

2026-2027 MPA BASKETBALL BULLETIN

(updated 10/07/26)

BASKETBALL SEASON

November 9	First Practice (Class S only)
November 16	First Practice (Classes A, B, C, D)
November 27	First Countable Game (Class S)
December 3	First Countable Game (Classes A, B, C, D)
February 2	Last Countable Game (Class S)
February 4	Last Countable Game – Regular Season
February 9-11	Class S North & South Quarterfinals
February 9-10	Preliminary Games
February 12-20	Class A, B, C, and D North & South Quarter, Semi-Finals, and Regional Championships
February 16-20	Class S North & South Semi-Finals, Regional Championships
February 20	Final Day of winter season except for teams in State Championships
February 26	Class A – Augusta Civic Center
February 27	Class S, C & D – Cross Center, Bangor
February 27	Class B – Cross Arena, Portland

The last countable game date for Class S regular season is Tuesday, February 2, 2027.

The last countable game date for Classes A, B, C, and D regular season is Thursday, February 4, 2027.

*Each coach must complete the NFHS “*Concussion in Sport – What You Need to Know*” video that is available at the NFHS website (www.nfhslearn.com). Each coach, even if they have viewed it previously, must view it again as the video has now been updated.

*Each coach must complete the NFHS “*A Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention*” video that is available at the NFHS website (www.nfhslearn.com).

*Each coach must complete the NFHS “*Sudden Cardiac Arrest*” video that is available at the NFHS website (www.nfhslearn.com).

*Each coach must complete the NFHS “*Protecting Students from Abuse*” video that is available at the NFHS website (www.nfhslearn.com).

2027 MANDATORY RULES CLINIC

All coaches must view the rules video prior to the start of the season. Click [HERE](#) to access the video. (Will be posted by the end of October.)

END OF SEASON

As defined in the MPA Sport Season Policy (see Article III in the 2026-2027 MPA Handbook for a full explanation of this policy), basketball teams representing MPA member schools may play basketball during the winter sport season which ends February 20, 2027. Teams may not practice or play games after February 20, 2027, unless that team is participating in an MPA-sponsored basketball tournament.

HEAL POINT SYSTEM

The Heal Point System will be used to determine the teams qualifying for the basketball tournament.

The MAXIMUM number of countable games is 18. The minimum number of countable games is 12. Each school's Heal Point divisor is the number of games that a team has on their schedule. The Heal point tournament index will be carried out twelve places to the right of the decimal point, and for reporting purposes, this index will be rounded to four places.

Ties will be resolved by head-to-head competition, or, if that does not break the tie, a flip of a coin. In the event of a tie for the final position, a play-off game will be played at a mutually agreeable site approved by the respective sub-committee chair.

GAME SCHEDULES

1. All regular season postponed games should be made up at the next mutually AVAILABLE date unless the schools can agree to play within a two-week period. Saturday is to be considered a playable date.
2. No school will be allowed to reschedule a postponed game to the last week of countable games without permission from the appropriate sub-committee chair.

GAME INTERRUPTION

An interrupted game, by mutual consent of both coaches, may either be terminated at the point of interruption in which case the existing score shall be the final score or be resumed following the interruption and completed.

If neither of these provisions can be agreed, the remainder of the game shall be rescheduled to another date to be completed from the point of interruption.

The host school is responsible for informing the regional committee chairperson of interrupted games and the agreed upon date scheduled for completion.

OFFICIALS

For varsity basketball games, all game officials must be IAABO Board officials and should not be employed by either school system.

Game officials should be provided with private dressing rooms which are closed and off-limits to all non-officials.

PROGRAMS

Schools in contention for play-off/tournament qualification must submit the online Entry/Program Information Form and a team photo by January 9, 2027.

BONA FIDE TEAM RULE

A member of a school team is a student athlete who is regularly present for and actively participates in team practices and competitions. Bona fide members of a school team are prevented from missing high school practice or competition to compete or practice elsewhere.

- * Two waivers per student athlete per sport season may be granted by the principal on a case-by-case basis for extraordinary circumstances. (e.g., If a student/athlete were invited to participate in a prestigious weekend event then a waiver may be granted. If a student/athlete

were invited to participate in a nationally recognized tournament over a school vacation, then that waiver may be granted for that activity. If a student requests to miss practice every Friday because he/she is receiving specialized coaching from an outside team/coach, then a waiver should not be granted because it violates the spirit and intent of the rule.)

** This policy is not intended to restrict dual sport participation in schools that allow dual participation.

*** Penalty for violation of this policy:

1st Violation Suspension from play for one game/contest

2nd Violation Removal from team for remainder of season

EJECTION RULE

In all team and individual sports (varsity or sub-varsity), ejection or disqualification from a game, meet, or match for unsportsmanlike behavior of any form, by a coach or a player shall result in the suspension of that player or coach. The coach or player ejected from a contest must sit out all contests at all levels until the coach or athlete completes the ejection penalty by sitting out the next game at the level from which he/she was ejected. This rule applies to a game, meet, or match suspended before completion as well as a completed contest. This penalty may not be served by sitting out an exhibition, subvarsity, or other competition.

A suspended coach may not be present at the game site. Not being physically present at the site means the disqualified coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands, or site area before, during, or after the game/meet.

Prior to their return to play any player ejected from a game must complete the NFHS “*Sportsmanship*” video that is available at the NFHS website (www.nfhslearn.com).

Prior to their return to the sideline any coach ejected from a game must complete the NFHS “*Teaching and Modeling Behavior*” video that is available at the NFHS website (www.nfhslearn.com).

Any coach or player ejected from the last game, meet, or contest of a sports season shall serve a one game suspension in the opening countable game, meet, or contest in the next varsity sport in which he/she participates. The coach/athlete may participate fully in the preseason prior to serving the one game suspension.

Schools must complete the Ejection Report located on the MPA website after each ejection. Failure to report an ejection will result in a \$50.00 fine.

This policy will not prevent standing committees from imposing more restrictive disciplinary action. (Effective Date: 1996-97 Winter Sport Season; Revised 2008, 2009)

STATE BASKETBALL COMMISSION

The State Basketball Commission was established to better relations between schools and officials and improve officiating. The Commission will continue to work with the Coordinator of Basketball Officials on the selection of tournament officials.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Good sportsmanship banners will continue to be awarded but will be based on the process established by the MPA Sportsmanship Committee and will be initially based on regular season voting by member schools. However, the MPA basketball committee will continue to assess

sportsmanship using the same criteria as in the past to be used for two purposes: (1) to advise the sportsmanship committee regarding sportsmanship at the tournament and (2) to continue to inform schools regarding the sportsmanship of their teams, coaches, cheerleaders, band, and fans.

Good sportsmanship banners may be awarded to schools who exemplify good sportsmanship and good citizenship. The banner will be presented at each of the state championship games. It is expected that students and staff who accept the banner on behalf of their school will dress in a manner that reflects well upon them, their school and community, and the MPA.

For the basketball committee's role in the process, the following criteria will continue to be used:

- Players support their teammates on the court and from the bench.
- Players treating their opponents with respect, exhibiting no unnecessary roughness, taunting, or inappropriate gestures.
- Coaches and players exhibit appropriate and positive communication and neatness in attire.
- Coaches and players exhibit positive and appropriate behavior and communication toward game officials.
- School members and staff associated with the team exhibit positive and appropriate behavior. (Cheerleaders and band members are excluded from judgement.)
- Maintenance of facility by all school team personnel.

TOURNAMENT PRELIMINARY GAME INFORMATION

Officials for all MPA Hosted Tournament Playoff Games will be assigned by the Tournament Site Supervisor of Officials. For preliminary round games, host schools are asked to contact their local assignor with game details. Host schools will be notified of the officials as soon as possible.

The game time will be mutually agreed to by the two schools. If the two schools cannot agree, then 6:00pm will be the default time.

The host school is responsible for providing:

- a site manager
- game management support personnel
- a scorer
- a timer
- payment of all expenses.

The crew of the game officials, led by the Referee, are responsible for making all decisions pertaining to the rules of the game. As per MPA policy, the decisions at the game site will be final.

In the event of a postponement, contact the assigned officials and the assignor. **Games must be made up for the following day.**

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

All schools are reminded that weather is often inclement during Tournament Time. In anticipation of inclement weather, schools are urged to have contingency plans that may include traveling the day before or simply leaving early to ensure timely arrival at the tournament site.

Court Size

Beginning with the quarter-final games, all games at Bangor, Augusta and Portland sites will be played on a playing surface of 94 feet.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT SITES

South A & B

North A and South C, D, S

North B, C, D, S

Portland Expo & Cross Insurance Arena

Augusta Civic Center

Cross Insurance Center

Portland

Augusta

Bangor

TOURNAMENT PREPARATION

It is highly recommended that principals, athletic administrators, coaches, cheering advisors, and band directors meet prior to the tournament to discuss aspects of this Basketball Bulletin which pertains to everyone's role. It is also highly recommended that the student body be informed of policy regarding noisemakers, placards, signs, pennants, shakers on sticks, the parading of banners or signs, and appropriate language on signs/banners. Issues of appropriate behavior and dress should also be emphasized. These policies apply to the neutral sites in Augusta, Bangor, and Portland as well as playoff/preliminary sites.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

All preliminary rounds will be played at the site of the higher seeded school. A neutral site may be used with mutual agreement of the schools involved. When a school's court is less than regulation (84ft x 50ft) the game must be played on a neutral site, the visitor may not schedule a practice or scrimmage on that court.

ADMISSION

Admission to all tournament games is Adults \$12.00, Students and Senior Citizens (65) \$6.00 (this includes all on-line fees). All-Tourney tickets can be purchased at a reduced price at each site or by calling the MPA office.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The Basketball Committee requires that a member of the school administration (principal, assistant principal, athletic administrator, or designee) of each participating team be present at each game in which the school participates. This includes playoff/preliminary rounds. The committee further requires that the school administrators make themselves known to a member of the committee and sign in upon entering the tournament site prior to each tournament game. The Basketball Committee expects that the school administration will discuss appropriate and inappropriate fan behavior with their student body prior to tournament attendance. **An administrator, or their designee, from the school should position him/herself physically near the student section.**

TEAM PERSONNEL

Teams shall be limited to fifteen players in uniform. Other team personnel shall include — coaches, managers, statisticians, etc. At the discretion of school officials, a team may consist of less than fifteen players. Schools are permitted by no more than twenty-two (22) team personnel. The MPA Basketball Committee will provide seventeen (17) chairs. No more than five (5) adult coaches (non-high school students) may be on the bench. If a seat is available, the school trainer may sit on the bench and not be included as one of the five adult coaches. **Teams without an assistant coach must indicate a responsible adult, designated by the administrator present, to complete a tournament game if the head coach is ejected.**

Changes to tournament rosters must be made electronically prior to the first tournament game; changes made after the first tournament game must be requested of the committee chair, with verification by the participating principal. Each site will develop and implement a process for all team personnel to check in based upon the most recent eligibility roster for that school as filed electronically at the MPA office.

Schools are asked to notify the MPA athletic trainer and a member of the officiating crew if any team members or bench personnel have unique health issues.

Regional badges will be provided to participants and honored at all regional sites but will NOT be honored at state championship sites.

SCHOOL MEMBERS ONLY

Only high school-aged personnel, or 8th grade players if allowed, from schools participating in tournament competition will be allowed on the bench or on the floor as part of a team or cheerleading squad.

CHEERLEADERS

Cheerleaders are permitted to perform **sideline cheers only, tumbling and stunting are not allowed** at any time during the game, including during halftime. The use of props (pom-poms, signs, banners, megaphones) is allowable.

HALFTIME ROUTINES FOR BANDS AND CHEERLEADERS

Each school will be allotted a specified amount of time between the halves of each basketball game. Each individual school will determine how that time is divided between their cheerleaders and their school band.

Only cheerleaders may use the playing surface for their halftime routine. A cheerleading squad must leave the floor when the first team returns for warm-ups. Cheerleaders/bands of the lower seeded team will have the choice of performing first or second.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The opportunity to perform the National Anthem prior to the first game in each regional session will be offered in the following order: visitor band, home band, visiting high school student(s) singing, and home high school student(s) singing. Other school selected performer(s) will be considered only if neither school has a student band or singer(s) available.

During the first game in a state championship session, the opportunity to perform the National Anthem will be in the following order: home band, visitor band, home high school student(s) singing, and visiting high school student(s) singing. Other school selected performer(s) will be considered only if neither school has a school band or singer(s) available and home school will have the first opportunity.

The committee encourages proper respect during the National Anthem. Teams and bench personnel are asked to avoid such actions as the swinging of arms in unison.

SCHOOL BANDS

High school bands are admitted free to those games in which their school team is playing. Bands will not be allowed on the playing surface. Seventh and eighth graders may participate only in a 7-12 high school. All band members are to be dressed in uniforms or attire that is distinctive, but similar. Bands not dressed in such attire will NOT be allowed to participate. If, due to small numbers, schools wish to use adults in their band, a school must contact the appropriate sub-committee chair prior to the start of the tournament. It is understood that the school/individual will purchase a ticket for each adult for each session.

When possible, each tournament site will provide an appropriate area for band members to dress. Time should be allotted that is appropriate to a male/female/co-ed group's needs. In all sessions, schools are responsible for instruments, clothing, and valuables.

Playing time for bands will include pre-game, time-outs, and half-time. Bands will NOT play while the game is in progress. All, or individual, band instruments will NOT be utilized to accompany cheers which are offered while the game is in progress. Band Directors clear their bands from the playing site promptly at the end of the game.

No recorded pre-game music will be allowed if one or both school bands are present. Such recorded pre-game music will not be provided by anyone other than the site director.

STUDENT AND ADULT SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

- Bare-chested individuals are not allowed in any venue.
- Signs or banners may be attached to the facility walls with masking tape, provided they are not obscene, inappropriate, and do not contain profane language.
- Placards, signs, pennants, and shakers on sticks that restrict the view of other spectators or may be used as a missile or weapon are prohibited.
- The parading of banners or signs on or around the basketball court or in the stands is prohibited.
- Horns or noisemakers of any kind are not allowed.
- Only members of a recognized high school band representing one of the teams currently in competition may use musical instruments.
- Only members of a recognized high school cheering squad representing one of the teams currently in competition may use megaphones or other voice amplification devices.
- Any person throwing objects on the floor will be removed immediately from the venue.
- Security will be instructed to detain any student perceived to be under the influence of an illegal substance. They will then contact their parents.
- Mascots or other individuals are not allowed on the playing floor.

GAME BASKETBALLS

The Spalding basketball TF1000 Legacy and TF1000 Legacy 28.5 will be used in all regional and state tournament games. Warm-up balls will be provided by the MPA at all tournament venues.

PRACTICE AT REGIONAL SITE

No practice may occur at the tournament sites during the basketball season where the team will be competing **unless the site is the home court for the opposing team**. For the state final championship games, all visiting teams will be permitted the opportunity to have one practice.

WARM-UP PERIOD

There will be a fifteen-minute warm-up period prior to each tournament game.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME INFORMATION

SITES

<u>Class A:</u>	Augusta Civic Center
<u>Class C, D, & S:</u>	Cross Center, Bangor
<u>Class B:</u>	Cross Arena, Portland

OTHER POLICIES

All other information stated in this Bulletin under Regional Tournaments will be in effect for the State Championships.

BASKETBALL CLASSIFICATION

A South (16)	670+	B South (15)	450-669	C South (14)	225-449	D South (11)	100-224	S South (9)	0-99
Thornton	1,287	Marshwood	665	Mountain Valley	415	Mt. Abram	213	Valley	63
Portland^	1,146	Fryeburg	663	Spruce Mountain	407	Old Orchard Beach	203	Temple	60
Sanford	1,075	Freeport	629	Wells	400	Carrabec	196	Rangeley	52
Bonny Eagle	1,034	Morse	629	Oak Hill	389	Monmouth	188	Forest Hills	49
Deering^	1,033	Greely	613	Maranacook	369	Madison	167	Pine Tree	49
South Portland	990	Gray-NG	591	Winslow	367	Telstar	164	Greenville	41
Noble	940	Yarmouth	562	Lisbon	362	Boothbay	163	Islesboro	38
Windham	935	Lincoln	555	Traip	290	Buckfield	149	Vinalhaven	37
Scarborough	911	Leavitt	552	Mount View	288	Wiscasset	141	North Haven (G)	30
Massabesic	870	Medomak Valley	552	Sacopee Valley	281	NYA	140		
Gorham	813	Cape Elizabeth	511	Waynflete	254	Richmond	129		
Westbrook	704	York	503	Hall-Dale	251	Searsport	124		
Kennebunk	701	Lake Region	500	Dirigo	228				
Falmouth	695	Oceanside	498	Winthrop	226				
Biddeford	689	Poland	493						
Cheverus*	388								

A North (12)		B North (13)		C North (14)		D North (16)		S North (10)	
Lewiston	1,655	Cony	647	Foxcroft	431	Narraguagus	209	Deer Isle-Stonington	96
Edward Little	1,136	Nokomis	614	Caribou	422	Penquis Valley	178	Shead	91
Bangor	1,069	Gardiner	583	Houlton	382	Machias	168	Washburn	83
Oxford Hills	1,021	Hermon	556	Orono	365	Fort Fairfield	149	Katahdin	81
Hampden	749	Old Town	536	Bucksport	358	Piscataquis	143	Easton	74
Mt. Ararat	738	Erskine	533	Central	311	Woodland	140	Wisdom	73
Camden Hills	737	Lawrence	528	Washington Acad.	306	Hodgdon	138	Ashland	70
Brunswick	717	Ellsworth	522	Mattawcook	294	Stearns	132	Jonesport-Beals	63
Messalonskee	713	John Bapst	508	Dexter	273	Penobscot Valley	129	Van Buren	56
Skowhegan	696	Waterville	484	MCI	268	Lee	120	East Grand	43
Mt. Blue	694	MDI	476	George Stevens	254	Madawaska	117		
Brewer	693	Belfast	471	Fort Kent	251	Central Aroostook	115		
		Presque Isle	456	Sumner	238	Southern Aroostook	108		
				Calais	228	Bangor Christian	107		
						Schenck	105		