-2/27	2/21-2/26	
Regional	3/1-3/7	2/28-3/5	
State	3/11-3/13	3/9-3/11	
Season Ends	3/13	3/11	

Boys Basketball	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	11/6	11/5	
Season Begins	11/30	11/29	
Tournament Draw DIII-DVII	2/14	2/13	
Tournament Draw DI-DII	2/21	2/20	
Sectional	2/22-2/27	2/21-2/26	
District	3/1-3/6	2/28-3/4	
Regional	3/8-3/14	3/6-3/12	
State	3/18-3/21	3/16-3/19	
Season Ends	3/21	3/19	

BASKETBALL — STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION

The chart below reflects DI playing the last game, DII playing the late game on Friday and a rotation of the other five divisions.

2028-2031-2034	2029-2032-2035	2027-2030-2033
TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	TBD
DI	DI	DI