

2025-2026 Basketball Coaches Packet



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West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commissioner



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TO: Boys' & Girls' Basketball Coaches

FROM: Chris Wells, Assistant Executive Director

DATE: October 2025

SUBJECT: 2025-2026

Important Reminders:

1. Please review current WVSSAC Rule 127-3-20 as it relates to high school and middle school basketball. Also, review Rule 127-3-20.4.1. Refer to **WVSSAC Rules & Regulations Handbook**.
2. Eligibility certificates are due **online** no later than the date of the first contest according to the standardized calendar. **Failure will result in a \$25 fine and forfeit of all contests played.**
3. A violation of the quarter rule will cause suspension of the coach. **NOTE:** WVSSAC Rule 127-3-20.2. A player may play only six (6) quarters in a day. This rule applies to high schools and middle school players.
4. State rules clinics are required for all high school and middle school head coaches and officials. High schools sponsoring a 9th grade team are also required to be represented by the head coach of the 9th grade team. Please be reminded that the clinic attendance requirement will not be granted if the coach is more than 10 minutes late. **NOTE: Failure by the coach to attend will cause a school to be assessed a \$50.00 fine.**
5. The Wilson EVO NXT Legacy ball has been adopted as the official ball to be used in tournament play in West Virginia.
6. Class III Officials are permitted to officiate high school varsity basketball games; non-registered, inactive, or suspended officials are not allowed to work any games.
7. Pre-game Procedure:
 - a. Teams may not come on the floor until twenty-five (25) minutes prior to the start of the contest. Game administration will determine the starting time.
 - b. Officials will be required to be on the floor when the teams come out.
 - c. Twenty (20) minutes will be placed on the clock when the teams come out. This decision will be made by game administration, and all parties will be informed.

8. Coaches are responsible for discussing the Ejection Rule and Bench Clearing Policy with all other coaches and players prior to the first contest.
 - a. **Rule 127-3-3.7. Code for Interscholastic Athletics** – Coaches are hereby notified to carefully review this rule. Refer to the WVSSAC Rules & Regulations Handbook.
9. WVSSAC Rule 127-2-13. Practice – Refer to the WVSSAC Rules & Regulations Handbook.
10. **Use of Drugs, Medication or Food Supplement by Athletes** – It is the philosophy of the National Federation and the WVSSAC that students be encouraged and supported in their efforts to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle. In promotion of safety and healthy lifestyles, the WVSSAC Sports Medicine Committee requests that coaches assume the responsibility of informing athletes that the use of such substances should be discontinued especially during the times when dehydration may occur due to potential life-threatening consequences.
11. **Mouth Guard Policy for Basketball** – The use of mouth guards is recommended for all practices and contests.
12. **Head and Neck Trauma Guidelines** – Refer to the approved Return to Play/Concussion Protocol. RTP refers to return to play and return to practice. The appropriate health care professional will determine when a concussed athlete may return to participation.
13. **Injury/Participation Procedure at WVSSAC Championship Events** – Medical personnel (athletic trainers) will have jurisdiction concerning the return of a player to competition after an injury. If a parent refuses to follow the determination of the authorized person, a release form must be signed.
14. **Sportsmanship** – The WVSSAC actively promotes good sportsmanship in all of our sport programs. We encourage you to promote good sportsmanship by informing parents and athletes of the importance of supporting this concept. Lead by example.
15. **Rotation of Classes for the High School Regional and State Tournaments:**
 - a. Upon the recommendation of the Basketball Coaches' Advisory Committee and with the approval of the WVSSAC Board of Directors, the rotation of all classes will begin with the 2022-2023 Season.
16. **Middle School Game Shortening Rule:** If the game score is more than 30 points or more entering the 4th quarter, the quarter will be reduced to 3:00 minutes. (New for 2025-2026)

Alignment and tournament information can be found in the November issue of

The Interscholastic at wvssac.org.

2025-2026
BOYS' & GIRLS' BASKETBALL RULES CLINICS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>COORDINATOR</u>
Oct 5	Interpreters' Clinic Parkersburg (WVSSAC)	9:00am	Chris Wells
Oct 5	Parkersburg HS	2:00 pm	Chris Way
Oct 6	Chapmanville Regional HS	6:00 pm	George Barker
Oct 7	Spring Mills HS	6:00 pm	Glenn Simpson
Oct 8	Frankfort HS	6:00 pm	Jay Hesse
Oct 9	Robert C. Byrd	6:00 pm	Eric Post
Oct20	Woodrow Wilson HS	6:00 pm	Andrew Pinnick
Oct 21	Herbert Hoover HS	6:00 pm	Richard Parsons
Oct 23	John Marshall HS	6:00 pm	Roger Simmons
Oct 27	Huntington HS	6:00pm	Bruce Senior
Oct 28	*WVSSAC Office *Make-up Clinic	6:30 pm	Chris Wells

SCHOOLS: The **Head Coach** shall be **required** to attend any sports rules clinics which are sponsored by this Commission in his/her coaching assignment. Schools failing to have a head coaching position filled at the time of the clinic will be required to have a school representative present at the rules clinic. An individual can only represent one school unless he/she is head coach at both schools. In a 9-12 school, both the varsity and 9th grade coach are required to attend. Failure to have a representative at one of the above clinics will result in a \$50.00 fine.

The clinic attendance requirement may not be granted if the coach or representative is late in excess of 10 minutes.

§127-3-20. Basketball (Boys and Girls).

- 20.1. Rules: Basketball rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.
- 20.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice for girls will begin on Monday of Week 19 and Monday of Week 20 for boys. The first contest for girls may be played on Tuesday of Week 22 and Tuesday of Week 23 for boys.
- 20.3. Length of Season: The boys' and girls' basketball seasons will end for each team at tournament elimination.
- 20.4. Maximum Team Contests: A varsity or junior varsity basketball team will be permitted to play no more than 22 games in the regular season exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.
- 20.4.a. The maximum number of quarters for a student in one season is 132 exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.
- 20.4.b. A student can play only six quarters in one day.
- 20.4.c. Participation in a quarter, regardless of time, will be considered one quarter.
- 20.4.d. Overtime is considered as an extension of the fourth quarter.
- 20.5. A high school basketball team is permitted to participate in a preview and a scrimmage or two scrimmage games. (See Glossary.)
- 20.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.
- 20.7. A student may not play or practice on a non-school basketball team while a member of the school team.
- 20.8. During the sport season a student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events Awards must comply with the §127-3-5. Outside the sport season, students may accept only compliant awards in non-sanctioned events.
- 20.9. Middle Schools -- The above rules will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:
- 20.9.a. Girls may begin practice on Monday of Week 18 and boys on Monday of Week 19. The first contest for girls may be played on Wednesday of week 21 and Wednesday of week 22 for boys.
- 20.9.b. The girls basketball season will end on Saturday of Week 33 and Saturday of Week 34 for boys.
- 20.9.c. Tournament play on the state level shall be prohibited.
- 20.9.d. Boys and girls basketball teams will be permitted to play no more than 20 games. Tournament exception does

apply. Schools may play no more than three extra games during the end of season conference/county tournament.

20.9.e. All middle students may play a maximum of 120 quarters for one season.

20.9.f. All middle students may play a maximum of six quarters per day.

20.9.g. A member school sponsoring games involving teams which combine students in 7th and 8th grades must play those games in quarters of six minutes.

20.9.h. Middle schools are not permitted to play an alumni game.

20.9.i. Scrimmages: Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)



VIDEO RECORDING AT WVSSAC EVENTS



Participating schools are permitted to video tape a competition for coaches analysis and review; schools must adhere to current WVSSAC and NFHS rules regarding the use, exchange and distribution of the video recording including in-game usage.

Positions for school camera operators and equipment are assigned by the WVSSAC and/or Game Director. For Final Site events, any RF signals used by school for the purpose of video recordings must be coordinated in advance of the competition with the WVSSAC Media Partners (NFHS Network and/or MetroNews) to ensure the school does not interfere with the television/video stream coverage.

Accredited working media members (including videographers and photographers) must secure proper credentials from the WVSSAC or host school and are subject to all WVSSAC media credential policies.

Non-media Individuals who wish to secure access to WVSSAC Events for purposes of gathering video (or photos) must secure a commercial content license from the WVSSAC (subject to fees and available space). The commercial content licensee must adhere to WVSSAC intellectual property policies and commercial content policies.

Video streaming rights must be secured from the WVSSAC (subject to fees and available space) and adhere current television/video media right policies.

The copyright for all video secured at a WVSSAC Event is owned by the WVSSAC.

Revised: 10/5/25

~~~~~ **High School Only** ~~~~~  
**State Tournament Program Information**

**Goal:** To provide a quality program for all championship events  
**What:** Basketball State Championship Program  
**Deadline:** Girls - Noon on March 6, 2026 and Boys – Noon on March 13, 2026

**Login as the School Administrator ([www.wvssac.org](http://www.wvssac.org)) and update the information below:**

- 1. Update the Eligibility Certificates online.**
- 2. Update Your School Information/Head Coaching Information/ Roster Information.**
- 3. Update your Basketball Schedule and Scores online including Regional contests.**
- 4. Remember, what you enter online is what will be printed in the championship program, so please make sure you have reviewed this information for accuracy. This will be the school's responsibility.**

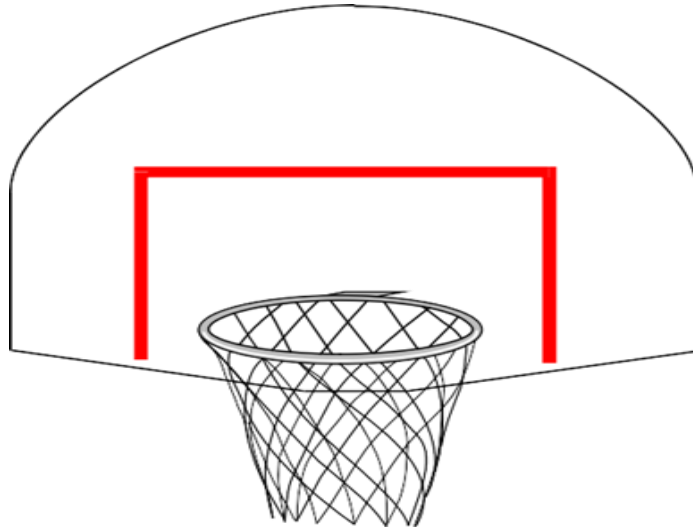
**Items that need to be emailed after winning the sectional tournament:**

- 1. Team Picture (High Resolution Prints Best)**
- 2. Head Coach's Picture**
- 3. Team Page Sponsor (Team Page Sponsor refers to the person(s) or business/organization that is going to pay for the team page. Example: a local business, booster club, etc. If no sponsor is provided, the school will be listed and invoiced for the team page.**
- 4. Ad – The ad is about the size of a business card.**
- 5. Team Page – Cost is \$125.00. Make checks payable to WVSSAC and mail to the address below.**

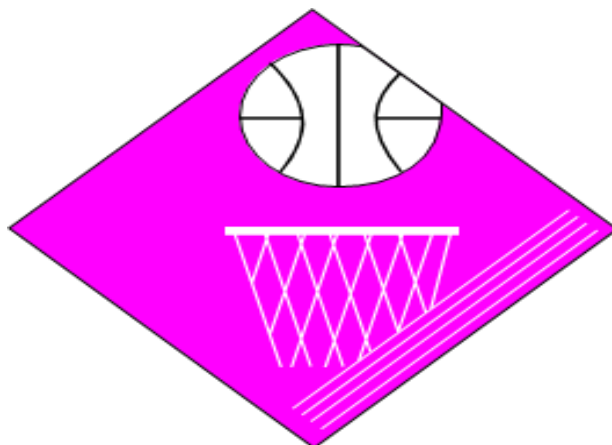
**All the required information is due before Noon on March 6, 2026 for Girls and Noon on March 13, 2026 for Boys. The meeting on Sunday will be for verification of information received only. DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS to the state tournament meeting on Sunday. The deadline will have expired.**

**Late submissions will not be included in the program!**

|                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mail payment<br/>and a copy of<br/>invoice to:</b> | <b>Attn: Anna Brown<br/>WVSSAC<br/>2875 Staunton Turnpike<br/>Parkersburg, WV 26104<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:anna.brown@wvssac.org">anna.brown@wvssac.org</a></b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



***Refer to the previous page for  
instructions on filling out coaching  
and team information online.***





## COACHING REMINDERS



**Practice:** Team members must have 12 practices on 14 separate days - 5 days sports specific if participating in another sport during the same sports season. A student must have 5 days of practice if coming from one sports season into the next sports season without interruption of school days. Only students enrolled in the specific member school and a member of the team is allowed to practice. Rule 127-2-13. Football participants must follow sport specific progressions.

**Sunday Contests:** Contests or practice on Sunday is prohibited. Practice refers to any group or individual meeting to view films or activity associated with the activity of that sports season. Rule 127-3-14.

**Physical Exam:** Team members must have Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate form completed and on file before beginning practice. Rule 127-3-3. (Must be on or after May 1<sup>st</sup>.)

**All-Star Competition:** Any student completing athletic eligibility at the end of current school year because of age or competition of semesters of eligibility may play in one (1) all-star game upon conclusion of the season without loss of eligibility for balance of year. Rule 127-3-4.

**Awards:** Team members can accept awards from school sponsoring a sanctioned event or the school. Wearing apparel, championship rings, equipment, and athletic goods that exceeds \$100.00 are prohibited from any source. Rule 127-3-5.

**Out of Season Coaching:** Coaches may not promote, initiate, organize, supervise or participate in out-of-season events involving students of the same sport as the grade level coaching assignment and preceding grade level except as specified in Rules 127-3-7.2 and 127-3-7.3. Rule 127-3-7.7.

**Amateur:** Any team member competing for money, receiving any award or prize of monetary value that has not been approved by the WVSSAC, capitalizing on athletic fame or signing a professional playing contract in that sport is prohibited. Rule 127-2-11.

**Participation as Ineligible:** Any student who participates as ineligible may forfeit eligibility for up to 365 days. Rule 127-2-12.

**Non-School Participation:** Participation is limited to school teams only with a few exceptions in individual sports provided the school principal approves and no school contests/activities are missed. Participation includes but is not limited to, practice, fund raising, team pictures, tryouts, etc. Rule 127-2-10.

**Sanctioning and Travel:** A member school shall not enter a contest, tournament, or competition which requires sanctioning until it is approved 30 days prior to the event. Rule 127-3-16.

*For complete details regarding the above regulations and those governing team memberships, scholarship, undue influence, age, semester, etc. refer to the **Rules & Regulations Handbook**.*

*or at [www.wvssac.org](http://www.wvssac.org).*

### **§127-2-13. Practice.**

- 13.1. Only students enrolled and eligible to be listed on the eligibility certificate for that sport in the specific member school are allowed to participate in that school's practices. Exceptions are §§127-2-3.2, 127-2-3.5, and 127-2-13.6.
- 13.2. The frequency and length of practice is at the discretion of each member school.
- 13.3. Member schools of the WVSSAC may practice on any day of the year with the exception of Sunday practice. §127- 3-14.2 further clarifies Sunday practice.
- 13.4. Individual players of a team must have practiced:
  - 13.4.a. on five separate days before participating in an interscholastic scrimmage.
  - 13.4.b. on 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. The following sport(s) is exempted from the provisions of this rule: golf.
  - 13.4.c. a student athlete who is absent from practice with their team for non-medical reasons, and not under a doctor care, for more than 14 consecutive days must have the required 12 separate practice days before resuming participation in a contest. Students participating in football must follow the practice progression as set forth in §127-3-23.
- 13.5. A student shall not be permitted to engage in interscholastic practice until that student has filed with the principal a completed Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form. §127-3-3 further explains this required form.
- 13.6. A student academically ineligible may begin practicing 15 school days immediately prior to the date of regaining full eligibility. (All other ineligible students may not practice.)
- 13.7. If a student has established eligibility in a sport requiring 12 separate days of practice and is continuing to participate in that sport or no school days have lapsed from one sport to another sport in a same season, the student may participate in another sport of the season after completing five separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport.
- 13.8. Students participating in a sport(s) in one season must have practiced 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, to be eligible to participate in a sport in the next season with the following exception: the student has continued to practice or participate in tournament play without an interruption of school days. The student must complete five separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport.

### **§127-4-3. Code for Interscholastic Athletics.**

#### **3.1. The school administrator shall:**

- 3.1.a. Encourage and promote friendly relationships and good sportsmanship throughout the school by requiring courtesy and proper decorum at all times, by acquainting students and others in the community with ideals of good sportsmanship and by so publicizing these concepts and attitudes that all members of the school and community will understand their meaning.
- 3.1.b. Insist upon implicit compliance with all rules and regulations of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, hereinafter referred to in this rule as the WVSSAC.
- 3.1.c. Secure WV registered officials for all contests.
- 3.1.d. Insist upon adequate safety provisions for all activities, for both participants and spectators.
- 3.1.e. Approve only those activities and schedules which are educationally and physically sound for the student.
- 3.1.f. Encourage all to judge the success of the athletic program on the basis of the education goals and the attitude of the participants and spectators, rather than on the basis of the number of games won or lost.
- 3.1.g. Insist that the students exemplify the highest standards of good sportsmanship as a means of inculcating desirable spectator attitudes.
- 3.1.h. Provide adequate hygienic, sanitary, and attractive facilities for the dressing and housing of visiting teams and officials.
- 3.1.i. Review with staff the Sportsmanship Rule.

#### **3.2. The coach shall:**

- 3.2.a. Demonstrate high ideals, good habits, and desirable attitudes in personal behavior and demand the same standards of the students.
- 3.2.b. Recognize that the purpose of competition is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of the students and that the most important values of competition are derived from playing the game fairly.
- 3.2.c. Be a modest winner and a gracious loser.
- 3.2.d. Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display of emotion or of dissatisfaction with the officials.
- 3.2.e. Cooperate with the school principal in the planning, scheduling and conduct of sports activities.
- 3.2.f. Employ accepted educational methods in coaching, giving all students an opportunity to use and develop initiative, leadership, and judgment.
- 3.2.g. Pay close attention to the physical condition and well-being of the students refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of improving the team's chances to win.
- 3.2.h. Teach students that it is better to lose fairly than win unfairly.
- 3.2.i. Prohibit gambling, profanity, abusive language, and similar violations of good sportsmanship.

3.2.j. Refuse to disparage an opponent, an official, or others associated with athletic activities and discourage gossip and questionable rumors concerning them.

3.2.k. Properly supervise students under their immediate care and specifically observe a coach's responsibilities in conjunction with state interscholastic contests.

3.3. The spectator shall:

3.3.a. Realize that they represent the school just as definitely as does the member of a team, and, therefore, has an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through this behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others.

3.3.b. Recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.

3.3.c. Recognize that, since the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the students through the medium of contests, victory or defeat is in reality of secondary importance.

3.3.d. Treat visiting teams and officials as guests, extending to them every courtesy.

3.3.e. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

3.3.f. Respect the judgment and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions as they observe them.

3.4. The student shall:

3.4.a. Be courteous to visiting teams and officials.

3.4.b. Participate to the limit of their ability. The true student does not give up, nor do they quarrel, cheat, bet, or grandstand.

3.4.c. Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A true "sport" does not offer excuses for failures.

3.4.d. Maintain a high degree of physical fitness by observing team and training rules conscientiously.

3.4.e. Demonstrate loyalty to the school by maintaining satisfactory scholastic standing and by participating in and supporting other school activities.

3.4.f. Understand and observe the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.

3.4.g. Respect the integrity and judgment of officials and accept their decisions without questions.

3.4.h. Respect the facilities of host schools and the trust entailed in being a guest.

3.4.i. The cheerleader shall always cheer positively for the team and never negatively against the opponent.

3.5. The official shall:

3.5.a. Place the welfare of the student above all other considerations.

3.5.b. Know the game rules thoroughly and give intelligent interpretations.

- 3.5.c. Maintain confidence and control from start to finish.
- 3.5.d. Work cooperatively with fellow officials and game administrators.
- 3.5.e. Refrain from exhibiting emotions or arguing with a student or coach. Maintain self-control under all conditions.
- 3.5.f. Be fair, impartial and professional.
- 3.5.g. Be neat and dress in the appropriate uniform.
- 3.5.h. Be in adequate physical condition for the demands of the particular sport.
- 3.5.i. Refrain from commenting upon or discussing a team, play, game situation, or fellow official.
- 3.5.j. So conduct the game as to enlist the cooperation of students, coaches, and spectators in the interest of good sportsmanship.
- 3.6. *Protection, Facilities, and Assistance.* The home team is expected to furnish supervision. Outdoor facilities or playing facilities should be separated from the spectators by a restraining barrier (fence, wire, rope, etc.). Officials should be provided with a parking space, private dressing facilities not accessible to unauthorized personnel, and should be paid no later than half-time of game. The use of trained, competent, adult “assistant officials,” i.e., scorers, timers, chain and down marker crews, etc., is strongly recommended.
- 3.7. *Statement of Policy.* Insofar as unsportsmanlike actions by students, school administrators, officials, coaches, faculty members, and spectators are concerned, the identical items under the Sportsmanship Rule along with the following guides will be referred to by the WVSSAC:
  - 3.7.a. The school whose coach behaves in a manner likely to have adverse influence on the attitudes of students or spectators may be provided with the choice of taking disciplinary action against that coach or having the entire school disciplined by the WVSSAC.
  - 3.7.b. Any student who in protest lays hands or attempts to lay hands upon an official may be declared ineligible by the principal or by the WVSSAC for up to one year. Any student who strikes an opponent, coach, or a spectator during or following an athletic event may be declared ineligible by the principal or the WVSSAC for a specified period of time up to one year, depending on the seriousness of the act.
  - 3.7.c. Any coach, player, team member, student, or bench personnel ejected or disqualified by rule or by an official, referee, judge, or other such person charged to administer participation, will be suspended for the remainder of a game, match, meet, contest or other interscholastic event, (ejected, disqualified, or disqualification hereafter) (excepting any applicable ejection or disqualification sport specific rule not involving sportsmanship). The coach, player, team member, student, or bench personnel ejected or disqualified will also be suspended an additional contest(s); the suspension is assessed based upon ten (10) percent of the allowed regular season contests for that sport. Regardless of when the suspension occurs (regular season or post season), the length of the suspension (number of contests) will be as follows: golf (two); cross country (two); soccer (two); volleyball (two play dates); football (one); cheer (one); swim (two); wrestling (two weigh ins); boys basketball (two); girls basketball (two); tennis (two); track (two); softball (three); and baseball (three). The suspension will include the number of indicated contests in that sport and at that level and all other sport contests in the interim at any level. A second ejection or disqualification will result in the doubling of the suspension assessed for the first ejection. If an individual is ejected or disqualified for a third time during the same sport season, the individual will be suspended from participating or coaching for 365 calendar days from the date of ejection or disqualification. In accordance with Rule §127-3-15.3, an individual ejected or disqualified may not appeal that ejection or disqualification, but may appeal any subsequent suspension that is a consequence of the ejection or disqualification.

3.7.c.1. Any coach, player or bench personnel who has been ejected shall not be permitted to attend any contest(s) during said suspension. He/she shall not be affiliated with the team in any capacity. This would include but not be limited to transportation to or from the contest, meeting with the team before, during or after said contest. He/she is not permitted to be in sight or sound of said contest venue. Regular practice or team meetings not affiliated with a contest are permitted.

3.7.c.2. If suspensions are imposed to a student or bench personnel at the end of the sport season and no contest remains, the suspension is carried over to that particular sport until the next school year. In the case of a senior student, the penalty will continue to the next WVSSAC sponsored sport. In the case of an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, the suspension shall be served either in the same sport the next school year or in the same school year in the next WVSSAC sponsored sport in which the student participates.

3.7.c.3. Any coach suspension that cannot be enforced during the sport season in which the ejection occurs will be enforced at the beginning of the next season of that same sport.

3.7.d. In case of spectators physically molesting an official, administrator, coach, or student, the school may be given one of two options: 1) file charges against the offender (s) or 2) accept discipline from the WVSSAC. Any person found guilty of W. Va. Code §61-2-15(a) Assault, Battery on Athletic Officials, while these individuals are working or as a result of working an athletic contest, shall be banned from all WVSSAC athletic events for a minimum of 365 days from the date of being found guilty. The school filing charges shall notify the WVSSAC of the incident and outcome of any legal action.

3.7.e. The school that does not lend complete cooperation in the host school's effort to promote the spirit of good sportsmanship may be disciplined by the WVSSAC.

3.7.f. A coach may be considered as committing unsportsmanlike conduct if they make degrading remarks about officials during or after a game either on the field of play, from the bench, or through any public news media, argues with officials, or goes through motions indicating dislike for a decision, protests the decision and actions of officials pertaining to the game during and after the contest, or detains the official on the field of play following a game to request a ruling or explanation of some phase of the game. If a coach feels he/she has a legitimate criticism of a penalty call or a request for a rule interpretation, such criticism or request should be made in the privacy of the coach's office or the official's quarters and should be made in a courteous manner.

3.7.g. A student or team attendant shall not leave the bench area, team box area, or their designated off-field area during a game or contest other than during that time permitted by game or contest rules. A coach shall not leave the bench area, team box area, or the designated off-field area during a game or contest other than during that time permitted by game or contest rules unless a student altercation is taking place and the official requests assistance. Violation of this rule shall cause the coach, student, or team attendant to be immediately ejected from the contest; team penalized according to game or contest rules; and that coach, student, or team attendant will not be eligible to participate in the next contest as outlined in §127-4-2.3.

3.8. Procedure. Unsportsmanship action must be reported in detail to the WVSSAC. A copy of the complaint must also be filed with the principal of the school involved. Each principal involved shall report such information or answers to the report as they deem appropriate. Upon receipt of all reports, the Executive Director and/or the Board of

Directors of the WVSSAC shall investigate and adjudicate such reports in accordance with the powers afforded in W. Va. §127CSR1, Constitution, sections 8.6, 8.7, 12.2, and 12.3. Penalties up to and including suspension of member schools may be made in accordance with §127CSR4.

3.9. The following defines the different types of disciplinary action which may be assessed for violation of any WVSSAC rule by a member school, administrator, coach, athlete or contest official:

3.9.a. *Warning.* A warning may be given by the Executive Director or Assistant Executive Director. It is official notice that an inexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanship action has occurred, is a matter of record, and that such an occurrence must not be repeated.

- 3.9.b. *Probation.* Probation is a much more severe type of warning and may be expressed two ways: 1) a school, coach, student, or team attendant on probation is told that further violations will lead to a fine or suspension; and/or
- 2) a school on probation is on conditional WVSSAC membership but may engage in its regular schedule, sanctioned events, and all WVSSAC tournament play, providing a program is filed with the Executive Director of the WVSSAC indicating measures to be taken to alleviate this problem which caused the school to be placed on probation.
- 3.9.c. *Suspension.* A school/coach suspended from the WVSSAC may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a WVSSAC member school or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- 3.9.d. *Fine.* A fine may be levied by the Executive Director.
- 3.9.e. Each of these sanctions (Warning, Probation, Suspension, and Fine) may be imposed or levied separately, or in a combination of one or more sanctions.
- 3.10. *Appeals.* All cases involving disciplinary action against member schools, coaches, students, team attendants, or officials may be protested in accordance with W. Va. §127CSR6, Violations of the Rules (Rule §127CSR6). However, disciplinary action imposed by an official, including disciplinary action that is a consequence of a decision by an official, such as a suspension for an additional game or games as a consequence of an ejection, is governed by Rule §127CSR3, section 15.3, and is not subject to appeal.
- 3.11. *Review of Ejections.* Disciplinary action imposed by a contest official, including disciplinary action that results in a suspension for an additional game or games as a consequence of an ejection, is not subject to appeal pursuant to Rule §127CSR6. However, if the individual ejected believes the ejection was improper, he/she may request a review of the ejection by his/her principal. If the principal believes there is merit in the requested review, the principal shall complete and submit the WVSSAC Ejection Review Form within 24 hours or the next business day of the ejection to the Executive Director of the WVSSAC. If a review is properly requested, the WVSSAC will review the officials' special report, the WVSSAC Ejection Review Form, and such other information as the WVSSAC deems appropriate. Upon review, the WVSSAC Executive Director or the designated Assistant Director will either sustain the ejection and any consequent suspension(s), or will determine the ejection was improper and void any consequent suspension(s). A decision by the WVSSAC upon reviewing an ejection is not subject to appeal pursuant to Rule §127CSR6.



## SPECTATOR SUPPORT INFORMATION FOR TOURNAMENTS

The following sport support information is provided for each specified sport. ONLY those items marked with “Yes” are allowed during tournament play (sectional, regional, and state). It is recommended that schools follow these regulations during regular season play.

Vocal cheering and support from team bench areas are encouraged, however, the items indicated on this page are for use by spectators. Schools must stress GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP when allowing any item to be used. All items must be for support of your team and not directed against the opponent.

Legend: BSK Basketball    CC Cross Country    SB Softball    TE Tennis    WR Wrestling  
 BB Baseball    FB Football    SC Soccer    TR Track & Field  
 CH Cheer    GO Golf    SW Swimming    VB Volleyball

| SPORT                                                                   | BSK | BB  | CH  | CC  | FB  | GO  | SB  | SC  | SW  | TE  | TR  | VB  | WR  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Apparel Required Upper/Lower Body Garments                              | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Balloons                                                                | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | No  | No  |
| Banners on wall/ Stadium                                                | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Cheer & Band Member “Human” Tunnels                                     | No  | Yes | No  | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Permanent Signage/ Advertisement Senior Pictures                        | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Confetti/Paper Debris                                                   | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Hand-held Signs (one holder)                                            | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Inflatable Tunnels                                                      | No  | Yes | No  | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Laser Pointer                                                           | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Miniature sports Balls thrown to crowd                                  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Noise makers (Horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, clickers, etc.          | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Opening Prayer / Invocation                                             | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Paper banners for team to run through                                   | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Pom poms Sprit Towels                                                   | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Recorded/taped. music over amplifying system (only pregame or halftime) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| School Band, Pep Band                                                   | No  | No  | No  | No  | Yes | No  | No  | Yes | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Pressurized Air Horn Electronic Bull Horn                               | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Megaphones (as intended)                                                | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Cannons & Muskets                                                       | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| 50-50 Drawing                                                           | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Reserve Seating State Only                                              | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |

Revised 11-25-23 WR



## 2025-2026 BASKETBALL RULES CHANGES

4-22-1 & 2: This change removes the offensive team from goaltending violations, simplifying enforcement for officials and reducing ambiguity over whether a ball was a shot or a pass. It also encourages more scoring opportunities and minimizes confusion for players and coaches.

Rationale: The change eliminates the possibility of an offensive goaltending violation, which simplifies the rule for officials and players. It removes the need to judge whether a ball in flight is a try or a pass, resulting in clearer enforcement, greater consistency, and more opportunities for scoring plays near the basket.

4-22-3 (NEW): This rule change establishes that once the ball contacts the backboard, it is automatically considered to be on its downward flight. Therefore, if a player touches the ball after it hits the backboard, and the ball has a possibility of entering the basket, it is ruled as goaltending.

This clarification helps protect legitimate shot attempts, reduces rough rebounding situations, and addresses a common rules misconception among coaches and players. It provides officials with a clearer standard for enforcing goaltending in backboard-related plays.

Rationale: This change enhances officiating clarity and protects legitimate shot attempts. It also addresses a common misconception among coaches and players by explicitly defining goaltending, leading to more consistent enforcement.

4-34-1: This rule change updates the definition of a player to clarify that a player is one of the five team members legally on the court at any given time, except during time-outs or intermissions. The change ensures consistency in rule enforcement by recognizing that it is difficult to distinguish between players, substitutes, and bench personnel during time-outs and intermissions. This clarification also supports the accountability of coaches for all team conduct during these periods and helps avoid misapplication of penalties such as technical fouls.

Rationale: This change ensures consistent enforcement of penalties for unsporting conduct by bench personnel. It allows officials to issue technical fouls to bench personnel during time-outs, aligning with the current rules for intermissions. It eliminates confusion and potential misapplication of rules and ensures fair and consistent enforcement of penalties for unsporting behavior, regardless of the individual's role.

7-5-4: This rule change updates the procedure for determining the designated throw-in spot following a stoppage of play (not due to the ball going out of bounds) in the frontcourt. Instead of relying on an imaginary line, officials now use existing court markings, specifically the three-point line, to determine the location. This change improves accuracy, consistency, and clarity for officials by using visible floor markings rather than imaginary lines, which were often misjudged.

Rationale: By using the visible three-point line as the line of demarcation, officials will have a clearer and more consistent method for determining throw-in locations. This improves accuracy and reduces confusion, resulting in more reliable throw-ins.

9-2-12 & 9-3-4 (NEW): This rule change addresses situations where a thrower purposely and/or deceitfully delays returning inbounds after legally stepping out of bounds and then becomes the first player to touch the ball upon re-entering the court. Previously penalized as a technical foul, this action is now treated as a violation, aligning it with similar out-of-bounds scenarios. The change reduces the severity of the penalty to encourage more consistent enforcement by officials and prevents players from gaining an unfair advantage through deceptive re-entry tactics.

Rationale: This change lessens the penalty for players who delay their return after being out of bounds, shifting the penalty from a technical foul to a less severe violation. This rule aligns with the penalty structure of similar violations, such as Rule 9-3-3 (where a player steps out of bounds on their own volition). The change is intended to make it easier for officials to recognize and penalize these actions consistently while reducing the severity of the penalty, encouraging more accurate enforcement.

10-4-4b: This rule prohibits players from illegally contacting the backboard or ring in ways that create an unfair advantage or interfere with a scoring attempt. This rule is designed to maintain fair play and protect the integrity of scoring opportunities by penalizing actions affecting the outcome of a shot, with a technical foul.

Rationale: The rule change aims to standardize and clarify the enforcement of basket interference, leading to fairer outcomes and more consistent officiating. The removal of subjective judgments around intent allows for clearer rulings and better alignment with current game dynamics.

4-6-1 a & b (NEW): This rule change clarifies and expands the definition of basket interference to include additional actions that unfairly affect the ball while it is in a scoring position. Basket interference now occurs when a player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the backboard or basket to vibrate, while the ball is on or within the basket, touching the backboard, or within the cylinder.

Rationale: This clarification helps officials consistently identify interference that affects scoring plays and ensures the integrity of the basket area during shot attempts.

## **2025-26 Basketball Editorial Changes**

4-19-3c, 4-47, 5.2.1 SITUATION C, 6-3-2a, 6-3-5b, 10-5-2

## **2025-26 Basketball Points of Emphasis**

1. Bench Decorum and Communication
2. Faking Being Fouled
3. Contact on the Ball Handler