



# BASKETBALL

## GENERAL

**MAILINGS:** October mailing will include two rule books. All other information pertaining to basketball should be found in this section of the handbook or online.

**CLASSIFICATIONS:** A, AA, AAA, AAAA.

**DATE OF FIRST PRACTICE:** No earlier than October 30 (October 15 for non-football playing schools).

**PRESEASON SCRIMMAGES:** Schools are allowed two preseason varsity scrimmages, and these can be between two schools or multiple schools. These scrimmages must be conducted as events open to the public (no closed scrimmages allowed). One scrimmage must use NCHSAA registered officials. Officials are to be assigned to work a maximum of two hours per scrimmage. Junior varsity scrimmages are allowed in conjunction with varsity scrimmages at the same date and site.

**DATE OF FIRST GAME:** No earlier than November 18 (October 30 for non-football playing schools).

**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. Total, 23 games. An individual player is limited to one game a day. Junior varsity tournament games are part of the 23-game limit; varsity conference tournament games are considered part of the state playoffs.

**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. Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal game limitations.

**ENDOWMENT GAMES:** One endowment game may be played which does not count against the regular season game limitation. Schools must request (both opponents must be informed the game is being requested to be classified as the endowment game) and be granted prior permission by the NCHSAA to play the endowment game (the request form will be on the NCHSAA website). 25% of the gross revenue will be remitted to the NCHSAA's endowment fund; next expenses will be deducted from the remaining proceeds and then the competing schools will divide the remainder. NOTE: The NCHSAA may approve additional endowment game requests to assist member schools with scheduling issues; however, under no circumstances may any additional endowment game (other than the one allowed and described above) be played that would otherwise result in any member school exceeding the regular season game limitation. No endowment game(s) will be used as a part of the tie-breaking system.

**PAYMENT OF OFFICIALS:** Officials are to be paid based on local fiscal policy as soon as possible.

**ELIGIBILITY SHEETS:** Should be kept on file at the local school. Must be made available to NCHSAA upon request, and are required to be shared among conference members.

**OFFICIALS:** It is mandatory that three-man crews be utilized for regular-season play and tournament play. At the end of each game schools must provide escort for officials to dressing room (see penalty code). Only NCHSAA-registered officials may be used.

**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.

**NOISEMAKERS:** Any noise-making objects are prohibited at indoor contests (cheerleaders may use non-electronic hand megaphones).

**BODY PAINT:** No face/body paint is allowed, regular season or playoffs.

**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.

**CHEERLEADERS:** Cheerleaders must remain seated during all live balls, 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.

**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.

**SUSPENDED GAMES:** The NCHSAA plays by the suspended game rule in all sports (see Game Administration in back).

**EJECTIONS:** Failure to file an ejection report for a player or coach (form found online) is subject to a \$50 fine. Reports must be filed within 48 hours or two working days of the ejection. An ejection is a judgment call; therefore, there are no appeals. If the wrong player is identified, a correction can be made through the regional supervisor and the NCHSAA.

**REQUIRED TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:** Fact sheet, roster forms for tournament play, requests for photo and other information forms can be found online. Note deadlines for submission of material. This is **mandatory** for playoff qualifiers. Check website.

**SCHEDULES:** Schools are required to submit varsity and junior varsity schedules to their appropriate regional supervisor by September 30.

**NET REMOVAL:** Nets may not be cut down or removed following a game at any time. See penalty code.

## PLAYOFFS

**PLAYOFF DECLARATION:** A school has the option to "opt out" of the playoffs, provided it fills out the Playoff Declaration Form on the website, submits it and it is in the NCHSAA offices prior to the reporting deadline for that specific sport. Proper submission means the school will not be considered for either an automatic berth or a wild card position. If the form is not submitted, then the school will be considered and may qualify for a playoff berth.

**UNPAID FINES:** Schools that have unpaid fines to the NCHSAA are not eligible to compete in the playoffs for that sport (i.e. baseball fine would be specific to baseball playoffs) unless the fine is paid two (2) days prior to the reporting date for that sport.

Any fine not paid at the end of the fiscal year (June 30) will carry over to the following school year making all teams at said school ineligible for playoffs until the fine is paid in full.

**CONFERENCE TOURNAMENTS:** Do not report conference tournament berths to the NCHSAA. Conference tournaments, if played, should end on Friday night prior to the seeding date.

**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 (see Game & Sport Administration section).

**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. If a team below number two in the conference wins the conference tournament, it becomes the number-two team. All other berths are determined by regular season standings.

**REPORTING PLAYOFF QUALIFIERS AND ADVANCEMENT:** For reporting potential qualifiers to state playoffs, conference presidents are required to submit the appropriate information online immediately upon conclusion of the regular season. 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.

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.

Failure to comply with the initial reporting procedure will result in a \$400 fine to the conference.

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. 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. Postponements should also be reported.

Check website for additional information.

### **SEEDING AND SUBDIVIDING:**

#### **PLAYOFF BERTHS/QUALIFICATION:**

1. A team must finish 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the conference to qualify. In a split conference a team must finish 1st or 2nd in their division, OR

2. If not enough teams qualify using the criteria in #1 above, we would take the teams with the highest 22-game winning percentage, followed by conference winning percentage (split conferences use all conference games), OR

3. If too many teams qualify using the criteria in #1 above, we would take the teams with the best overall conference finish followed by the highest conference winning percentage to determine the qualifiers.

4. All classifications will field a full complement of 64 teams.

5. If ties exist at any level the tie(s) will be broken by a draw.

Once the 64 teams are determined, they will be divided into groups of 32, Eastern and Western. This is not done by conferences but on actual geography (location of each school).

#### **SEEDING**

a. seed all #1s by overall records – ties will be broken by a draw.

b. if school finishes first in its part of a classification in a split conference, it is seeded as a number one and not actually where it finished overall in the conference.

c. seed all #2s by overall records – ties will be broken by a draw

d. seed all #3s by overall records – ties will be broken by a draw

e. seed all other qualifying teams based only on their 22-game won/loss record, regardless of conference finish

f. After seeding, the 1-A teams only will be placed geographically by longitude in "pods"—East and Mideast in the East, and Midwest and West in the West. The teams will be placed by seeds within the pods.

General Information for all Classifications: Each school will only report a record indicating a total of 22 games, and must drop non-conference game(s) if necessary.

If teams in any 'tier' of the seeding process have identical records, head-to-head competition will be used. If they have played one another, the winner receives the higher seed. If they haven't played one another, a draw is made for the higher seed.

The non-conference game(s) that are dropped for seeding purposes may still be used in breaking a tie as described above, i.e. two teams in the same half of a bracket are equal seeds from their individual conferences (both #2s) and have identical records (18-4). We will first try to break the tie(s) by looking at head-to-head competition. If these schools played each other in a non-conference game, but one of them didn't count that game for seeding purposes, the game will still be used to break the tie, with the team that lost getting the lower seed.

Since teams that finish 1st, 2nd or 3rd are seeded in separate 'tiers' the overall record of

a number two or even a number three team may be better than the record of a number one team. But under no circumstances will a team that finished as a #2 or #3 be seeded higher than any #1, nor will a #3 team ever be seeded higher than a #2. However, since all teams that finish lower than #3 are seeded in the same 'tier' regardless of conference finish, it will be possible for a team that finishes as a #5 to be seeded higher than a #4, or a #6 to be seeded higher than a #5, since the only consideration in that 'tier' is overall record.

Once seeding is complete, in 2-A, 3-A and 4-A 1 plays 32, 2 plays 31, etc. In 1-A, 1 will play 16 in the "pod", 2 plays 15, etc. The higher seed will always play at home in the first three rounds.

**BRACKETS AND SCHEDULE:** In all classifications, playoff games are played on the home court of the higher seed or at mutually agreed upon neutral sites. If equal seeds meet, the home court is determined by the best overall winning percentage. Game times are 7 pm for single games or 6:30 pm and 8 pm for doubleheaders at a site. By mutual agreement a game time of 6:00 p.m. is permissible. All games will be scheduled on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Saturday will be used only as a make-up day.

**SCHEDULE:** Deadline for reporting qualifiers is February 22 (6 a.m.)

first round.....	February 24	fourth round.....	March 4-7
second round.....	February 26	regional final.....	March 8
third round.....	February 28	state championship.....	March 15

**UNIFORM COLOR:** The home team will wear white uniforms.

**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 office.

**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 online (roster, fact sheet, etc) and provided a team picture via email (roughly 3" x 5" at 300 dpi grayscale please) to regional personnel.**

**BANNERS:** Banners, placards, and signs are prohibited during playoffs (permissible by cheerleaders during timeouts).

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** If 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. 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.

**TICKET ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCIAL FORM:** The forms can be found online.

**ADMISSION:** Six dollars for single game, seven dollars for two games at a single site (both include one dollar surcharge for Endowment).

**TEAM EXPENSES:** Each team will bear its own expenses to playoff games.

## NCHSAA SPORTS BRACKETS

For the most up-to-date information on brackets in various sports, including conference playoff berths, seeding priorities and qualifiers, consult the NCHSAA web site at [www.nchsaa.org](http://www.nchsaa.org), and use the Playoff Brackets link on the homepage.

Since brackets sometimes undergo changes during the course of an academic year, the decision has been made to omit them in printed form in the Handbook and make them available only on line. This eliminates confusion between brackets printed in some cases many months before the playoffs begin, and the actual updated online versions that may contain changes from the original version.

## REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Winners of the third round games will send representatives to the Eastern Regionals in Fayetteville and the Western Regional in Greensboro. The regional press conferences will be held on Monday morning prior to the beginning of the regional tournament. Schools may be assigned to Eastern or Western regionals, based on geography.

### REGIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

#### Eastern Regional

Monday, March 3—press conference/information session in Fayetteville

Tuesday, March 4 through Saturday, March 8. Games will be played at the Crown Arena and Crown Coliseum.

Game times, etc. to be determined after regional qualifiers have been set.

#### Western Regional

Monday, March 3—press conference/information session at Greensboro Coliseum

Tuesday, March 4 through Saturday, March 8. Greensboro Coliseum and UNC Greensboro.

Game times, etc. to be determined after regional qualifiers have been set.

**OFFICIALS:** Assignments will be made by the NCHSAA Supervisor of Officials.

**UNIFORM COLORS:** Higher seeded teams wear white jerseys. Teams on the bottom line will wear dark jerseys. By agreement of the two competing coaches, this plan may be reversed.

**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. 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.

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. 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.

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).

Total expenses for the tournament are to be paid from gate receipts, and the net balance after expenses is to be divided with 60 percent to the NCHSAA and 40 percent to the competing teams on a per-games-played basis.

**PRACTICE:** No team shall practice in the gymnasium where the tournament is played prior to its first game.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Music, etc., shall be planned and approved by the tournament director, and must meet NFHS and NCHSAA rules.

**ADMISSION:** Tickets will be nine dollars at the gate (includes one dollar surcharge for Endowment). Face/body paint for spectators will not be allowed.

**COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS:** A school will receive 10 complimentary tickets for each game it plays.

**BALLS:** Teams will not take basketballs to the tournament. Practice balls are furnished, and the Wilson Wave (B0600 for men and B0601 for women) is the official ball for regional and state play.

**AWARDS:** Team plaques will be presented to the champion and runner-up teams.



## STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

An information session/press conference preceding the championships will be held on Monday, March 10, 2014. 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. This information session/press conference is mandatory; at least one of the aforementioned personnel from the school must be in attendance. Failure to comply will include a fine and forfeiture of complimentary tickets/VIP passes for the event, according to NCHSAA Board policy.

The championships will be held at the Dean E. Smith Center in Chapel Hill and at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh. The finals will be played March 15, 2014 with four games at each site. The 2-A and 4-A will play at Reynolds Coliseum, the 1-A and 3-A at the Smith Center. Game times will be noon, 2:30 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm.

**COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS:** A school will receive 10 complimentary tickets at the information session/press conference.

**OFFICIALS:** Will be assigned by the NCHSAA Supervisor of Officials.

**UNIFORM COLORS:** The Western champion will be the home team and will wear the white uniforms.

**TEAM EXPENSES:** See regional section above (expenses as determined by the NCHSAA). The net balance is to be divided, with 60 percent to the NCHSAA and 40 percent to be divided by the competing teams.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Pep bands of participating schools are allowed with permission and under the guidelines of the NCHSAA.

**ADMISSION:** Nine dollars presale and ten dollars at the gate (includes one dollar surcharge for Endowment). Face/body paint for spectators will not be allowed.

**BALLS:** Teams shall not take basketballs to the finals. Practice balls will be furnished and the Wilson Wave (B0600 for men and B0601 for women) are the official balls for the state championship.

**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).

## OFFICIATING

**OFFICIALS:** Each school must use only NCHSAA-registered officials. Three person crew is mandatory for varsity play.

**CLINICS:** Head coaches are required to attend one of the NCHSAA clinics in their sport, or in conjunction with the rules sessions at the North Carolina Coaches Association clinic in Greensboro in July.

**GAME FEES:** for all classifications as follows:

	1 game	2 games
Varsity - Regular season		
Three officials.....	\$60 (flat fee)	\$85 (flat fee)
Varsity - Invitational, conference, state tournament (rounds one through three)		
Three officials.....	\$70 (flat fee)	\$100 (flat fee)*
Varsity - Regional tournaments (rounds four and five)		
Three officials.....	\$75 (flat fee)	
Varsity - State finals		
Three officials.....	\$80 (flat fee)	
Junior Varsity and Ninth Grade		
Three officials.....	\$50 (flat fee)	\$70 (flat fee)
Two officials .....	\$55 (flat fee)	\$77.50 (flat fee)

\*Invitational Tournament only

There is a \$25 fee per hour (or any fraction of an hour) for officials per court for scrimmages.

**BOOKING FEE:** School booking fee to officials' association is \$125.00 per booking and \$100.00 for each additional booking. For regular season and invitational tournaments: 5-12 games, \$75; 13-25 games, \$100; 26-50 games, \$150; over 50 games, \$200.

**2013-14 NCHSAA State Basketball Clinic Dates:** See NCHSAA website.



*NCHSAA photo courtesy Fabian Radulescu, MaxPreps*

## 2013-14 NCHSAA APPROVED REGIONAL SUPERVISORS

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# CROSS COUNTRY

## GENERAL

**CLASSIFICATION:** A, AA, AAA, AAAA.

**DATE OF FIRST PRACTICE:** No earlier than August 1.

**PRESEASON SCRIMMAGES:** Schools are allowed two preseason varsity scrimmages. These scrimmages must be conducted as events open to the public (no closed scrimmages allowed). Multiple team scrimmages are allowed. Junior varsity scrimmages are allowed in conjunction with varsity scrimmages at the same date and site.

**DATE OF FIRST CONTEST:** No earlier than August 19.

**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).

**ELIGIBILITY SHEETS:** Should be kept on file at the local school. Must be made available to NCHSAA upon request, and are required to be shared among conference members.

**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). 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.

**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.

**INCLEMENT/HOT WEATHER GUIDELINES:** Precautions must be taken to prevent heat-related problems. The following should be considered when scheduling practice: time of day, intensity level of practice, equipment worn, and environmental conditions. High temperature and high humidity create a dangerous situation for athletes. However, a high humidity and low temperature can cause serious heat-related problems.

Water should be made available in unlimited amounts throughout practice. Water/fluid replacement breaks are recommended each 20 or 30 minutes, depending on practice conditions. Each LEA must have a written policy pertaining to practice on days of extreme heat or early dismissal due to extreme weather conditions. Schools must also have a policy in place regarding lightning. In addition to these guidelines, schools must have a plan/procedure for all emergency situations. See chart at end of Sports section.

## REGIONALS

**UNPAID FINES:** Schools that have unpaid fines to the NCHSAA are not eligible to compete in the playoffs for that sport (i.e. baseball fine would be specific to baseball playoffs) unless the fine is paid two (2) days prior to the reporting date for that sport.

Any fine not paid at the end of the fiscal year (June 30) will carry over to the following school year making all teams at said school ineligible for playoffs until the fine is paid in full.

**DATE:** Regionals are October 26, 2013.

**REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS:** Regional assignments, along with the most current information about regional sites, dates and times, are posted on the NCHSAA web site.