



PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION 2025-26 MHSAA BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL

1. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The MHSAA Girls and Boys Basketball Tournaments will be conducted in Divisions 1, 2, 3, and 4 by enrollment classifications as stated in the 2025-26 MHSAA Handbook. Schools will be placed in one of 32 districts in each Division for their initial assignment as determined by MHSAA staff.

District winners will advance to one of eight Regionals in each Division. Eight Regional champions in each Division advance to the Quarterfinal round. Four Quarterfinal winners in each Division advance to the Semifinals, with Semifinal winners meeting for Divisions 1, 2, 3, and 4 Championships. The MHSAA site selection committee determines host sites for Districts, Regional, & Quarterfinal games.

NOTE: The MHSAA reserves the right to relocate a Quarterfinal Basketball site if a qualifying Regional winner will be playing its Quarterfinal game on its home floor or if travel is inordinate for both teams. Complete brackets, including times, dates, and locations, will be on the MHSAA Web site.

Boys & Girls Finals games will be conducted at MSU Breslin Center.

Tournament Dates: 2025-26

Boys

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| Districts: | Feb 23, 25, 27 |
| Regionals: | March 3 & |
| Quarterfinals | March 10 |
| Semifinals | March 12 or 13 |
| Finals | March 14 |

Girls

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|----------------|-----------------|
| Districts: | March 2, 4, & 6 |
| Regionals: | March 9 & 11 |
| Quarterfinals: | March 17 |
| Semifinals: | March 19 or 20 |
| Finals: | March 21 |

Regional pairings for all Divisions were determined by a basketball site selection committee draw as follows:

Second Highest District winner vs. Second Lowest District winner

Lowest District winner vs. Highest District winner

All initial District tournament assignments, Regional, Quarterfinal and Semifinal pairings will be posted on the MHSAA Web site.

2. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Squad Size - A maximum of fifteen (15) players may be in uniform unless more than 15 players have been carried on the team and roster during the entire regular season and prior approval is received from the MHSAA. Junior varsity players may not be added beyond the limit of 15.

Cheerleaders - A maximum of twelve cheerleaders in uniform, including mascots, plus the coach/advisor from each school, may be admitted without charge on nights their school competes. Up to 12 at one time may lead cheers from the floor, although local management may limit the number of sideline cheerleaders to any number under 12 if circumstances of the venue require. Cheerleaders should not be allowed to sit or stand too close to the edge of the playing court during tournament games.

Sideline cheerleading squads shall follow either the most recent MHSAA Girls Competitive Cheer Rules and Regulations Manual or the guidelines approved by their local school district for sideline cheerleading, whichever is more restrictive and limiting. All sideline cheerleading squads shall adhere to all guidelines provided by the tournament manager if they do not supersede the rules and regulations found in the most recent MHSAA Girls Competitive Cheer Rules and Regulations Manual, which includes two-person high height limitations as well as strict regulations for surface, spotting and hand-to-hand contact for all suspended rolls. Local school districts are responsible for enforcing these restrictions.

Lotteries – 50/50 raffles are allowed during the basketball tournament with state lottery permits. Non-players are not to shoot baskets at halftime. The distribution of miniature balls is prohibited. The sale of merchandise such as t-shirts, hats, belts, etc., is not permitted at MHSAA-sponsored events, except selected early rounds and at the Final Tournament when coordinated with the MHSAA staff.

Concessions - Concession stands MUST comply with MDHHS requirements, whether operated by a school or non-school groups and confine sales to non-alcoholic beverages and edible items. The sale of non-edible products other than school spirit items (such as pom poms) is prohibited at MHSAA tournament sites without the approval of MHSAA staff.

3. OPT OUT POLICIES, ELIGIBILITY LISTS, ROSTERS

Schools must see that District tournament managers receive an accurate Eligibility List and Team Roster by the Opt-Out Due Date. These forms are available at mhsaa.com. Failure to fulfill the above obligations by the specified Opt-Out Due Date will result in MHSAA penalties as stipulated in the MHSAA Handbook. Schools must notify the tournament managers and MHSAA by the Opt-Out Due Date if they DO NOT intend to participate in a previously assigned MHSAA tournament.

Opt-Out Due Dates: Boys: 2/4/26 Girls: 2/11/26.

If the Team Roster and Master Eligibility List are received after the Opt-Out Due Date but before Seeding Sunday, they may be accepted with the payment of a \$50 late fee. The \$50 late fee is due in the hands of the manager before the draw. The host school will retain late fees.

Additions or updates to the Master Eligibility List (except transfer students who enroll after the dates in Regulation I, Section 9 [F]) may be accepted by the Tournament Manager if submitted and received before the start of competition for any team in the first level of that tournament to which the school is assigned. All players on the submitted Master Eligibility List are eligible for tournament play even if the individual names are not on the roster.

Ineligible Players - Teams defeated by teams that have allowed an ineligible student to participate do not advance in MHSAA tournaments. Placement in MHSAA tournaments will be vacated for allowing one or more ineligible students to participate.

Withdrawals - Tournament management will contact the MHSAA office if a school withdraws or fails to attend the scheduled competition after the Opt-Out Due Date. The MHSAA staff person responsible for the sport will request a written explanation from the school principal for the no-show/withdrawal. If the reason is deemed unacceptable by MHSAA Staff, the MHSAA Executive Director will place the school on probation for the next two years. A second offense within the two-year probationary period will cause the school to be prohibited from tournament play in that sport for the two years following the second offense.

4. DRAW PROCEDURES - District hosts do not need to host a draw meeting. The entire District bracket will be seeded by the MHSAA MPR (example: 1v8, 2v7, 3v6, 4v5) and posted to the MHSAA website on February 16 (Boys) & February 23 (Girls). **Within 24 hours after the District draws have been published, hosts should finalize first-round game times, and locations and notify the MHSAA.**

5. TIME SCHEDULES – District, Regional, Quarterfinal & Semifinal Game times: Double header games to be held at 5:30 & 7 pm. Single games are to be held at 7 pm.

6. AWARDS - The winning school in each District and Regional Tournament division will receive a trophy. The runner-up and championship teams in each division at the Final Tournament will receive a trophy.

Fifteen medals will be awarded to members of winning teams at District, Regional, and Final Tournaments. The same number of medals will be awarded to runner-up teams at the Final Tournament. If winning schools desire additional medals, they may be ordered through the MHSAA at the school's expense. Only MHSAA-approved awards may be presented.

7. LIMITS OF COMPETITION

Teams and individuals may have a maximum of 22 contests during the regular season. MHSAA tournament dates do not count against season maximums. Exceeding contest maximums will result in disqualification from the MHSAA Tournament.

8. TEAM & SPECTATOR CONDUCT

During contests, officials will penalize, under applicable sportsmanship or playing rules, student-athletes or coaches who leave the field of play and contact or approach spectator areas for celebrations. Each school shall assign an acceptable number of crowd control supervisors to be stationed in front of its student cheering sections. These individuals are to be admitted into the contest, enforce this policy, and

include a school administrator. Depending on the situation, each tournament manager or the MHSAA Staff will determine the acceptable number of crowd supervisors necessary for each school. After contests, before or after the awards are presented, athletes shall not enter spectator areas or physically contact spectators in the stands. After awards are presented, athletes may approach their spectators (e.g., stand in front of their sections while on the field of play), but for safety reasons, athletes are not to enter or physically contact spectators in the stands. Crowd supervisors must ensure spectators do not press the facility and possibly cause damage.

The cost for repair or replacement to facilities damaged because of celebrations shall be paid by the school involved directly to the host facility within 30 days of the bill being submitted to the school. MHSAA reimbursement or revenue sharing will be withheld until the offending school pays. If payment is not made, future tournament hosting privileges or school reimbursements to offending schools may be withheld.

PARTICIPATING TEAM/SPECTATOR INTERNET STREAMING – The broadcast and streaming rights of MHSAA post-season tournament events belong exclusively to the N-F-H-S Network, Bally Sports Detroit, the M-H-S-A-A, and those media outlets that have pre-arranged to secure those rights. Teams participating in MHSAA Tournaments are prohibited from streaming live video of any portion of an event over the Internet - including using social media platforms like Periscope and Facebook – or any other method.

Likewise, individual spectators are also prohibited from streaming video through any means. Participating schools are responsible for informing their students, parents, and other fans of this policy and assisting the MHSAA upon request to enforce it. Participating schools are asked to help promote where their game may be viewed when streamed by the MHSAA, one of its television partners, or a media outlet that has pre-arranged to secure such rights.

9. FINANCES - The Representative Council adopted the following admission prices for the Basketball Tournament games:

District: \$7.00
Regional: \$9.00
Quarterfinal: \$10.00
Semifinal: \$12.00 (Plus MSU Ticket Fees)
Final: \$12.00 (Plus MSU Ticket Fees)

10. TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES

At all tournament levels, competing teams will absorb their travel expenses, where the **distance** to the tournament site is 75 miles or less from the competing school. Beginning with the 76th mile, one way, a competing team at District, Regional, and Final Tournament levels will be reimbursed at the following rate per mile from the home city to the tournament site for each trip after the 75-mile deductible:

076 - 100 miles - \$1 per mile
101 - 150 miles - \$1.50 per mile
151 - 250 miles - \$2 per mile
251 - 350 miles - \$2.50 per mile
351 miles & over - \$3 per mile

Schools that travel 100 or more miles (one way) to a tournament site are allowed a maximum of \$200 for hotel expenses (receipts required). A school cannot receive hotel and additional travel allowances (another trip from home city to Tournament center city) if games are played on successive days. This applies to travel in both District and Regional Tournaments.

Meal Allowance -- The maximum allowance for meals is three dollars (\$3) for breakfast, four dollars (\$4) for lunch, and six dollars (\$6) for dinner per person for a maximum of fifteen individuals.

Lodging -- The maximum allowance is the current hotel rate secured for a maximum of fifteen individuals (2/room) and includes the head coach. Allowance for expenses of competing schools at the Final

Tournament will continue twenty-four hours after their elimination if they remain at the tournament location.

Schools defeated in Quarterfinal games will not receive expense allowances for coming into the Final Tournament Center to attend the Semifinal or Final Games. Overnight lodging will not be arranged or reimbursed for schools within 75 miles of the tournament site unless the competition begins before 10 a.m. the next day. **Schools participating in the final rounds are intended to use the hotels designated by the MHSAA if team overnight travel is desired. Reimbursement will not exceed the lowest room rate secured by the MHSAA for those who use accommodations other than those designated by the MHSAA.**

Additional per diem school allowance -- Besides the above allowances, schools competing in the Final Tournament must be paid one hundred dollars (\$100) for each day their teams play in the Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final Games. Any of the four Upper Peninsula schools that win their QUARTERFINAL games on Tuesday will be paid the additional \$100 above-allowed expenses for Wednesday, the following day if they cannot return home Tuesday.

School reimbursement procedures -- Competing schools at all levels of competition are to pay for their housing, meals, etc. The MHSAA will mail checks to schools competing in the Tournament. Expense Account Blanks for competing teams are supplied to Tournament Managers. They are to be filled out before teams leave tournament sites. It is recommended to map the quest mileage (city to city) of all competing teams beforehand so that maximum transportation may be figured out beforehand. Travel allowances should be paid to competing schools by tournament managers by check immediately following the conclusion of District and Regional Tournaments only.

FINANCIAL FORMS, POLICIES - Financial reports for all levels of the MHSAA Tournament are to be filed with the MHSAA within 30 days of the tournament's conclusion. Only expenses listed on the Final Report form (i.e., officials fees, timers & scorers, PA, etc.) will be allowed, with the division of proceeds specified on the Final Report Form. Items such as hospitality rooms, custodial services, ticket handlers, bleachers, etc., are to be paid for by the host school share. Expenses for competing schools when applicable will be paid by tournament host managers at the District and Regional level. Expenses of competing teams at the Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final will be paid by the MHSAA. (See Financial Plan)

Managers Honorarium – Tournament managers receive an honorarium with a suggested minimum of \$100 for District Managers, \$75 for Regional and \$50 for Quarterfinal Managers. This honorarium will be paid from the host school's share of the receipts.

Audit Policy - All MHSAA tournament sports sites are subject to audit. These sites are to be randomly selected and require documentation of all income and expenses. Tournament expenses different from regular season host site expenses in that same sport will require justification before said expenses are approved for payment to or retention by the host site.

11. OFFICIALS SELECTION/ASSIGNMENTS

The MHSAA committee will assign tournament officials for all rounds of the boys and girls basketball tournament. Tournament managers will be informed of the game assignments, pay rates, and mileage payments.

12. PLAYING RULES/ADAPTATIONS

All National Federation basketball playing rules will be used with the following adaptation:

Point Differential Rule – The running clock **will** be used in MHSAA tournament competition. By state association adoption, the Point Differential Rule will be used at all tournament levels. In all levels of competition during the regular season and the MHSAA tournaments, after the first half, when one team has a lead of 40 points, a running clock will be established. The clock will revert to regular time schemes should the score be reduced to a 30-point lead. During any running clock mode, the clock will be stopped as normal for all timeouts and between quarters and for free throws during the last two (2) minutes remaining in the game.

Official Ball - The official Basketball of the MHSAA Semifinals and Finals is the Rawlings COMPMICH. Managers **MUST** use Rawlings basketballs at all levels of the tournament. (Each manager will receive two balls mailed from Rawlings).

13. MEDIA - For information on credentials, drones, locker room privacy policy, microphones, photographers, flash photography, postgame interviews, press box, results, streaming (audio and video), and videotaping, go to this [Media/Streaming Information PDF](#).

14. MEDICAL EMERGENCY POLICY - Host school Tournament Managers should follow all local school district policies regarding medical emergencies for participating athletes, coaches, students, and adult spectators for competition conducted in school facilities. It is advised that AED devices be readily available during tournament competitions. In addition:

- Trainers are an allowed expense and encouraged but not required
- All MHSAA concussion protocols will be followed
- MHSAA tornado watches and warnings shall be followed

When MHSAA tournament contests are conducted at non-school facilities, plans should be developed for the following needs and circumstances:

- Student, coach, and spectator shelter for outdoor events
- Host facility emergency equipment such as AEDs, fire escapes, etc.
- Emergency communications, i.e., phone numbers, school administration contact
- Coordination with facility management regarding evacuation, first aid, and on-site responsibilities
- Medical transport or first responder contact procedures
- Proximity/directions of nearest medical facility

15. SPORTSMANSHIP

When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for the remainder of that day of competition and for at least the next day of competition for that team.

When a coach is disqualified during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, that coach shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching for the remainder of that day of competition and from coaching at or attending at least the next day of competition for that coach's team.

Failure of the school for any reason to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament or the last regular-season contest.

Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches or the next season in any sport for seniors. If the playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty, more rapid progression, or use of such a progression for other violations, the playing rules apply.

Any coach who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during a season, any player who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during a season, and any coach or player who is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing, or intentionally and aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season, is not eligible to participate in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. If the tournament disqualifying ejection for that individual occurs during the MHSAA tournament, that player or coach is ineligible for the remainder of that tournament.

If a team is removed from competition in protest, the contest is forfeited to the opponent, and the coach and principal of the removed team must appear before the Executive Committee to indicate why additional action should not be taken. The Executive Committee may also require the appearance of personnel from other schools and game officials.

If the coach is ejected from the contest and an assistant coach or an assigned school representative is not available to continue as the coach, the event is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.

When a contest is interrupted, or it ends prematurely because of the breakdown of proper sportsmanship and whether or not the on-site officials forfeit the contest to one team, one or both schools may be subjected to any or all, but not limited to, the following: censure, probation with competition, probation without competition, forfeiture, loss of the privilege of revenue sharing, expulsion. In addition, one or both

schools may require their coaches and administrators to appear before the Executive Committee to indicate why additional action should not be taken.

16. WEATHER POLICIES, SUSPENSIONS, POSTPONEMENTS - When teams are delayed in arriving at tournament sites because of inclement weather, management is encouraged to consider delaying competition for a few hours and playing games/matches in brackets of teams/individuals who are present and prepared to participate. If, after a reasonable delay, fewer than 60% of the scheduled teams/individuals have not arrived, the tournament must be rescheduled. If 60% or more of the scheduled teams/individuals are present, the tournament will be conducted on the scheduled day.

17. INJUNCTION, RESTRAINING ORDER, PROTESTS - If an injunction or restraining order is served or presented at an MHSAA tournament site and such purports to require the eligibility of or participation by a student or team that a school and the MHSAA has ruled to be ineligible under MHSAA regulations, the on-site tournament manager is to suspend the entire competition (team competition) or events in which that student is intending to participate (individual competition). If the meet has begun, it shall be completed.

Protests will not be reviewed by the MHSAA. All disputes must be decided at the site before the game proceeds. The umpires will make the final decision regarding game events. The Tournament Manager will resolve all following game concerns.

18. TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL POLICY - For coaches and officials at all MHSAA tournaments, use of tobacco products of any kind within sight of players and spectators, and alcohol use during a contest or any time before it on the day of the contest is prohibited.

Tobacco: It is not intended that a violation of the tobacco policy should lead to immediate ejection of a coach. He or she should be reminded of the policy and report to his or her. School administration after the contest. Only if the coach is unwilling to comply promptly shall he or she be disqualified from coaching at the event. Officials should be reminded of the tobacco policy and reported in writing to the MHSAA by the tournament manager.

Alcohol: Historically, officials promptly disqualified coaches, and tournament managers immediately replaced officials who were under the influence of alcohol, and no change in such these policies intend procedures.

19. SPECTATOR POLICIES

The following general policies apply to spectators at MHSAA Basketball Tournament events. Tournament managers may also have additional school, facility, or institutional restrictions and policies.

- Banners are allowed with Game Manager approval.
- Noisemakers are not allowed at MHSAA indoor tournaments.
- Bare chests are not allowed.
- Smoking is not allowed at the tournament site.
- Coolers are not allowed.
- Signs on sticks are not allowed.
- Helium-filled balloons are not allowed.
- Spectator Videotaping – Spectators may tape games from their normal seating area but are not to interfere with the view of other spectators or news media personnel covering the activity. A manager is not required to provide electrical hook-ups or tripod space and may arrange spectator videotaping from a designated location(s).