



2025-26 BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL FINALS QUALIFYING TEAM MANUAL

BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT DATES:

DISTRICTS – Feb. 23, 25 & 27, 2026
REGIONALS – March 3 & 5, 2026
QUARTERFINALS – March 10, 2026
SEMIFINALS – March 12-13, 2026
FINALS – March 14, 2026

GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT DATES:

DISTRICTS – March 2, 4 & 6, 2026
REGIONALS – March 9 & 10, 2026
QUARTERFINALS – March 17, 2026
SEMIFINALS – March 19-20, 2026
FINALS – March 21, 2026

THIS IS THE COMPETING SCHOOL GUIDE FOR COMPETITION AT
QUARTERFINAL, SEMIFINAL, AND FINAL GAMES.

IMPORTANT:

**A mandatory Zoom meeting for Athletic Directors & Head Varsity Coaches
will be held at 9:00 AM on Wed.**

**Also include, if available, your Cheer Coach and Band Director.
Any other school administrators are welcome.**

Be prepared to finalize travel and hotel by:
Boys 9:30a.m. on Wednesday, 3/11/26
Girls 9:30a.m. on Wednesday, 3/18/26

REMINDERS

- Coaches box will be enforced.
- Only team members in uniform (listed on roster, 15 maximum) and coaching staff (no more than 7) will be allowed in the bench area.
- Ball persons are not needed.
- Respect for the National Anthem is a must. No celebrations until the Anthem is concluded.
- Head coach is required to be present for official's pre-game conference.
- Practice balls will be provided.
- Towels will not be provided or available.
- All spectators, including student cheer sections, attending an MHSAA tournament must wear shirts at all times.
- Image-taking devices (including camera phones) of any kind are not to be used in the locker rooms during MHSAA tournaments.
- Coaches – No spiked heels allowed on the playing surface or bench area.



ITEMS PERMITTED AND RESTRICTIONS

Security measures will be in place to help assure spectator safety. Fans will be subject to a visual search, and arena personnel will reserve the right to request that patrons open their coats, purses, bags and other personal totes for visual inspection; and deny entrance to individuals who do not cooperate.

Prohibited Items: Items which fans will be prohibited from bringing into the building include, but are not limited to, the following: Aerosol cans; alcoholic beverages; animals (except assistive animals for people with disabilities); bags (grocery, duffle, backpacks, luggage, large purses, etc.) 8 1/2" x 14" x 10" is maximum size for entry; balloons (air & helium); balls (beach balls, footballs, baseballs, etc.); banners; beverages; cameras (professional) or cameras with lenses over five inches long and/or 50mm and above; cans & bottles; confetti or glitter; coolers of any kind, including small soft pack coolers; fireworks; food; hard objects that can be used as missiles or projectiles; illegal substances; large camera cases; liquids (bottled or boxed); laser pointers; **noisemaking devices (bells, horns, kazoos, thunder sticks, whistles, etc.); sticks, bats or clubs; strollers; tripods; umbrellas; and weapons.**

Costumes, mask and political references: Students are NOT permitted entry while wearing animal costumes or mask (i.e., monkey or gorilla.) No hangman's noose. No political statements or costumes.

Permitted after Inspection: The following items are permitted after inspection: Binoculars and cases; small still cameras and small camera cases (must comply with the camera/lens limits); diaper bags (only if accompanied by a child); hand-held signs; purses and fanny packs (must comply with the above bag limits); small radios (must be used with an earpiece); and small video cameras, no tripods. All spectator videotaping and still photography must be done for private use -- any reproduction, sale or retransmission of the images is prohibited.

2025-26 BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

1. **TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS:**

MSU Breslin Center – 534 Birch Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823

MHSAA Office - 1661 Ramblewood Dr., East Lansing, MI 48823 - Phone 517-332-5046

2. **PAIRINGS:** Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final pairings, game locations and times will be found on the MHSAA Web Site: www.mhsaa.com.

TOURNAMENT FORFEITURE POLICIES: Individuals or teams that are defeated by an ineligible opponent or teams that allowed one or more ineligible students to participate do not advance in MHSAA tournaments.

If placements in MHSAA tournaments are vacated as a result of an individual being ineligible or a team allowing one or more ineligible students to participate, other individuals or teams neither advance to those placements nor receive awards for those places.

3. **PRACTICE - QUARTERFINAL FLOORS:** If one of the competing teams won their District or Regional on that floor, Quarterfinal Managers **may** permit the opponent one practice session on that floor.

NOTE: *The MHSAA reserves the right to relocate a Quarterfinal Basketball site if a qualifying Regional Winner will be playing a Quarterfinal game on its own home floor.*

4. **UNIFORMS:** The team on the top line of a bracket will wear white colored jerseys and the opponent will wear the opposite color. Each school will **bring two sets of jerseys**, white and dark, numbered front and back, in the event there is a similarity in team colors.

5. **CLOCK:** A running clock will be used at MHSAA tournament games when point differential games are involved.

6. **CUTTING OF NETS:** By action of the Representative Council, nets are not to be cut down after tournament games. You are asked to advise your teams of this action by the Council. Tournament Managers shall not waive this rule.

7. **LODGING AND EXPENSE ALLOWANCES FOR TEAMS:** Generally, arrangements for lodging teams for Tuesday Quarterfinal games, where it is necessary, should be made in the cities where these games are played. Lodging allowance is the current hotel rate for a maximum of fifteen individuals and meal allowance is \$3 for breakfast and \$4 for lunch and \$6 for dinner for the same number of individuals.

Transportation allowance is one-way mileage with a 75-mile deductible from the home city of the school to the Quarterfinal Center or to Semifinal and Final Centers, (see chart below). Schools defeated in Quarterfinal or Semifinal Games will be allowed expenses from their home cities to Centers where they play, but not to succeeding tournament rounds. Because Regional winners play other Regional winners on a geographical basis, it is not expected that lodging will be necessary for many teams due to their proximity to the Quarterfinal locations.

75 - 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

Teams playing in Semifinal Games must complete the online Hotel Reservation Form. Any questions direct to tkinder@lansing.org of the Lansing Sports Commission Office and will@mhsaa.com of the Michigan High School Athletic Association by 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 12 for BOYS and March 19 for GIRLS whether they plan to stay or not in East Lansing. Teams are asked to indicate plans for travel and housing needs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Housing for all Semifinal and Finalist teams staying overnight will be arranged at area facilities.

Overnight lodging can be arranged through the LSC but WILL NOT be reimbursed for schools located within 75 miles of the tournament site, unless competition begins before 10 AM the next day.

Please ensure that you have approval from your Board of Education before confirming rooms. You will be held responsible for rooms that you request! There are no "if win" requests! Competing teams are to make arrangements to pay for all hotel and meal costs. The MHSAA will reimburse per the established formula at a later date. **(Have available school tax ID information)**. All room rates are per night and require double occupancy. Reimbursement is based on 15 individuals. For example, \$119 room rate, divided by 2 = \$59.50 x 15 = \$892.50 reimbursement.

Tournament Facilities	Rate	Reimburse Amount
Best Western	\$119	\$892.50
Comfort Inn- Okemos	\$119	\$892.50
Fairfield by Marriott – Eastwood	\$114	\$855
Hampton Inn- East Lansing	\$104	\$780
Hampton Inn - Okemos	\$109	\$817.50

A team is limited to a maximum of 22 people (15 team members, 7 coaching staff adults). Please do not bring any more. Schools must make their own arrangements for cheerleaders, bands, etc. at a different location.

An email is to be sent whether the team is staying overnight or not. Lodging allowance will be the current hotel rate. As in the past, schools will pay their own lodging and meal costs while at Tournament Centers, and reimbursement per the prescribed formula will be made to them. Teams failing to check out of the hotel by noon must make arrangements with the hotel for late check out.

An allowance of \$100 per day will be paid to each school for the number of days its' team competes in the Final Tournament, in addition to mileage one way, lodging at current hotel rate, and the necessary meals per day (\$13 maximum) for each of the fifteen individuals.

8. **EXPENSE ACCOUNT CHECKS:** Expense checks will be mailed to schools competing in Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final Tournament Games directly from the MHSAA following the tournament.
9. **ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICIALS:** Officials will be assigned for Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Championship games by the Tournament Officials Assignment Committee. They will work through the tournament as named.
10. **TICKETS FOR COMPETING SCHOOLS NOTICE:** **MHSAA basketball ticket prices are \$14 for each Semifinal session (2 games) and \$14 for each Final session (2 games). Ticket price includes the Michigan State University \$2 processing fee.**

QUARTERFINAL TICKETS - (All tickets \$10) - General Seating Tickets must be purchased through GoFan www.gofan.co. An allotment of tickets - approximately one-half the house for each competing team.

SEMIFINAL & FINALS SEATING: GENERAL ADMISSION. There is no longer any reserved seating. Competing schools, however, will each have 200 lower bowl bleacher seats reserved for their student section.

Additional ticket information is on the next page. Please post and share. Thank you

STUDENT SECTION SEATING:

Game 1: Student section will be directly BEHIND their team bench.
Home Team Aisles 109 & 106 | Visiting Team Aisles 110 & 113

Game 2: Student section will be directly ACROSS from their team bench.
Home Team Aisles 128 & 131 | Visiting Team Aisles 127 & 124

WRISTBAND REQUIRED:

- Schools advancing to the Semifinal or Final will receive 200 color-coded wristbands in their Qualifier packet.
- The color-coded wristband is required to sit in the designated bleacher section RESERVED for the competing school student sections.
- Following Game 1 of the session, Game 2 spectators can fill in seats vacated by the Game 1 student section.
- The color-coded wristband will be required in the Game 2 student section during BOTH Game 1 and Game 2 of the session.
- Signage indicating the designated student section and the corresponding wristband color will be posted.
- Competing school administrations must have a plan to distribute student section wristbands prior to arriving at the Breslin Center. Breslin Center and MHSAA staff will not be involved in distribution.
- Schools advancing to the Finals will be given a second set of wristbands before leaving the Breslin Center on Thursday/Friday. Finals wristbands are a different color than the Semifinals.

TICKETS ALSO NEEDED:

- **IMPORTANT NOTE: The wristband is NOT A TICKET. All students will need to purchase a ticket through the MSU Ticket Office**, either [online](#) or at the box office. Again, this wristband does NOT allow them admission into the arena – it will only allow them access to the student section once in the arena. ALL STUDENTS STILL NEED TO PURCHASE A TICKET.

ADDITIONAL TICKETING NOTES:

- School administration and chaperones are expected to work with Breslin Center staff and ushers to ensure the students get to the appropriate sections, and the designated sections are not over capacity.
- There will be GENERAL ADMISSION seating directly adjacent to the student section if you have more than 200 students, but these are GENERAL ADMISSION. If the section is full, the section is full.
- Wristbands may be used for parents. We do not recommend this – this section is intended for STANDING students. However, anyone you want in your 200-seat designated competing school section may be given a wristband, but everyone in the reserved section for your game needs a wristband.
- All other seating outside of the 200-seat reserved competing school section is GENERAL ADMISSION – first come, first served.

11. CONTESTANTS, COACHES, CHEERLEADERS, CHEER COACH, PEP BAND DIRECTOR, AND PEP BAND MEMBERS: All individuals' names must be added to the Accountability List (sent via Email) for entry in the tunnel at Breslin.
- **Is your school bringing a performing pep band? Is your school bringing a cheer team? We need to know this information IMMEDIATELY.**
 - Send cheer information to Laura@mhsaa.com.
 - Send pep-band information to Cole@mhsaa.com.
 - (A) TEAM AND GROUP ENTRANCE: The designated maximum number of passes will be distributed to qualifying teams when entering for Final games. Coaches, contestants, cheerleaders and pep band members are to enter as a group.
 - a. Non-Participating Sessions: Semifinal and Final teams desiring to see games other than those during their session are to contact Will McKoy in advance.
 - (B) TRAINERS AND OTHER MEDICAL PERSONNEL: Will be available during all sessions of Final Tournaments.
12. PASSES: See pass sheet in the Semifinal packet.
- Enter South Shaw Lane, Tunnel entrance to receive pass and entry:
 - BENCH: 7
 - BOOKKEEPER: 1
 - ATHLETIC TRAINER: 1
 - CHEER COACHES: 2
 - BAND DIRECTOR: 1
 - Enter any gate: (tickets & passes provided in qualifying team packet)
 - CHAPERONE: 6 (tickets provided, pass to be worn after entry)
 - BUS DRIVER: (ticket provided, no pass)
 - SCHOOL ADMIN (athletic director, principal & superintendent): 3 (tickets provided, pass to be worn after entry)
 - Enter Through Accountability: (passes provided in qualifying team packet) Names to be added to the accountability list (sent via email).
 - TEAM VIDEO: 1
 - *TEAM MEDIA: 1
13. *TEAM PHOTOGRAPHER/MEDIA INSTRUCTIONS: A school has received **ONE** photo pass for the MHSAA Basketball Semifinals/Finals. The photographer will enter through the Accountability Entrance at Breslin Center. The pass is only good for when the school is playing games in the event, and the person given the pass is treated the same as other media about MHSAA tournament policy prohibiting photographers in the locker rooms. The images taken by the photographer become the property of the school and may not be sold by the photographer. The MHSAA has a licensing agreement covering the sale of photos from this event. A generic or nameless pass will not be credentialed. Schools will also be provided with one Video pass in the Semifinal packet. The Video pass will allow access to Platform 127 for filming. The name of the Video person will also need to be included in the accountability list and enter through the accountability door. Teams that advance to Saturday will be given new passes for school photographer and school videographer.
- IMPORTANT** – The name and email address of the individual using this pass **MUST** be sent to Jon Ross (jon@mhsaa.com) by 4 p.m. of the Wednesday before your Semifinal/Final weekend. Name to be on the Accountability List.
14. TEAM BENCH CHAIR LIMIT: Seventeen (17) chairs maximum for players, substitutes, coaches and team statisticians. Only the bench pass is acceptable.
15. PARTICIPATING TEAM/SPECTATOR INTERNET STREAMING: 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](#).

MHSAA BASKETBALL SEMIFINALS:

Team Arrival & Warm-up Schedule:

Boys Semifinals – Thursday & Friday, March 12-13, 2026

Girls Semifinals – Thursday & Friday, March 19-20, 2026

Session 1 (Thursday, March 12 & March 19) – Division 3

- Game 1: Noon
 - Arrival: No earlier than 10:30 a.m.
 - Warm-up: 11:00 a.m.
- Game 2: 2:00 p.m.
 - Arrival: After 12:30 p.m.
 - Warm-up: After the floor is cleared (20-minute guarantee)

Session 2 (Thursday, March 12 & March 19) – Division 4

- Game 1: 5:30 p.m.
 - Locker Room Access: 4:00 p.m.
 - Warm-up: 4:30 p.m.
- Game 2: 7:30 p.m.
 - Arrival: After 6:00 p.m.
 - Warm-up: After the floor is cleared (20-minute guarantee)

Session 3 (Friday, March 13 & March 20) – Division 1

- Game 1: Noon
 - Arrival: No earlier than 10:30 a.m.
 - Warm-up: 11:30 a.m.
- Game 2: 2:00 p.m.
 - Arrival: After 12:30 p.m.
 - Warm-up: After the floor is cleared (20-minute guarantee)

Session 4 (Friday, March 13 & March 20) – Division 2

- Game 1: 5:30 p.m.
 - Locker Room Access: 4:00 p.m.
 - Warm-up: 4:30 p.m.
- Game 2: 7:30 p.m.
 - Arrival: After 6:00 p.m.
 - Warm-up: After the floor is cleared (20-minute guarantee)

MHSAA BASKETBALL FINALS:

Team Arrival & Warm-up Schedule

Boys Finals – Saturday, March 14, 2026

Session 5 – Divisions 4 & 1

- Division 4
 - Game Time: 10:00 a.m.
 - Arrival: No earlier than 8:30 a.m.
 - Locker Room Access: 8:30 a.m.
 - Warm-up: 9:00 a.m.
- Division 1
 - Game Time: 12:15 p.m.
 - Locker Room Access: 10:45 a.m.
 - Warm-up: after the floor is cleared (20-mins guarantee)

Session 6 – Divisions 3 & 2

- Division 3
 - Game Time: 4:30 p.m.
 - Arrival: No earlier than 3:00 p.m.
 - Locker Room Access: 3:00 p.m.
 - Warm-up: 3:30 p.m.
- Division 2
 - Game Time: 6:45 p.m.
 - Arrival: No earlier than 5:15 p.m.
 - Warm-up: after the floor is cleared (20-minute guarantee)

Girls Finals – Saturday, March 21, 2026

Session 5 – Divisions 4 & 1

- Division 4
 - Game Time: 10:00 a.m.
 - Arrival: No earlier than 8:30 a.m.
 - Locker Room Access: 8:30 a.m.
 - Warm-up: 9:00 a.m.
- Division 1
 - Game Time: 12:15 p.m.
 - Locker Room Access: 10:45 a.m.
 - Warm-up: after the floor is cleared (20-minute guarantee)

Session 6 – Divisions 3 & 2

- Division 3
 - Game Time: 4:00 p.m.
 - Arrival: No earlier than 2:30 p.m.
 - Locker Room Access: 2:30 p.m.
 - Warm-up: 3:00 p.m.
- Division 2
 - Game Time: 6:15 p.m.
 - Arrival: No earlier than 4:45 p.m.
 - Warm-up: after the floor is cleared (20-minute guarantee)

General Rules:

- Locker rooms for competing teams will not be available earlier than 90 minutes before game time.
- When time permits, teams may enter the floor for warm-up not more than 60 mins prior to game time.
- Official team photos will be taken immediately upon entering the court for warmups.
- Teams must be in uniform, no street clothes.

Boys & Girls Coaches

TIMING FORMAT FOR SEMIFINALS & FINALS

Here is the timing format for this year's Finals:

Semifinals

- Clock will hit 00:00, for the National Anthem and player introductions will be as follows for the first game of each session:
 - Division 3 - 12:00 p.m. (Thursday)
 - Division 4 - 5:30 p.m.
 - Division 1 - 12:00 p.m. (Friday)
 - Division 2 - 5:30 p.m.
- 20-minute pre-game clock for second game will start once both teams have taken floor for warm-up and have had their official team pictures taken.
- Quarter breaks are 120 seconds in length (2:00). Warning horn at 105 seconds (1:45). Please stay in huddle until first horn sounds.
- **Halftimes are 10 minutes.** Coach of team leading at halftime will be interviewed by MHSAA Radio Network as teams leave floor; coach of team trailing at halftime will be interviewed as teams return to floor.
 - The halftimes for Games 1 and 3 on Thursday 3/14 (boys) will be 15 minutes.
- At game's end, the winning coach may be interviewed on the floor by the MHSAA Radio Network. No other interviews may be conducted on the floor. Coach of losing team and 3 players will be escorted to press conference first, followed by the coach and 3 players of the winning team.

Finals

- Clock will hit 00:00, for the National Anthem and player introductions will be as follows for the first game of each session:
 - Division 4 - 10:00 a.m.
 - Division 3 – Girls 4:00 p.m. Boys 4:30 p.m.
 - Division 1 – Once teams take floor
 - Division 2 – Once teams take floor
- 20-minute pre-game clock for second game will start once both teams have taken floor for warm-up, unless directed by MHSAA staff.
- There will be no TV time outs in the Finals.
- **Quarter breaks are 120 seconds** in length (2:00). **Warning horn at 105 seconds (1:45).** Please stay in huddle until first horn sounds.
- **Halftimes are 15 minutes.** Coach of team leading at halftime will be interviewed by NFHS Network as teams leave floor; coach of team trailing at halftime will be interviewed by MHSAA Radio Network. Interview order will be reversed as teams return to floor.
- At game's end, the winning coach or a player may be interviewed on the floor by the MHSAA Radio Network and NFHS Network. No other interviews may be conducted on the floor. Coach of losing team and 3 players will be escorted to press conference first, followed by the coach and 3 players of the winning team.

Jon Ross, Director of Broadcast Properties