



2025-2026 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Boys and Girls Basketball Rules, Policies and Bylaws

General Information

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

- Multiple Level Teams at Sub-Varsity Level
- Official Squad Size
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather Conditions (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 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](#) - 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 RECORDING ANOTHER SCHOOL'S GAME

It shall be an ethical violation to capture on video 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. Recording another school's game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

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

HALFTIME

All varsity basketball games will have a ten (10) minute halftime.

PARTICIPATION

No student shall participate in more than three (3) halves on any given day. Participation in any half counts as one (1) half.

SHOT CLOCK

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

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

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

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.

OFFICIAL SQUAD

18 Players

2 Student Managers

3 Coaches

Total of 23

* **Note:** 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.

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.

SECTION TOURNAMENTS & ADVANCEMENT FROM SECTION TO STATE

All information and directions – including policies, procedures, dates, sites, and times of games - for Section Basketball Tournaments will come to each school from the Section Tournament Manager. The Region Committee will establish the tournament formats which determine that section’s representative to the State Tournament.

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

CLASSES

The Basketball State Tournaments will be played in four classes, determined by school enrollment.

Class AAAA:	Largest 64
Class AAA:	Next 64
Class AA:	Next 128
Class A:	Remainder

OFFICIAL BALL

- Girls: Spalding TF 1000 Legacy, Deep Channel Design (28.5)
- Boys: Spalding TF 1000 Legacy, Deep Channel Design

STATE TOURNAMENT SCHOOL QUALIFYING INFORMATION

Specific Information for qualifying schools is on the MSHSL Administrative Website under State Tournament Information.

INSTANT REPLAY

Replay will be used on a limited basis during the postseason, specifically in the semifinal and championship games of the Girls and Boys Basketball State Tournaments. Quarterfinal games may also include replay if all of them are broadcast, either in-arena or on television.

SEEDING THE STATE TOURNAMENT

The coaches of the teams who qualify for the state tournament will rank the eight section teams to determine the eight seeds (teams do not rank themselves). Teams will be placed in the bracket as follows:

- #1 vs. #8
- #4 vs. #5
- #2 vs. #7
- #3 vs. #6

Brackets will be posted to the MSHSL website before the start of the state tournament.

AWARDS

Subsection & Section

- Medals: To all members of the official squad of the first and second place teams **(23)**.
- Trophies: To the first and second place teams.

State

- Medals: To each member of the official squad **(23)** including the coaches of the first - third place teams.

- Trophies: To the first - fourth place teams and consolation winner.
- An All-Tournament team will be selected.

*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.

Note: 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 players and community members understand this rule before violations develop. See [Bylaw 201](#) to understand the established policy.

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR REGULAR AND POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS

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
 - Professional 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.

*For most contests, spectators may bring cameras, including cell phones, that are basic point and shoot, consumer-grade cameras without detachable lenses. Spectators should confirm restricted items or contests with contest management.