



2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Boys and Girls Basketball Rules, Policies and Bylaws

General Information

See the [MSHSL Handbook Page \(www.mshsl.org/governance\)](http://www.mshsl.org/governance) for information regarding the following:

- Multiple level teams at Sub-Varsity levels
- Official Squad Size
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather (heat, cold, lightning, & air quality)

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 501](#) for information regarding:

- Maximum Number of Contests

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:

- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

CONTEST RULES

Refer to [Bylaw 402](#): Except as modified by the League, the National Federation of High School Association rules for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate.

END OF SEASON

Refer to [Bylaw 411](#)

1. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:
 - A. The season shall end when the student or the student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
 - B. Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.

2. School Team Practice and Competition:

The "end of the season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.

A. Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series, until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.

B. Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.

3. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training, or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season.

4. During the Summer Vacation Period (Bylaw 208 3 Non-School Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

VIDEO TAPING ANOTHER SCHOOL'S GAME

It shall be an ethical violation to tape another school's game, meet or contest without their permission. Further it may be a violation of the laws governing copyrights. Each school owns the copyrights to their games, meets and contests. Taping another schools game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

In order to elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools, fans and school personnel, the MSHSL held a Sportsmanship Summit and asked student participants to identify behavior expectations they felt should be in place at every school event.

These minimum behavior expectations provide a foundation upon which member schools, conferences, administrative regions, and the League's Board of Directors can build specific guidelines for activities under their control.

MSHSL [Bylaw 409](#), **RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS**, speaks to this issue, directly, and [Bylaw 409-2](#) specifically states that, **"School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held."**

In all MSHSL activities, each participating school shall designate a person or persons from that school to serve as crowd control supervisors or chaperones. MSHSL tournament staff may require school administrators to contact the tournament manager prior to the start of the tournament game so that they can be immediately contacted to respond to behavioral issues regarding their team members, students and/or spectators at the tournament site. Each supervisor or chaperone should be immediately identifiable

to the students and to the tournament site ushers and other security personnel. This will help to coordinate crowd control between school supervisors and tournament site personnel. 8/9/2005

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY STUDENT ATHLETES (5/31/23)

- [Behavior Expectations](http://www.mshsl.org/behaviorexpectations) (www.mshsl.org/behaviorexpectations)

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR REGULAR AND POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT

COMPETITIONS:

- Respect the American flag and the National Anthem.
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the entire torso. Those who do not comply or who wear clothing that is vulgar, obscene or that in some other way inappropriate, as determined by school/tournament personnel, will be removed from the arena/stadium if they do not cooperate with this behavior expectation.
- The use of appropriate language is expected at all times. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable and must be immediately addressed by school and/or tournament administrators.
- Respect the game/contest. Under no condition shall anyone other than the members of the official squad enter the playing surface. No one may interfere with the contest in any way.
- Handheld signs (no larger than 18" x 24"), which do not obstruct the view of others, will be permitted provided they are in good taste. Signs, message boards, "white" boards, or other similar items that contest/tournament officials believe to be in poor taste will be removed.
- Signs on sticks, balloons, or any other type of artificial, celebratory items are not permitted.
- Artificial noise makers (i.e. megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks, and other similar items) are not allowed.
- Laser lights are prohibited.

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.

Basketball Information – Regular Season

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 505](#) for information regarding:

- Contests
- Equipment Issued
- Last Date to Join a Team
- Practice Sessions before First Contest
- Season Begins

NOTABLE RULES MODIFCATIONS

HALVES

All **varsity** teams—boys and girls—shall play two (2) 18-minute halves with a 10-minute halftime intermission. Games below the varsity level shall be played in halves with a maximum length of 16-minutes for each half. **NOTE:** No student shall participate in more than three halves on any given day. Participation in any half counts as one half.

END OF GAME PROCEDURES (MERCY RULE)

When the point differential reaches 35 points or more with less than nine minutes to play, the clock will go to running time. The clock will only be stopped for time-outs (team or official). Regular timing rules will be used if the point differential drops back to less than 30 points.

SHOT-CLOCK BB

A 35-second shot clock must be used in varsity games. Please reference the [Shot Clock Rules Modifications](#) and the [2023-2024 Basketball Minnesota Modifications](#) on the Boys and Girls Basketball pages. Shot clock can be used for lower levels if agreed upon by both schools and officials. MSHSL and NFHS rules must be followed if shot clock is used at any level of competition.

RESTRICTED ARC

The restricted arc area is now required for all MN levels of play. Note: 9th grade is optional. Instructions for placing the arc on the floor is found on the MSHSL website on the basketball activity page, under News.

COACHING BOX

The coaching box in Minnesota is 14 feet.

UNIFORMS

The home team shall wear dark-colored uniforms and the visiting team white uniforms

APPAREL

All apparel (excluding knee braces) – i.e. wristbands, headbands, arm/knee sleeves, knee pads, compression shorts and tights must be solid black or white and the same color for all participants. [Apparel Poster](#)

OFFICIAL MSHSL ATHLETIC POLICIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL

MOUTH GUARDS

The use of mouth guards is recommended. Mouth guards that have been cut down or modified in any manner are illegal equipment. Any color mouth guard is permitted, including transparent.

Basketball Information – Post Season

ELIGIBILITY DURING MSHSL TOURNAMENT – SUBSECTION, SECTION AND STATE

Refer to [Bylaw 206.4.B.1.d](#): A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, to occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual and/or team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

Refer to [Bylaw 405](#): A member school must schedule a minimum of three interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League-sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Tournament Managers will inform member schools of policies, procedures, dates, sites, and times of subsection and section games.

CLASSES

League-sponsored tournaments will be conducted in four classes: A, AA, AAA and AAAA

OFFICIAL BALL

GIRLS-Spalding TF 1000 Legacy, Deep Channel Design (28.5)

BOYS-Spalding TF 1000 Legacy, Deep Channel Design

OFFICIAL SQUAD - SUBSECTION, SECTION AND STATE

All tournament arrangements including awards and allowances are based upon a maximum of:

1. 18 Players
2. 2 Student Managers
3. 3 Coaches

The official squad size may include less than 18 players (number who dress for games), but schools MAY NOT include additional players, student managers, coaches, or faculty representatives to reach the maximum official squad size.

STATE TOURNAMENT SCHOOL QUALIFYING INFORMATION

Specific information for qualifying schools is on the MSHSL Administrative Web Site under Tournament Info.

INSTANT REPLAY

Replay will be used in a limited capacity during the post season only during the semifinals and championship games of the State Girls and Boys Basketball Tournaments. Quarterfinals may be included when all quarterfinal games are broadcast either in arena or on television.

STATE TOURNAMENT

REGION/SECTION SEEDING CONSISTENCY - [Seeding Consistency](http://www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding) (www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding)

Boys & Girls: Pairings for All Classes: A seeding meeting to determine state tournament pairings will be held prior to the state tournament. The participating coaches will seed teams 1-5 in their respective tournament, and the remaining teams representing seeds 6-8 will be determined by a blind draw.

Brackets: All Classes in Boys & Girls

Seed #1 vs. Random Draw

Seed #4 vs. Seed #5

Seed #2 vs. Random Draw

Seed #3 vs. Random Draw

POST-SEASON GAMES – AWARDS

General rules of the League prohibit schools from engaging in post-tournament play.

No awards other than ribbons, medals or trophies may be received by or given to any squad member without forfeiture of eligibility privileges. Be sure your players and community understand this rule before violations develop. See [Bylaw 201](#) of the Official League Handbook to understand the established policy.

AWARDS

Subsection and Section

- First and Second place team trophy and medals (23)

State

- **Trophies:** First through fourth place teams and consolation
- **Medals:** First through third place teams will each receive 20 medals and 3 coaches' medals (23)
- **Certificates:** Activities Director prints from our website for the student athlete ([Certificates](#))

It is a violation of MSHSL policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards not provided by the MSHSL for section or state tournaments.

▪ [MSHSL Behavior Expectations](#)

These policies “elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, members schools and their personnel,” consistent with the Minnesota State High School League’s Founding Purposes and the belief that sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence in all school-based activity programs. The League and its member schools work intentionally to create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for fine arts activities and sports in our schools and competitions.

School officials are responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students, and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held. (Bylaw 409).

Behavior Expectations

To create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments in fine arts and sports in our school and competitions, I will:

- Lead by positive example and demonstrate respect and support for others.
- Follow all MSHSL, school and venue expectations.
- Refrain from using profanity or ethnic, racial, religious, ability or gender-based comments, posts or messages directed at participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, or team representatives.
- Act as a responsible and respectful digital citizen who positively uses social media platforms.
- Speak or act in support of others when they are harmed by words or actions.
- Honor each contest and all involved, including participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, and team representatives.
- Hold high standards for myself, engage positively and demonstrate sportsmanship.

Requirements of Attendees

Prohibited Items

- Flags, whiteboards, large signs on sticks, signs with vulgar, obscene or inappropriate language or images, or that obstruct the views of others or similar items
- Balloons, confetti, glitter, baby powder, pom poms or other similar celebratory items
- Artificial noise makers (i.e., megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks and other similar items)
- Drones and laser lights
- Firearms or other weapons
- Vapes, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or illicit drugs
- The following are prohibited at MSHSL postseason events. These may be prohibited as determined by the venue during the regular season:
 - Backpacks and other bags
 - Outside food and drink
 - Cameras and tripods
 - Pets

Dress Code/Attire

- Spectators may not wear masks or costumes that limit the ability to identify individuals. Masking for medical purposes is allowed
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the torso
- Clothing worn must not be vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate

Behaviors

- No one may interfere with the contest in any way
- Only members of the official squad may be on the contest surface
- The use of appropriate language is always expected. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable
- Respect the Flag and the National Anthem

*Venues may have additional requirements and prohibited items.