

- (k) Game Ball: The Wilson A1010 BPRO-NCHS with Association logo and NFHS-authenticating ball mark is the official ball for the state championship series.

4.3 **BASKETBALL**

4.3.1 **General**

- (a) Information on Mailings, Classifications, Payment of Officials, Eligibility Sheets, Ejections, Playoff Declaration, Unpaid Fines, NCHSAA Clinic Dates, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Date of First Practice: October 29 (October 14 for non-football playing schools).
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.3
- (d) Date of First Game: November 17 (October 29 for non-football playing schools).
- (e) Number of Regular Season Contests: No more than three per week. During any two weeks of the regular season, four games may be played, provided the fourth game is on a non-school day.
 - (1) Total, 23 games. An individual player is limited to one game a day. Junior varsity tournament games are part of the 23-game limit.
 - (2) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of the state playoffs.
 - (3) Special Note for non-football playing schools: Six additional basketball games may be played, for a total of 29. These games must be completed prior to the first playing date for football-playing schools. Those six games will not count for seeding purposes.
- (f) Endowment Games: Reference 4.1.4
- (g) Tournaments: Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal game limitations.
- (h) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of Guidelines (4.1.14) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.5) for all the information.
- (i) Required Equipment: Red lights behind the backboard synchronized with the time clock buzzer are required. Balls must have the authenticating NFHS ball mark. If Precision Time System is available, it can be used.
- (j) Pep Bands: Organized music by a pep band at a basketball game is permissible only under the direct supervision of a school music director or other school personnel. The band may play only during dead-ball situations.
- (k) Cheerleaders: Cheerleaders must remain seated while the ball is in play, which includes after the free throw shooter is handed the ball. Cheerleaders may not come onto the floor during 30-second timeouts. The use of signage is allowed during time-outs.
- (l) Net Removal: Nets may not be cut down or removed following a game at any time. See penalty code 3.2.2.c.3.
- (m) Postponed Games: Must be rescheduled on the next possible date (excluding Sunday). Both schools and the NCHSAA must be involved in the decision to postpone any playoff contest.
- (n) Suspended Games: The NCHSAA plays by the suspended game rule in all sports (see 2.3.8.c).
- (o) Mercy Rule: Once the score reaches a 40 point differential at halftime or thereafter, the game will resort to a running clock, including the administration of free throws or all other dead ball situations, except for timeouts called by a coach or official; the game can be terminated by mutual agreement.
(Revised: May 2014)
- (p) Schedules: Schools are required to submit varsity and junior varsity schedules to their appropriate regional supervisor by September 30.
- (q) Uniformed Police Officer: Reference 2.6.1.a.
- (r) Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming: Reference 4.1.17.
- (s) Required Tournament Information: Fact sheet, roster forms for tournament play, requests for photo and other information forms can be found on the NCHSAA website. Note deadlines for submission of material. This is mandatory for playoff qualifiers. Check NCHSAA website.

4.3.2 **Playoffs**

- (a) Conference Tournaments: Do not report berths to the NCHSAA. Tournaments, if played, should end on the Friday night prior to the seeding date.

- (b) Representatives and Ties in Standings: If two or more of the conference's teams are tied at the end of the regular season, (1) the team that won from the other(s) during the season gets the higher seeding, or (2) if the teams split during the regular season, the approved tiebreaking system shall be used (Reference 2.4.8).
- (c) Qualifiers: The number-one team from a conference will be the regular season champion, with the number-two team the winner of the conference tournament.
 - (1) If a team below number two in the conference wins the conference tournament, it becomes the number-two team.
 - (2) All other berths are determined by regular season standings.
- (d) Reporting Playoff Qualifiers: For reporting potential qualifiers to state playoffs, conference presidents are required to submit the appropriate information on the NCHSAA website immediately upon conclusion of the regular season.
 - (1) The information includes overall win-loss record and winning percentage for all conference schools. This must be submitted prior to the appropriate deadlines. The overall winning percentage and finish in conference standings will be considered when determining which schools qualify for wild-card berths in playoffs.
 - (2) Upon conclusion of the conference tournament, the conference president will immediately submit the adjusted overall records of all teams. These are the records that will be listed on the brackets themselves when playoff qualifiers are posted.
 - (3) Failure to comply with the initial reporting procedure will result in a \$400 fine to the conference.
 - (4) Check NCHSAA website for additional information.
- (e) Playoff Berths/Qualification: Reference 4.1.10
- (f) Seeding: Reference 4.1.11
- (g) Brackets and Schedule:
 - (1) In all classifications, playoff games are played on the home court of the higher seed or at mutually agreed upon neutral sites.
 - (2) Game times are 7 pm for single games or 6:30 pm and 8 pm for doubleheaders at a site.
 - (3) By mutual agreement a game time of 6:00 p.m. is permissible.
 - (4) All games will be scheduled on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- (h) Playoff Brackets: Reference 4.1.12.
- (i) Schedule: Deadline for reporting qualifiers is February 21 (6 a.m.)

First round	February 24	Fourth Round	March 3-6
Second round	February 26	Regional	March 7
Third round	February 28	State	March 14
- (j) Reporting Playoff Advancement:
 - (1) After schools have qualified for the playoffs, it is their responsibility to report advancement by the appropriate method and deadline as designated by the NCHSAA.
 - (2) Failure to report a playoff advancement will result in a \$400 fine to the school. Teams must report advancement no later than 6 a.m. the day following each win.
 - (3) Postponements should also be reported.
- (k) Uniform Color: The home team will wear white uniforms.
- (l) Officials: For the first two rounds of the state playoffs, officials are to be assigned by the local regional supervisor of the higher seed. After the first two rounds, officials will be assigned by the NCHSAA Supervisor of Officials.
- (m) Third Round Winners: Upon receipt of regional tournament information, teams must notify regional directors of plans to attend the regional press conferences. All teams in regional play must have already filled out appropriate forms on the NCHSAA website (roster, fact sheet, etc) and provided a team picture via email (roughly 3" x 5" at 300 dpi grayscale please) to regional personnel.
- (n) Banners: Banners, placards, and signs are prohibited during playoffs (permissible by cheerleaders during timeouts).
- (o) Financial Arrangements: For any first round through third round games, 15% of the gross revenue goes to the NCHSAA, with the remainder being shared equally after game expenses.
 - (1) The principal of the host school or appointed game manager must forward the financial report and ticket accountability forms to the NCHSAA within 10 days after the contest.

- (p) Ticket Accountability and Financial Forms: All forms can be found on the NCHSAA website.
 - (q) Admission: Six dollars for single game, seven dollars for two games at a single site (both include one dollar surcharge for Endowment).
 - (r) Team Expenses: Each team will bear its own expenses to playoff games.
- 4.3.3 **Regional Tournaments:** Winners of the third round games will send representatives to the Eastern Regionals in Fayetteville and the Western Regionals in the Triad. The regional information session may be held on the Monday morning prior to the beginning of the regional tournament. Schools may be assigned to Eastern or Western regionals, based on geography.
- (a) **Regional Tournament Schedule - Eastern Regional**
Monday, March 2 - Information session
Tuesday, March 3 through Saturday, March 7 - Games will be played at the Crown Arena and Crown Coliseum
Game times, etc. to be determined after regional qualifiers have been set.
 - (b) **Regional Tournament Schedule - Western Regional**
Monday, March 2 - Information session
Tuesday, March 3 through Saturday, March 7 – Triad
Game times, etc. to be determined after regional qualifiers have been set.
 - (c) Officials: Assignments will be made by the NCHSAA Supervisor of Officials.
 - (d) Uniform Colors: Higher seeded teams wear white jerseys.
 - (e) Team Expenses: Travel will be computed by the NCHSAA, based on 75 cents per mile round-trip. Each team will be allowed expenses for a coach, assistant coach, manager and 12 players.
 - (1) Teams will be allowed \$5.00 for each person for breakfast, \$6.00 for lunch and \$8.00 for dinner. Hotel allowances and meal expenses will be authorized by the NCHSAA.
 - (2) Teams within a radius of 150 miles will return home, win or lose. Teams outside that radius will be allowed hotel expenses and breakfast the following morning.
 - (3) Teams within a radius of 150 miles will be allowed transportation to and from each game, and the evening meal allowance will be permitted these teams as long as they are in the tournament.
 - (4) Expenses for overnight lodging must be authorized by the NCHSAA and are based on the time of the contest as well as distance. Schools will pay their lodging bill and the NCHSAA will reimburse the school up to \$11.00 dollars per person for a maximum of 15 people. Each school will be responsible for any damage which might occur in rooms occupied by team members (allowance based on four per room).
 - (5) Total expenses for the tournament are to be paid from gate receipts, and the net balance after expenses is to be divided with 60% to the NCHSAA and 40% to the competing teams on a per-games-played basis.
 - (f) Practice: No team shall practice in the gymnasium where the tournament is played prior to its first game.
 - (g) Entertainment: Music, etc., shall be planned and approved by the tournament director, and must meet NFHS and NCHSAA rules.
 - (h) Admission: Tickets will be nine dollars at the gate (includes one-dollar surcharge for Endowment).
 - (i) Complimentary Tickets: A school will receive 10 complimentary tickets for each game it plays.
 - (j) Balls: Practice balls are furnished, and the Wilson Wave (B0600 for men and B0601 for women) is the official ball for regional and state play.
 - (k) Awards: Team plaques will be presented to the champion and runner-up teams.
- 4.3.4 **State Championships:** An information session/press conference preceding the championships will be held on Monday, March 9, 2015.
- (a) All regional champions who qualify for the state finals are asked to bring their superintendent, principal, athletic director, head basketball coach and members of the media who cover their team.
 - (b) Attendance at this information session/press conference is mandatory.
 - (c) Failure to comply will include a fine and forfeiture of complimentary tickets/VIP passes for the event, according to NCHSAA Board policy.
 - (d) The championships will be held at the Dean E. Smith Center and Carmichael Arena in Chapel Hill. The finals will be played March 14, 2015 with four games

at each site. The 2-A and 4-A will play at the Smith Center, the 1-A and 3-A at Carmichael Arena.

- (e) Game times will be 12:00 noon, 2:30 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm.
- (f) Complimentary Tickets: A school will receive 10 complimentary tickets at the information session/press conference.
- (g) Officials: Will be assigned by the NCHSAA Supervisor of Officials.
- (h) Uniform Colors: The Eastern champion will be the home team and will wear the white uniforms.
- (i) Team Expenses: See regional section above (team expenses as determined by the NCHSAA 4.3.3.e). The net balance is to be divided, with 60 percent to the NCHSAA and 40 percent to be divided by the competing teams.
- (j) Entertainment: Pep bands of participating schools are allowed with permission and under the guidelines of the NCHSAA.
- (k) Admission: \$9.00 presale and \$10.00 at the gate (includes one-dollar surcharge for Endowment). Participating schools may retain one-dollar for each presale ticket sold. **(Revised: May 2014)**
- (l) Balls: Practice balls will be furnished and the Wilson Wave (B0600 for men and B0601 for women) is the official ball for the state championship.
- (m) Awards: Team plaques will be presented to the champion and runner-up teams, and individual awards will also be given to members of the champion and runner-up teams (up to 20 individual awards).

4.4 CROSS COUNTRY

4.4.1 **General**

- (a) Information on Mailings, Classifications, Payment of Officials, Eligibility Sheets, Ejections, Playoff Declaration, Unpaid Fines, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Date of First Practice: August 1.
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.3
- (d) Date of First Contest: August 18.
- (e) Number of Regular Season Contests: No more than three may be scheduled per week. An individual is limited to one contest a day (no season limit).
- (f) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of Guidelines (4.1.14) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.5) for all the information.
- (g) Practice Rule: Men and women runners may practice together, individually, or as a team; however, if the women run with or against men in any regular season meet, they are regarded as members of the men's team and are not eligible to compete in a women's cross country meet (regular season, regional or state).
 - (1) Separate men's and women's races may have the same starting times and may be over the same course if the meet director so chooses, provided the scoring is kept separately.
- (h) Split Squad Rule: This regulation prohibits dividing or splitting a team. A school may have a varsity and a junior varsity team, for instance, and members may move between those teams; however, one cannot split one of those squads and send runners to different meets.

4.4.2 **Regionals**

- (a) Date: Regionals are October 25, 2014.
- (b) Regional Assignments: Regional assignments, along with the most current information about regional sites, dates and times, are posted on the NCHSAA web site.
- (c) Entries: The regional directors should receive entries no later than 3:00 pm, October 17.
 - (1) Regional directors, site information and entry instructions can be found on the cross country page of the NCHSAA website.
 - (2) Directors may call schools who have failed to send in entries by the deadline.
 - (3) Late entries may be submitted to the NCHSAA and must be in by 9 am the Monday prior to the regional. No entries after this deadline will be accepted.
 - i. Use the form on the NCHSAA website.
 - ii. A \$50 fee will be assessed for each individual entry.