

# BASKETBALL

## TOURNAMENT DATES

### District/Conference Tournaments

Girls' & Boys' Class C.....	February 16-21
Girls' & Boys' Class B.....	February 23-28

### Divisional Tournaments

Divisional held in Week 1 .....	February 23-28
Class C – Boys' & Girls' (N, W)	
Class A – Boys' & Girls' (E)	
Divisional held in Week 2 .....	March 2-7
Class C – Boys' & Girls' (E, S)	
Class B – Boys' & Girls' (N, W, S)	
Class A – Boys' & Girls' (W)	

### State Tournaments

Classes C – Girls & Boys .....	March 11-14
Classes AA, A & B – Girls & Boys .....	March 12-14

## I - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- (1) The Montana High School Association will promote, provide for and control all interschool basketball activities among the member schools for both boys and girls.
- (2) Schools will be divided into four classes for boys' and girls' basketball - Class AA, Class A, Class B and Class C.
- (3) The playing rules as authorized and published by the National Federation of State High School Associations for the current year shall be followed for all games. By National Federation Rule, Montana has adopted the following:

1. For all levels of play (varsity and subvarsity), once a team has a forty (40) point lead or better in the second half, a running clock will ensue until the end of the game even if the difference in score drops below the forty point margin. The only time the clock will stop is between quarters, time outs and when replacing an injured or disqualified player.
2. A thirty-five (35) second shot clock will be used for all varsity and sub-varsity games. The shot clock will be used even if a running clock is in effect.
3. The five-second closely guarded provision while a player dribbles the ball is eliminated. The closely guarded rules remain in effect while a player holds the ball.
4. For MHSAA regular and postseason play, a twenty-eight-foot coaching box will be used. The top of the coaching box will be marked twenty-eight feet from the baseline and shall be outlined outside the side of the court on which the scorer's and timer's table and team benches are located. The line shall be located off the court and be two (2) inches wide. The end of the coaching box will be the interior of the baseline of the court.

- (4) The Montana High School Association Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practice and the first allowable date when any contests may be played. No individual shall play in any Association contest until he/she has a minimum of eight (8) days of basketball practice of at least one practice session per day on eight (8) different days (no practice permitted on Sunday), prior to the date of the first allowable game.

The initial eight (8) practices for each individual must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with the full coaching staff.

When determining what constitutes a MHSAA practice that satisfies the language above in (4), the following criteria must be applied:

1. Practice must be at least one (1) hour long.

2. At least one full squad (varsity team/J.V. team/C squad) and their coaching staff must be present.
3. The athlete must participate in the entire practice.
4. Practice should include the majority of drills and conditioning that are the norm for that team or squad.
5. A practice the day of a game does not count (unless an athlete is practicing with another squad that does not have a game that day, i.e. a varsity team member who stays home and practices with the JV team that does not have a game that day).
6. Warm-ups or walk-throughs with the team prior to a game does not constitute a practice.

If a student begins his/her initial eight (8) days of required practices and that period of days is interrupted by sickness, injury, academic ineligibility or any other reason for a period of two weeks, then the student shall be required to practice an additional four (4) days and in cases of sickness or injury to produce a doctor's release.

Athletes participating on teams competing in MHSAA postseason play, which overlaps the beginning of the next MHSAA sanctioned activity starting practice date, may be credited for practices during the overlap period toward meeting the minimum practice requirement of the overlapped activity season.

If a student transfers to a new school after completing the required days of preseason practices for their sport or activity, the student must complete an additional number of practices (equal to half the number of required practices for that sport or activity) at their new school.

- (5) Eighteen (18) basketball games will be the maximum limit for schools in classes A, B and C. Class AA will have a maximum limit of nineteen (19) basketball games. These limits include invitational tournaments but are exclusive of Association-sponsored tournaments. These game limits apply for each squad - varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, frosh, etc. Should a non-varsity contest be played using a variation in the length of quarters or the number of quarters played, one of the approved variations shown on the basketball page of the MHSAA website must be used. The applicable game limit interpretations are also included on the website ([www.mhsaa.org](http://www.mhsaa.org)).

### INTERPRETATIONS

1. Any basketball team that receives a forfeit(s) may be allowed to schedule and play a makeup game(s), but the team that gives the forfeit must count the forfeited game(s) as part of the season's game limit for its school, and that team will not be allowed to schedule another game in place of the forfeited game(s).
2. Definition of "squad" - An athletic squad is determined by union of "act and intent" by grouping together a number of students to play as a unit to represent the school, under the direction of a designated coach or coaches, i.e. a participant who plays in a preliminary contest cannot start in the varsity game in the same day.
3. Club team participation - During the MHSAA basketball season, no more than two (2) rostered participants in a school's program can compete in an outside basketball event on the same team.
- (6) The basketball season for both boys and girls officially closes with the end of the state tournament for the classification of the school concerned.
- (7) Quarter Eligibility for all classes - ***The Association prohibits all students of Class A and AA member schools from entering more than five (5) quarters of basketball in any one day, except Class A subvarsity players may play six (6) quarters if not suited for the varsity game. Students of Class B and C member schools may play in six (6) quarters of basketball in any one day.*** Should a non-varsity contest be played using a variation in the length of quarters or the number of quarters played, one of the approved variations shown on the basketball page of the MHSAA website must be used. The applicable game limit interpretations are also

included on the website ([www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org)). These limitations do not apply to postseason contests.

- (8) The Association prohibits students of member schools from playing in a preliminary contest and then starting in the varsity game on the same day.
- (9) Schools must participate in the basketball schedule and play the majority of their scheduled games to be eligible to participate in the MHSAs tournaments.
- (10) No school is required to take part in any contests or athletic events, but once entered, teams are obligated to participate in a contest or athletic event to its normal conclusion unless the contest is terminated by mutual consent of the school officials involved due to unusual weather or game conditions, or situations which could be hazardous to participants or spectators. Any coach is prohibited from unilaterally refusing to play.

If a school fails to complete contests or athletic events that they have entered, the violating school would be subject to penalties as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Executive Director.

No school is required to take part in any regular season game or tournament, but when once entered under the plan outlined, schools shall carry out their part of the program in fairness to all other schools represented. Any team taking part in regular season play is automatically entered in the first tournament held in that district or in that division. That team shall not be allowed to withdraw from playing in such tournament without the specific approval of the Executive Director. The penalty for violation shall be as outlined under Penalties, Article VIII, Section (2).

- (11) Master basketball schedules are for varsity competition only. Any deviation must be approved by the MHSAs Executive Director.
- (12) Regular Season Breakage

a. Rim Breakage: If a sub-varsity or varsity team breaks a rim while attempting to dunk a ball in pregame, that school will be responsible for payment of the rim. If the rim is broken during the sub-varsity game or varsity game, the responsibility for payment will be that of the home team. If the home team does not have a replacement at that time, the varsity game will be rescheduled for a later date.

b. Backboard Breakage: If a sub-varsity or varsity team breaks a backboard during the pregame while attempting to dunk the ball, that school will be responsible for payment of the backboard. The team will also forfeit games scheduled for that time period. If the backboard is broken during a game, the home team will be responsible for payment and the varsity game may be suspended or rescheduled for a later date if there is no replacement backboard available.

#### Tournament Breakage

a. Rim Breakage: If a team breaks a rim while attempting to dunk a basketball during the pregame, that team will be responsible to pay for the replacement of the rim. If the rim is broken during the game, the cost of the replacement of the rim will be drawn from the tournament receipts unless prior arrangements have been made. If the tournament site does not have a replacement rim, the game or games will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

b. Backboard Breakage: If a team breaks a backboard while attempting to dunk a basketball during the pregame, that team will forfeit the game and be held responsible for the cost of the replacement of the backboard. If the backboard is broken during a game, the cost for the replacement of the backboard will be drawn from the tournament receipts unless prior arrangements have been made. If the

tournament site does not have a replacement backboard, that game and any other scheduled to follow will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

- (13) Teams are to conduct pre-game and half-time warm-up on their half of the floor only. If jogging or running is part of their warm-up drills, then it is to be confined to their half of the court to warm-up. Teams are not to run under the basket of the opposing team when entering the floor or any time during warm-ups.

- (14) Regular season basketball contests (at any level of competition) will have at least a 15-minute pre-game warm-up period and when one regular season game (at any level of competition) immediately follows another on the same night and the same officials or any of the same officials work consecutive games there will be at least a 20-minute intermission between games.

- (15) Controlling the Playing Court

The MHSAs Executive Board urges all school administrators, athletic directors and coaches to establish a policy in their school to prohibit students from rushing onto the floor at the conclusion of athletic contests. The request for this policy comes as a result of the dangers to players, officials and fans with the rushing of uncontrolled fans onto the confined area of the gymnasium floor.

- (16) For MHSAs postseason play, boys shall use the Baden Perfection Elite BX7E basketball and girls shall use the Baden Perfection Elite BX6E basketball. For regular season and post season play the ball used for all levels of play shall include the NFHS authenticating mark.

- (17) For MHSAs regular and postseason play, it is mandatory that the official scorer wear a black and white striped shirt and that his/her location be clearly marked by an "X" twelve (12) inches long and two (2) inches wide that shall be placed on the floor out-of-bounds directly in front of the official scorer to help substitutes and officials with the proper location of the scorer.

- (18) The MHSAs prohibits any use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol or other mood-altering drugs during competition. Violation will cause the coach or participant to be disqualified from further participation in that event.

## II - DISTRICT, DIVISION, PLAYOFF AND STATE PARTICIPATION

- (1) The playing rules as authorized and published by the National Federation of State High School Associations for the current year shall be followed for all games.

- (2) No all-state teams or players shall be picked or announced at the tournament site by either the Executive Board or tournament officials. This applies to district, divisional and state tournaments.

- (3) It shall be mandatory for the winners of all classes' divisional tournaments to take part in the final playoff series. In the event that any such winners should refuse to take part as provided above, then such team shall forfeit its right to its respective tournament championship, trophies etc., and the next team in line shall take its place and receive all respective trophies and replace the defaulting team in the final playoff. Furthermore, the defaulting team shall be barred from all tournament participation the following year, unless excused by the Executive Board for such default.

- (4) It is recommended that officials not be seen in the company of coaches, socially or otherwise, at any time during the course of the tournament.

- (5) Classes AA, A, B, and C boys' and girls' state basketball tournaments will be held concurrently. Each classification bracket can be found on the MHSAs website.

### III - ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

The teams and players recognized as eligible to participate in interscholastic basketball in Montana under the rules of the Montana High School Association will be eligible to participate in the tournaments arranged. All schools of the state are cautioned to carefully check their lists of potential players and make certain that each student whose name is submitted is fully qualified under the rules.

### IV - TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS

No more than twelve (12) players can be in uniform for any tournament/playoff game.

### V - PRETOURNAMENT PRACTICE SESSIONS

- (1) The tournament floor shall not be made available for practice purposes for any tournament team during the days when the tournament is in progress (other than the regular warm-up period) or at any time during the ten-day period immediately preceding the opening of the tournament, except when a team plays the majority of its home season games on the floor selected as the tournament site. Then that team only would be permitted to practice on the tournament floor during the ten-day period prior to the opening of any Association tournament.
- (2) Teams which have a bye for the first game will be allowed one open practice period during the days when the tournament is in progress prior to their first game of the tournament if scheduling at the tournament site permits.
- (3) Teams which receive byes after their first game and/or have a day without a game can practice on the tournament floor with the tournament manager's approval.

### VI - TOURNAMENT PRE-GAME WARM UP PERIOD

District and divisional tournament pre-game warm up periods will be twenty (20) minutes in length except Districts 4B, 5B, 2C, 3C, 9C, 11C, 12C, 13C, 14C, and Class A, Southern B, Eastern C and Western C Divisional which will have a pre-game warm-up period of fifteen (15) minutes. State tournaments will have a pre-game warm-up period of fifteen (15) minutes for all games each day.

### VII - NET CUTTING

No team, coach or individual shall cut down the nets following the championship game at any tournament level or at any MHSA sanctioned basketball game.

### VIII - NUMBER OF GAMES DURING ANY TOURNAMENT DAY

No team shall be permitted to play more than two games on any one day of any playoff or tournament.

### IX - TOURNAMENT POLICING

- (1) The local tournament manager and/or committee must make arrangements for adequate policing at the gymnasium during the course of the tournament which includes general policing of the building and grounds as well as policing of team dressing room facilities.
- (2) These rules apply for district, divisional and state tournaments.
- (3) Special attention must be given to insure that the game officials are afforded proper protection when leaving the floor, during the movement to the dressing room area and while in the dressing room.

### X - VIDEO TAPE AT TOURNAMENTS

The MHSA Executive Board has established the following policy for videotaping at MHSA sponsored tournaments in basketball, volleyball and wrestling:

- (1) All videotaping must be approved by the tournament manager.
- (2) All team videotaping shall be conducted from an area designated by the tournament manager. [Refer to Rules and Regulations, Section (32) Policies for Videotaping, Cybercasting, Telecasting and Photograph of MHSA Events.]
- (3) No videotaping shall be conducted for commercial purposes unless previously approved by the MHSA Executive Director.
- (4) Schools or their representatives may video only those specific competitions in which their students participate.

### XI - DETERMINATION OF TOURNAMENT SITES

- (1) Each district and division will determine their own tournament sites and managers and are authorized to make all arrangements for the proper staging of said tournaments in accordance with the General Rules and under the MHSA finance plan. Tournament managers cannot be a coach or an official if that coach or official is participating in the tournament.
- (2) The determination of sites, tournament managers and arrangements for all MHSA state tournaments will be made by the Executive Board. This determination will be made at a meeting of the Board after interested member schools or communities have been given an opportunity to submit written invitations to host an Association tournament.
- (3) Following are some of the criteria which will be considered by the Board in making the determination of tournament sites: (a) adequate gym facilities; (b) adequate community facilities for team and spectator housing and eating; (c) reasonable assurance of financial success; (d) definite invitation showing local community support; (e) geographical rotation when feasible.
- (4) If the Board locates a tournament in a member school's facility, an administrator of that school will usually be named tournament manager. If the state tournament is located in a facility other than a member school, the Executive Director, a member of the MHSA staff or a member of the Executive Board will be named manager.
- (5) For all state tournaments, the gym assignments for Saturday morning contests will not be determined until after the Friday semifinal games are completed. The following factors will be used to determine which games are played at the main tournament site and which games are played at the secondary site:
  - a. A team will not play in their home gym.
  - b. Different gender teams from the same school should not play at separate locations.
  - c. Gym capacity can be considered for crowd size.

### XII - TOURNAMENT PROGRAMS, CONCESSIONS AND CORPORATE SPONSORS

- (1) The tournament program rights for all district and divisional programs will be determined by the respective district or division. The tournament program rights for all state tournaments will be the responsibility of the MHSA Executive Board.
- (2) The concession rights for any state tournament must be approved by the Executive Director. Concession rights include but are not limited to t-shirts, other apparel, photos, buttons, etc.
- (3) At district and divisional events, concessions where goods and/or services are received would be at the approval of managers of events.
- (4) Corporate sponsorship of any postseason event is the responsibility of the MHSA Executive Board and requires Board approval. Exceptions are: a) program advertisements

and b) signage or announcements acknowledging the receipt of donated goods including food or beverages for the hospitality room, the use of tents at outdoor events, or the use of other equipment necessary for staging the event. Signage should be placed only in the appropriate areas, i.e. on the tents or in the hospitality room/area.

Established facility sponsorships are not affected provided that MHSAs corporate sponsorship requirements are met.

### XIII - DISTRICT/DIVISIONAL CHALLENGE GAMES

In the event of a district or divisional challenge game being necessary, the MHSAs Executive Director can select a neutral site for the game that is geographically located so as to require the least amount of travel necessary for both teams involved in the challenge contest.

### XIV - TOURNAMENT FINANCE PLAN

- (1) After each district, divisional or state tournament the tournament manager shall remit to the MHSAs Executive Director a complete financial report of the tournament within fifteen (15) days following the conclusion of the event.
- (2) The Executive Board points out that the local community definitely profits from the tournaments in three ways: (a) all concessions of the tournaments are normally given to local organizations; (b) local communities profit considerably through income at hotels, motels, restaurants and stores; (c) the local school is under no expense to send its teams to the tournament.
- (3) The host school does not underwrite the expense of the tournament but is obligated to do its best to see to it that the gross receipts are such that allowable expenses are paid in full.
- (4) Pretournament or post-tournament playoff games are considered part of the tournament, and therefore, all receipts and expenses of these games are part of the tournament financial report.

#### Allowable Tournament Expenses

Charges against the tournament will stand for payment in the following order:

- (1) Referees' fees and expenses.
- (2) Basketball - only one may be charged against the district tournament. (The basketballs for all divisional and for all state tournaments will be furnished by the MHSAs office at no charge.)
- (3) Normal administrative expenses. (Printing tickets, scorebook, one set of nets, advertising, signs, postage, telephone, clerical, scorer and timer.)
- (4) Use of facility charges (rental), shall include all charges, if any, for the following: extra custodial service, utilities, ticket sales, ticket takers, police/security, door guards, ushers, parking attendants, first aid room and towel service.
- (5) Team expenses are to be computed as follows:
  - a. In addition to the certified players on the tournament roster (a maximum of twelve) per diem will be allowed for four additional persons at \$45.00 per day for a maximum of 16 persons (12 players, 2 managers, 2 coaches) plus travel expense allowance of \$2.50 per mile for one round trip for each school participating.
  - b. The decision to stay at the tournament site or to commute rests with each school. If a school elects to commute to the tournament site, any or all days the tournament is in session, they will be paid expenses as follows:
    1. \$2.50 per mile for each round trip, maximum of one round trip per day, plus \$20.00 a day per person, to a

maximum of 16, for meal allowance for each day they commute while the tournament is in session if the team is competing those days or has a bye and has a scheduled practice session approved by the tournament manager on the tournament floor. If a team commutes to the tournament site and does not have a game, they do not receive mileage or per diem for that day. If both genders commute on one bus the team competing receives mileage and per diem accordingly.

2. For the days when the team stays overnight at the tournament site, the regular schedule of \$45.00 applies. If both genders traveled on one bus and are staying overnight at the tournament site they will receive \$45.00 per day for the days they stay overnight even if they don't play on a particular day when the tournament is in session.
3. No expenses are paid for the day following the tournament.

- c. For all classes, one additional day per diem will be allowed if the team stays overnight an extra night preceding the state tournament dates.

For all tournaments in Classes A & C and for district and divisional tournaments in Class B, one additional day per diem will be allowed if travel distance is more than 200 miles one way, if the team stays overnight an extra night preceding the tournament dates. Also, one additional day per diem will be allowed if the team plays before noon and stays overnight an extra night preceding the tournament dates.

- d. Teams required to report to the tournament site a day early for a playoff game will be entitled to an extra day per diem at \$20.00 or \$45.00 whichever applies.
- e. If, after a team is eliminated from tournament play, they leave before completion of the tournament play, they will receive one day less per diem than they otherwise are entitled to receive under this schedule.
- f. Teams located at the tournament site will not receive any mileage or per diem.

- g. Participating teams required to remain at the tournament site for a playoff game will be entitled to two additional days per diem. If participating teams do not remain at the tournament site, but return home and then travel to the playoff game, they will be entitled to an additional round trip mileage and \$20.00 for 16 persons for other expenses.

- h. In computing miles traveled, the shortest paved route open to travel as listed on the current official Montana Highway Map published by the Montana Department of Highways will be the mileage used.

**Note: No guarantee is made that teams will receive maximum expense allowance.**

#### Non-allowable Tournament Expenses

- (1) Proper policing of hotels.
- (2) Proper timing and scoring equipment.
- (3) Adequate dressing room and shower facilities.

#### Established Ticket Prices for District, Division and State Tournaments

- (1) Each district and division in each classification shall determine its own ticket prices for each tournament for both boys and girls.

- (2) The following ticket prices as established by the MHSA Executive Board will be used for all boys' and girls' state tournaments.

All Classes Combined Boys' & Girls' Tournament

All-Session Tickets Thursday or Friday All-Day Tickets

Adult.....	\$42.00	Adult.....	\$18.00
Student.....	\$26.00	Student .....	\$11.00

Thursday or Friday After 6 PM

Adult.....	\$10.00
Student .....	\$8.00

Saturday Morning Tickets ....

Adult.....	\$10.00
Student.....	\$8.00

Saturday Evening Tickets

Adult.....	\$10.00
Student .....	\$8.00

**XV - SELECTION OF OFFICIALS**

Refer to the MOA section for procedure for selection of officials to work basketball tournaments.

**XVI - SWITCHING OF BRACKETS**

Teams involved in MHSA tournaments shall be notified no later than Tuesday of tournament week if there is a change in brackets.

**XVII - POLICY FOR TOURNAMENT PASSES**

The Association has established the following policy for tournament passes which shall be adhered to by all tournament managers.

- (1) For school administrators – twenty-four (24) all-session (reserved seat if used) tickets when one team qualifies per school. When two teams qualify, an additional six (6) passes shall be given for a total of thirty (30). If school's co-op the host school will receive the twenty-four (24) or thirty (30) administrative tickets and the other school(s) in the co-op will each receive an additional four (4) administrative tickets. These complimentary tickets are to be distributed by the superintendent to the principal, coaches, band directors, school board chairpersons, bus drivers, cheerleading coaches, sponsors of half-time entertainment etc., and maybe spouses of some.
- (2) For players - twelve passes for players and four for managers (total of sixteen).
- (3) ***For spirit, bands and performing groups — they will be allowed free admission at playoff and state championship games when they play or perform.***
- (4) For radio - three passes to each station given permission to broadcast the tournament or game. The game (or games) must be broadcast in its (or their) entirety.
- (5) For media other than radio
  - a. Print news media - one pass for Associated Press and passes for working staff of local newspapers of teams in the tournament or newspapers in the marketing area of those teams. Members of the print media are required to show their Montana Newspaper Association press credentials when picking up their passes.
  - b. Television news media - passes for working staff of local stations of teams in the tournament or stations in the marketing area of those teams.
  - c. Commercial photography or broadcast - passes for working staff as contracted by the event manager or MHSA.
  - d. Passes will not be issued for spouses or children who attend the event with working members of the media.
- (6) For referees - two passes to each referee working the tournament.

**XVIII - DISTRICT AND DIVISION ORGANIZATION**

- (1) Each district in Classes B and C and each division in Classes AA and A should organize to transact such business as may come under its jurisdiction. Such organization may transact any business at their meetings which does not conflict with the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and rules and regulations adopted by the MHSA Executive Board. District and division dues may be voted if such dues are used in the carrying out of district and division organization and plans. If dues are voted, it must be understood that they are voted in addition to the annual dues of the Association. Each should elect a full complement of officers to carry out such work as may come under its jurisdiction.
- (2) While the management and general arrangements of Class B and Class C districts and all divisional tournaments are left to each district and division, all officers are cautioned to adopt such rules and regulations as are consistent and fair to all schools within the district or division. No attempts to boycott or discriminate against individual schools will be allowed. Tournament committees and officials are cautioned not to select a tournament site unless the community or school sponsoring such a tournament has adequate facilities and housing conditions to warrant staging the event. This should particularly include an adequate gymnasium with all locker and shower facilities and sufficient hotel/motel accommodations to properly house all teams as well as patrons who are in attendance.
- (3) In order that district and divisional officers may be furnished with tournament and other Association information, it is necessary that a list of officers elected for the current year be sent immediately to the MHSA Executive Director. The president or secretary of each district will be responsible for furnishing this information at the earliest possible date along with tournament sites.
- (4) At the conclusion of respective tournaments, the secretary or tournament manager is responsible for furnishing a complete financial report of the tournament to the MHSA Executive Director.

**XIX - CLASS AA BASKETBALL PROGRAM - BOYS AND GIRLS**

- (1) See [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org) for the detailed alignments for Class AA.
- (2) The Class AA schools will be charged with the responsibility of playoff structure and seeding.
- (3) Playoff structure is for both boys and girls and will be held each year. Each division will have charge of the operation and management of its respective playoffs as to times and sites, and with other arrangements in accordance with the standard tournament plan as set for all tournaments and outlined in this handbook.
- (4) Seeding for Class AA playoffs will be determined by AA conference policy.

Playoffs for Eastern and Western Divisions

- #1 – Bye (1<sup>st</sup> seed at state)
- #2 – Bye (2<sup>nd</sup> seed at state)
- #3 – Plays #6 (at #3's site)
- #4 – Plays #5 (at #4's site)
- #5 – Plays #4 (at #4's site)
- #6 – Plays #3 (at #3's site)

- (5) The dates for playoff games will be determined by the AA conference.
- (6) Each division's seeding will be as follows for advancement to the state tournaments:

Seeding for Eastern and Western Divisions

- #1 – 1<sup>st</sup> place in the division
- #2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the division

- #3 – Next highest remaining seed in the division
- #4 – Last remaining seed in the division

- (7) Seeding for the Class AA state tournaments will be as follows:
- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Bracket I  | 2nd place Eastern vs. 3rd place Western<br>1st place Western vs. 4th place Eastern |
| Bracket II | 2nd place Western vs. 3rd place Eastern<br>1st place Eastern vs. 4th place Western |

Brackets I and II shall alternate each year. Brackets shall be switched when the host city has an entry in the state tournament so the host city's team will play in the evening session. When the host city has two teams in the tournament and they are in opposite brackets, the brackets shall remain the same. If more than two host city teams are in the tournament, then the bracket with the most host city teams shall be played in the evening. The order of games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

**XX - CLASS A BASKETBALL PROGRAM - BOYS AND GIRLS**

- (1) See [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org) for the detailed alignments for Class A.
- (2) The Class A schools in each division will be charged with the responsibility for divisional tournament seeding. Possible options include but are not limited to:
- a) All teams advance to divisional tournaments.
  - b) Playoff games in which the number of teams advancing from each conference are determined by the division.
  - c) A conference tournament may be conducted to determine divisional seeding or conferences may choose to seed teams directly to the divisional tournament.

Divisions must inform the MHSA office of their divisional seeding plans.

- (3) Each of the two divisions will be responsible for the operation and management of its divisional tournaments. Each will be responsible for the selection of the tournament sites and tournament managers, and the financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSA Standard Tournament Finance Plan as set up for all tournaments. In the event of any ties in conference standings, the division will be responsible to determine the seeding in its divisional tournaments.

**Western Division**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Bracket I  | 1st place NW vs. lowest remaining SW seed<br>2nd place SW vs. highest remaining NW seed |
| Bracket II | 2nd place NW vs. highest remaining SW seed<br>1st place SW vs. lowest remaining NW seed |

Brackets I and II shall alternate each year.

**Eastern Division**

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|------------|--|
| Bracket I  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place SE vs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> place NE<br>1 <sup>st</sup> place SE vs. 4 <sup>th</sup> place NE |
| Bracket II | 1 <sup>st</sup> place NE vs. 4 <sup>th</sup> place SE<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> place SE vs. 3 <sup>rd</sup> place NE |

Brackets I and II shall alternate each year.

- (4) The dates for the divisional and state tournaments will be determined by the MHSA Executive Board.
- (5) Seeding for Class A state tournaments will be as follows:
- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Bracket I  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Western vs. 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Eastern<br>1 <sup>st</sup> place Eastern vs. 4 <sup>th</sup> place Western |
| Bracket II | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Eastern vs. 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Western<br>1 <sup>st</sup> place Western vs. 4 <sup>th</sup> place Eastern |

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of the games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

**XXI - CLASS B BASKETBALL PROGRAM - BOYS AND GIRLS**

- (1) See [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org) for the detailed alignments for Class B.
- (2) The Class B schools in each division will be charged with the responsibility for divisional tournament seeding. Possible options include but are not limited to:
- a) All teams advance to divisional tournaments.
  - b) Playoff games in which the number of teams advancing from each district are determined by the division.
  - c) District tournament.

Divisions must inform the MHSA office of their divisional seeding plans.

- (3) In the event of any ties in conference standings, the division will be responsible to determine seeding in its district tournaments or playoff games. Each district will advance teams to the divisional tournament and be seeded according to the following plan:

**Northern Division**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Bracket I  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place District 1B vs. 3 <sup>rd</sup> place District 2B<br>4 <sup>th</sup> place District 1B vs. 1 <sup>st</sup> place District 2B |
| Bracket II | 1st place District 1B vs. 5th place District 1B<br>3rd place District 1B vs. 2nd place District 2B   |

**Southern Division**

**2025-26**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Bracket I  | Game 1: 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Dist. 5B vs. 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Dist. 4B<br>Game 2: 1 <sup>st</sup> place Dist. 5B vs. 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Dist. 3B<br>Game 3: 1 <sup>st</sup> place Dist. 4B vs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Dist. 3B |
| Bracket II | Game 4: 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Dist. 4B vs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Dist. 5B<br>Game 5: 1st place Dist. 3B vs. Winner of Game 1  |

**2026-27**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Bracket I  | Game 1: 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Dist. 4B vs. 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Dist. 3B<br>Game 2: 1 <sup>st</sup> place Dist. 4B vs. 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Dist. 5B<br>Game 3: 1 <sup>st</sup> place Dist. 3B vs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Dist. 5B |
| Bracket II | Game 4: 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Dist. 3B vs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Dist. 4B<br>Game 5: 1 <sup>st</sup> place Dist. 5B vs. Winner of Game 1  |

**2027-28**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Bracket I  | Game 1: 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Dist. 3B vs. 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Dist. 5B<br>Game 2: 1 <sup>st</sup> place Dist. 3B vs. 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Dist. 4B<br>Game 3: 1 <sup>st</sup> place Dist. 5B vs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Dist. 4B |
| Bracket II | Game 4: 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Dist. 5B vs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Dist. 3B<br>Game 5: 1 <sup>st</sup> place Dist. 4B vs. Winner of Game 1  |

**Western Division**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Bracket I  | 1st place District 6B vs. 4th place District 7B<br>3rd place District 6B vs. 2nd place District 7B |
| Bracket II | 1st place District 7B vs. 4th place District 6B<br>3rd place District 7B vs. 2nd place District 6B |

For the Northern and Western Divisions Brackets I and II shall alternate each year. Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

- (4) District Challenge Games – A challenge game will be allowed in district tournaments where only two teams advance to the divisional tournament. No challenge game is permitted in the

districts where three or more teams will advance to the divisional tournaments.

If a challenge game is held, three of the regular district tournament officials must be used to officiate this challenge game. If the tournament ends on Saturday night, this challenge game must be played on Monday following the completion of the regular tournament and must be played on the tournament floor.

Exception: A change in site may be made by the MHSA Executive Director or his/her assistants to a site that is relatively centrally located between the two schools involved. This would permit the district tournament challenge game to be played on a floor other than the tournament site.

Receipts and expenses from this challenge game are part of the regular tournament receipts and expenses. Second and third place trophies must be presented on the basis of this game.

- (5) Each of the three divisions will be responsible for the operation and management of its divisional tournaments. Each will be responsible for the selection of the tournament sites and tournament managers, and the financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSA Standard Tournament Finance Plan as set up for all tournaments.
- (6) Divisional Challenge Games - A challenge game will be allowed in divisional tournaments where only two teams advance to the state tournament.

Three of the regular divisional tournament officials must be used to officiate this challenge game. If the tournament ends on Saturday night, this challenge game must be played on Monday following the completion of the regular tournament and must be played on the tournament floor.

A change in the site may be made by the MHSA Executive Director or one of his/her assistants to a site that is relatively centrally located between the two schools. This would permit the thirteenth or challenge game to be played on a floor other than the tournament site.

Receipts and expenses of this challenge game are part of the regular tournament receipts and expenses. Second and third place trophies must be presented on the basis of this game.

- (7) The dates of district, divisional and state tournaments will be determined by the MHSA Executive Board.
- (8) Seeding for the Class B state tournaments will be as follows:

**2025-2026**

- Bracket I 1<sup>st</sup> place Western vs. 4<sup>th</sup> place Southern  
1<sup>st</sup> place Southern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Northern
- Bracket II 1<sup>st</sup> place Northern vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> place Southern  
2<sup>nd</sup> place Southern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Western

**2026-27**

- Bracket I 1<sup>st</sup> place Northern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Southern  
1<sup>st</sup> place Western vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> place Southern
- Bracket II 1<sup>st</sup> place Southern vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> place Northern  
2<sup>nd</sup> place Northern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Western

**2027-28**

- Bracket I 1<sup>st</sup> place Southern vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> place Northern  
2<sup>nd</sup> place Northern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Western
- Bracket II 1<sup>st</sup> place Northern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Southern  
1<sup>st</sup> place Western vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> place Southern

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of the games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

**XXII - CLASS C BASKETBALL PROGRAM - BOYS AND GIRLS**

- (1) See [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org) for the detailed alignments for Class C.
- (2) The Class C schools in each district will be charged with the responsibility for district tournament seeding.
- (3) Each district will hold a district tournament or have playoff games each year to determine the teams that will advance to an eight- or nine-team divisional tournament. Each district will be responsible for selecting the tournament sites and managers. In the event of any ties in conference standings, the district will be responsible to determine seeding in its district tournaments. Also, each will be responsible for financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSA Tournament Finance Plan.
- (4) Each of the four divisions will be responsible for the operation and management of its divisional tournament. Each will be responsible for the selection of the tournament sites and tournament managers and the financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSA Standard Tournament Finance Plan as set for all tournaments. Each division will send two teams to the state tournament.
- (5) Challenge Games - A challenge game will be allowed in district tournaments where only two teams advance to the divisional tournament, unless the Class C districts vote before the opening of the tournament not to permit the playoff game. No challenge game is permitted in the districts where three teams will advance to the divisional tournaments.

If a challenge game is held, three of the regular district tournament officials must be used to officiate this challenge game. If the tournament ends on Saturday night, this challenge game must be played on Monday following the completion of the regular tournament and must be played on the tournament floor.

Receipts and expenses of this challenge game are part of the regular tournament receipts and expenses. Second and third place trophies must be presented on the basis of this game.

- (6) In the four Class C divisional tournaments, if the third place team has not met the second place team in divisional tournament play, then a challenge game must be held to determine second place and also the two teams that advance to the state tournament. The regulations and conditions in the two paragraphs immediately above concerning challenge games in district tournaments will apply in divisional tournaments.

Exception: A change in the site may be made by the MHSA Executive Director or his/her assistants to a site that is relatively centrally located between the two schools involved. This would permit the challenge game to be played on a floor other than the tournament site.

- (7) Teams must be seeded in the divisional tournaments according to the brackets listed on the MHSA website.

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

- (8) Seeding for the Class C state tournaments will be as follows:

**2025-26**

- Bracket I 1<sup>st</sup> place Southern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Eastern  
1<sup>st</sup> place Northern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Western
- Bracket II 1<sup>st</sup> place Eastern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Northern  
1<sup>st</sup> place Western vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Southern

**2026-27**

- Bracket I 1<sup>st</sup> place Eastern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Southern  
1<sup>st</sup> place Western vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Northern
- Bracket II 1<sup>st</sup> place Southern vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Western

1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Eastern

**2027-28**

Bracket I 1st place Western vs. 2nd place Eastern  
1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Northern  
Bracket II 1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Southern  
1st place Eastern vs. 2nd place Western

**2028-29**

Bracket I 1st place Western vs. 2nd place Southern  
1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Eastern  
Bracket II 1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Western  
1st place Eastern vs. 2nd place Northern

**2029-30**

Bracket I 1st place Eastern vs. 2nd place Southern  
1st place Western vs. 2nd place Northern  
Bracket II 1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Eastern  
1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Western

**2030-31**

Bracket I 1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Southern  
1st place Eastern vs. 2nd place Western  
Bracket II 1st place Western vs. 2nd place Eastern  
1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Northern

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of the games within the brackets may not be switched for any reason.