



# **POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR**

## **BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**2025-26**



### **NHIAA BASKETBALL COMMITTEE**

Sean Moynihan, Chair, Sunapee; Sheila Colson, Spaulding; Mike Curtis, White Mountains;  
Jay Darrah, Pittsfield; Jamie Hayes, Newmarket; Gary Jenness, Supervisor, Lancaster;  
Matt Jordan, Pittsburg; Jeff Miller, Newport; Dave Smith, Coe Brown, Mike Soucy, Pelham

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## **POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. **Exception to Reschedule into the Last Week of the Season:** If for some reason, a game must be moved into the last week of the season a letter, prior to the game being played, must be submitted to and received by the Chair of the Committee through the NHIAA Executive Director by both schools outlining the reason(s) for the request. **Any game that has been approved for play during the last week of the season must be played by the last date to play. No extension of the season will be granted. In the event the game(s) are not played both teams will be issued forfeit losses.**
2. **Arm Sleeves/ Knee Sleeves**  
Per NFHS Rule 3-5-3; are permissible without a medical release.
3. NFHS Basketball Rule 3; Section 5: Art. 2 – Guards, casts, braces and compression sleeves must meet the following guidelines:
  - a. A guard, cast or brace made of a hard and unyielding substance, such as, but not limited to, leather, plaster, plastic or metal shall not be worn on the elbow, hand, finger/thumb, wrist or forearm; even though covered with soft padding.
  - b. Hard and unyielding items (guards, casts, braces, etc.) on the upper arm or shoulder must be padded with a closed-cell, slow recovery foam padding no less than ½” thick.
  - c. Knee and ankle braces which are unaltered from the manufacturer’s original design/production are permitted and do not require any additional padding/covering. Note: A brace is defined as anything worn for a medical purpose to increase stability. In general, it is made of neoprene or elastic knit with an insert embedded to support the joint. It may or may not have a hinge and/or straps or an opening over the kneecap.
  - d. A protective face mask may be worn and made of hard material but must be worn molded to the face with no protrusions.
  - e. Must be worn for medical reasons.
4. The NHIAA Basketball Committee has approved extending the warm-up time to 15 minutes before both varsity and sub-varsity games.
5. **Concussion Statement:**  
The NHIAA mandates the following of the NFHS guidelines for management of Concussions. Concussions: Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional. For additional information and potential symptoms, please be sure to visit By-Law Article III; Sports Medicine: Sect. 13: Concussions and the New Hampshire SB402 and its language as written.
6. NFHS Rule 2-11-12 - The official scorer is required to wear **or drape** a black-and-white vertically striped garment.

7. Warmups are subject to the same NFHS restrictions as team uniforms and cannot have advertising on them.

## **8. FORMS TO BE SUBMITTED:**

1. 2025-26 Girls & Boys Rosters and Photos Division III – Monday, February 9, 2026
2. 2025-26 Girls & Boys Rosters and Photos Division IV – Monday, February 16, 2026
3. 2025-26 Girls & Boys Rosters and Photos Division I – Thursday, February 19, 2026
4. 2025-26 Girls & Boys Rosters and Photos Division II – Monday, February 23, 2026
5. NHIAA Tournament Awards Roster (if applicable)
6. Basketball Tournament Records Report Form – Friday, May 1, 2026
7. Basketball Statistic Form for Each Post-Season Game – Due Upon Conclusion of Game

*All forms can be accessed through a “Forms” link in the athletic director’s administration area of the NHIAA website. Once accessed and filled out, please email the forms to [rmisiaszek@nhiaa.org](mailto:rmisiaszek@nhiaa.org). Do not follow-up with hard copies.*

## **9. TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS:**

The maximum number of teams allowed per By-Law Article IV: Classification; Sect. 10: Tournament Selection Requirements will qualify for the boys and girls tournament.

## **10. NFHS Rule 12-2-1 – EQUIPMENT WORN OF HEAD FOR MEDICAL OR RELIGIOUS REASONS**

Specific procedures have been established for allowing a head covering to be worn for medical or religious reasons. A player who is required to wear a head covering for medical or religious reasons must provide a physician’s statement or appropriate documented evident to the state association for approval. If approved, the state association shall provide written authorization to the school to be made available to officials. States are at liberty to determine the system for approval that works best in that state.

- NOTE: Schools are reminded athletes should have this PRIOR to games.

## **11. NFHS Basketball Rules Changes: 2025-26**

4-22-1 & 2: This change removes the offensive team from goaltending violations, simplifying enforcement for officials and reducing ambiguity over whether a ball was a shot or a pass. It also encourages more scoring opportunities and minimizes confusion for players and coaches.

Rationale: The change eliminates the possibility of an offensive goaltending violation, which simplifies the rule for officials and players. It removes the need to judge whether a ball in flight is a try or a pass, resulting in clearer enforcement, greater consistency, and more opportunities for scoring plays near the basket.

4-22-3 (NEW): This rule change establishes that once the ball contacts the backboard, it is automatically considered to be on its downward flight. Therefore, if a player touches the ball after it hits the backboard, and the ball has a possibility of entering the basket, it is ruled as goaltending. This clarification helps protect legitimate shot attempts, reduces rough rebounding situations, and addresses a common rules misconception among coaches and players. It provides officials with a clearer standard for enforcing goaltending in backboard-related plays.

Rationale: This change enhances officiating clarity and protects legitimate shot attempts. It also addresses a common misconception among coaches and players by explicitly defining goaltending, leading to more consistent enforcement.

4-34-1: This rule change updates the definition of a player to clarify that a player is one of the five team members legally on the court at any given time, except during time-outs or intermissions.

The change ensures consistency in rule enforcement by recognizing that it is difficult to distinguish between players, substitutes, and bench personnel during time-outs and intermissions. This clarification also supports the accountability of coaches for all team conduct during these periods and helps avoid misapplication of penalties such as technical fouls.

Rationale: This change ensures consistent enforcement of penalties for unsporting conduct by bench personnel. It allows officials to issue technical fouls to bench personnel during time-outs, aligning with the current rules for intermissions. It eliminates confusion and potential misapplication of rules and ensures fair and consistent enforcement of penalties for unsporting behavior, regardless of the individual's role.

7-5-4: This rule change updates the procedure for determining the designated throw-in spot following a stoppage of play (not due to the ball going out of bounds) in the frontcourt. Instead of relying on an imaginary line, officials now use existing court markings, specifically the three-point line, to determine the location. This change improves accuracy, consistency, and clarity for officials by using visible floor markings rather than imaginary lines, which were often misjudged.

Rationale: By using the visible three-point line as the line of demarcation, officials will have a clearer and more consistent method for determining throw-in locations. This improves accuracy and reduces confusion, resulting in more reliable throw-ins.

9-2-12 & 9-3-4 (NEW): This rule change addresses situations where a thrower purposely and/or deceitfully delays returning inbound after legally stepping out of bounds and then becomes the first player to touch the ball upon re-entering the court. Previously penalized as a technical foul, this action is now treated as a violation, aligning it with similar out-of-bounds scenarios. The change reduces the severity of the penalty to encourage more consistent enforcement by officials and prevents players from gaining an unfair advantage through deceptive re-entry tactics.

Rationale: This change lessens the penalty for players who delay their return after being out of bounds, shifting the penalty from a technical foul to a less severe violation. This rule aligns with the penalty structure of similar violations, such as Rule 9-3-3 (where a player steps out of bounds on their own volition). The change is intended to make it easier for officials to recognize and penalize these actions consistently while reducing the severity of the penalty, encouraging more accurate enforcement.

10-4-4b: This rule prohibits players from illegally contacting the backboard or ring in ways that create an unfair advantage or interfere with a scoring attempt. This rule is designed to maintain fair play and protect the integrity of scoring opportunities by penalizing actions affecting the outcome of a shot, with a technical foul.

Rationale: The rule change aims to standardize and clarify the enforcement of basket interference, leading to fairer outcomes and more consistent officiating. The removal of subjective judgments around intent allows for clearer rulings and better alignment with current game dynamics.

4-6-1a & b (NEW): This rule change clarifies and expands the definition of basket interference to include additional actions that unfairly affect the ball while it is in a scoring position. Basket interference now occurs when a player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the backboard or basket to vibrate, while the ball is on or within the basket, touching the backboard, or within the cylinder.

Rationale: This clarification helps officials consistently identify interference that affects scoring plays and ensures the integrity of the basket area during shot attempts.

#### 2025-26 Basketball Editorial Changes

4-19-3c, 4-47, 5.2.1 SITUATION C, 6-3-2a, 6-3-5b, 10-5-2

#### 2025-26 Basketball Points of Emphasis

1. Bench Decorum and Communication
2. Faking Being Fouled
3. Contact on the Ball Handler

# ***Basketball Policy and Procedures Manual***

## **1. AUTHORIZATION:**

The NHIAA Basketball Committee shall administer basketball and the rules of the National Federation will govern the sport when applicable.

## **2. PARTICIPATION (BLA XVI; Sect. 5):**

To avoid increased injury risk, it is recommended that athletes play no more than six (6) quarters in one (1) day. Administrators and coaches should monitor quarters played per day. Athletes who participate in more than six (6) quarters per day should be closely monitored by coaches, administrators, and/or medical personnel (i.e. Athletic Trainers, etc). (CM 5.2023)

## **3. MERCY RULE ALL DIVISIONS (BLA XVI; Sect. 8)**

A mercy rule will be in effect for all divisions. Running time will go into effect when a lead of 35 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, and stop for free-throws and time-outs. Upon reaching the 35 point differential, the clock will remain running for the duration of the period and stop only for time-outs and free throws. Should the point differential drop below 35 point during running time, the clock will continue to run for the remainder of the game.

## **4. COMPLETED SCHEDULE AND FORFEIT:**

All teams must complete their entire schedule submitted to the NHIAA. Any scheduled game(s) not played must be reported (in writing by both schools) to the NHIAA immediately. If a scheduled game can't be played both teams shall receive a forfeit loss.

## **5. MAKE-UP GAMES:**

Make-up games may not be scheduled into the last week of the season. The only games that can be played during the last week of the season are games on the original schedules submitted to the NHIAA.

**Exception to Reschedule into the Last Week of the Season:** If for some reason, a game must be moved into the last week of the season a letter, prior to the game being played, must be submitted to and received by the Chair of the Committee through the NHIAA Executive Director by both schools outlining the reason(s) for the request. **Any game that has been approved for play during the last week of the season must be played by the last date to play. No extension of the season will be granted. In the event the game(s) are not played both teams will be issued forfeit losses.**

## **6. ADMISSION CHARGES:**

Please refer to NHIAA By-Law Article I; Policy Sect. 18: Admission Fees for NHIAA Tournament Events.

## **7. MOUTH PROTECTOR RULE:**

The NHIAA highly recommends the use of mouthguards in basketball. Refer to By-Law Article III: Sports Medicine; Sect. 8: Mouth Guards.

## **8. CONCUSSION HEADBANDS/Q-COLLAR:**

The permissive use of concussion headbands/q-collars are not a violation of the NFHS Basketball Rules, therefore, any student athlete wishing to compete while wearing a either of these should be allowed to do so without obtaining a waiver from the NHIAA office.

## **9. ROSTERS:**

Each school will be allowed 21 individuals with no more than 15 of them being players in uniform. The remainder of the roster will include one (1) head coach, three (3) assistant coaches and two (2) managers, the principal and athletic director. If a team is going to make the tournament, a team photo (in uniform, no mascots allowed) MUST be submitted.

## **10. COACHING BOXES:**

The box will be approximately 14 feet beginning at the bench nearest the score's table and extend toward the end line. The floor will not have to be marked for this modification.

## **11. OFFICIALS:**

Officials duly registered with the NHIAA will officiate at all games. The Basketball Committee will assign officials to tournament games. Officials must officiate a minimum of ten (10) regular season varsity games in order to be considered eligible for initial selection to officiate tournament games. Discretion of the supervisor can be utilized if less than 10 games officiated along with approval of the basketball chair.

**\*Coaches are encouraged to contact their Athletic Director in regard to the officials feedback form.**

## **12. RADIO/TELEVISION BROADCASTING:**

Sponsors of telecasts must not be persons or businesses involved with tobacco and alcoholic beverages and related products.

Regular Season Events: There is no NHIAA jurisdiction over regular season telecasting of high school athletic competition.

Tournament Events: For tournament events held at the site of the higher seeded team, the Athletic Director or Game Director is to be contacted directly to make the necessary broadcasting arrangements. When games are held at neutral sites, a list of appropriate contact persons will be provided. No NHIAA tournament event may be televised "live" unless under contract with the Association. The NHIAA has the current listing of the tournament events to be televised "live" under contract for the current year.

Cablevision stations will not be allowed to broadcast during contracted "live" broadcast, but may purchase the broadcast directly from the station for a fee of \$150.00. Cablevision broadcast fees for tape delayed broadcast are set at \$100 for all events other than the stipulation above. There is no fee for a non-commercial broadcast by a member school owned and operated, non-profit television station and for public access, non-commercial, non-profit community access television stations.

The following rules apply for stations covering tournament events for newscast programs:

- A. There is no fee for such televising.
- B. There may not be live coverage of any kind during game or meet action. "Live coverage" is defined as any activity, which occurs while a game, or meet is in progress. Stations may use a backdrop of live action for reporters from a tournament facility provided there is not play-by-play commentary and the report is limited to one (1) regularly scheduled news or sports program and two (2) no more than five (5) minutes of a program which is 30 minutes or less in length.
- C. Use of film, videotape, etc., is limited to regularly scheduled news or sports programs, and use on such programs is limited to no more than five minutes of a program which is 30 minutes in length. Unless written approval is received from the NHIAA, use of more than five minutes of film, videotape, etc., beyond five days from the last day of a tournament is prohibited outside of regularly scheduled news and sports broadcasts.

## **13. SPORTSMANSHIP TAUNTING:**

Taunting in all sports is a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul which shall result in the ejection of the participant



from that day of competition, plus the next day of scheduled competition.

Taunting is defined as:

"Any actions or comments by coaches, players, or other game personnel which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is contact that berates, needles, intimidates, or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal matters."

Examples of taunting that would lead to ejection include, but are not limited to "trash talk", physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game, reference to sexual orientation; "in the face" confrontations by one player to another; standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player.

***NOTE: This policy reinforces the responsibility of game officials, site managers, and game directors during regular season and NHIAA Tournament play.***

Every administrator and coach whose school participates in a tournament is charged with the important role of teaching the highest principles and standards of behavior. The school administration should never overlook any opportunity to remind and emphasize, tactfully, the need and value of proper respect of the opponents with regard to their organized cheering activities and any banners or placards which they might display, the decisions of the game officials, and the importance of desirable and proper conduct both at home and away. Every Administrator and coach should hold in mind that every coach must rely on the conduct and sportsmanship of the students and spectators from all schools. Your influence and prompting will be reflected by the action of your followers.

We are sure that you concur with the Basketball Committee in its belief that tournament coaches to promote the highest principles of sportsmanship in tournament games should exert considerable effort. You are urged to give the officials your utmost cooperation in helping them to keep rowdiness and unsportsmanship to a minimum, or if there are some who desire to view the games while under the influence of intoxicating beverages, they will be evicted from the gymnasium.

Any school participating in an NHIAA Tournament contest shall appoint a school designated adult representative to be in attendance at the tournament. The designated representative shall be appointed by the Principal and shall not be the coach for that sport. The designated school representative must identify himself/herself to the game director upon arrival at the tournament event. He/she shall be available throughout the event with the responsibility of identifying and assisting the game director when corrective action is necessary to control incidents of poor sportsmanship involving their school.

#### **14. MEDIA:**

Media (print and electronic) have been issued "media" passes to all tournament events. Electronic media, (radio, television, cable television) are to sign-in with the press gate supervisor at all events.

#### **15. SCORER'S NOTIFICATION OF "BONUS":**

The bonus is the two free throws awarded for a common foul (except a player-control or team-control foul) as follows:

- a. Beginning with a team's fifth foul in each quarter, two free throws are awarded, regardless of whether or not the first free throw is successful.
- b. Team fouls will be reset to zero at the end of each quarter.

Scorers must understand this rule and consequently convey the information to the officials. If an error is made in awarding the correct number of free throws, it may be corrected within the limits allowed in NFHS Rule 2-11.

#### **16. MEDICAL COVERAGE AT ATHLETIC EVENTS (By-Law Article III, Sect. 1):**



The importance of the long-range safety of high school athletes cannot be overstated. Consequently, the NHIAA and its member schools will favor medical safety over any other countervailing concerns including competitive advantage. Every high school in New Hampshire must make provisions for **licensed** medical personnel at all practices and contests. The types of provisions that are acceptable are (the provisions are in alphabetical order, not preferential order):

- A. Athletic Trainer
- B. Board Certified Sports Physical Therapist
- C. Emergency Medical Technician
- D. Nurse
- E. Nurse Practitioner
- F. Physician
- G. Physician Assistant
- H. Systems developed to call medical personnel to the site of the athletic event

At the athletic competitions where medical coverage is either provided or mandated by the NHIAA, injuries sustained by athletes will be evaluated by the designated medical personnel. The clearance to re-enter competition after an injury will be made by the designated medical personnel only. Absent unanimous agreement between the designated medical personnel to allow continued participation, an injured player will not be allowed to return to the game. Their decision is final and cannot be overturned by the coach, coaching staff, parents/guardians, or any non-designated personnel.

When the NHIAA provides qualified medical personnel and member schools also provide qualified medical personnel, it is expressly understood that the NHIAA provider shall defer to the school designated qualified medical personnel if requested. If the member school does not provide qualified medical personnel or if no deferral is requested, the NHIAA provider will act as the designated medical personnel. In choosing who should act as the designated medical personnel, all medical personnel are expected to act in the best interests of the student athletes and participate to the extent that his or her expertise will increase the quality of the care delivered. Prior to the start of the event the NHIAA assigned medical personnel, in conjunction with the designated site manager, should review this requirement and determine the procedures/chain of command to be identified during the event to ensure compliance with the provisions stated in this By-Law.

Note: Student trainers, high school or college, cannot be used to meet the provisions of this By-Law.

## **17. BLOOD SPILLAGE AND BODY FLUIDS:**

The NHIAA Sports Medicine Committee suggests that each school develop a local policy in cooperation with their local medical personnel, on how to handle blood spillage.

### **Housekeeping Procedures for Blood and Body Fluids**

Disposable latex gloves should be worn to avoid contamination of the hands of the person cleaning spillages involving blood or other body fluids and secretions. Persons involved in cleaning contaminated surfaces should avoid exposure of open skin lesions or mucous membranes to blood or body fluids. A freshly prepared solution of dilute household bleach (one quarter cup of bleach diluted in one gallon of water) or other disinfectant labeled as *virucidal*, *Tuberculocidal*, *staphylocidal* is useful. Allow the disinfectant to stand wet for a minimum of one minute to start killing pathogens and disinfecting the area (10 minutes of disinfection time guarantees surface sterility). Whenever possible, disposable towels, tissues, and gloves should be used and properly discarded and mops should be rinsed in disinfectant.

NFHS Rule 3, Sect. 3. Article 7: A player who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the game until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to competition, unless a time-out is requested by, and granted to, his/her team and the situation can be corrected by the end of the time-out.

#### **18. NHIAA SITE SELECTION CRITERIA POLICY:**

NHIAA Sports Committees will make every effort to provide sites with the following criteria in mind. The criteria are not listed in order of priority.

- A. If the home team cannot fulfill all criteria necessary to host a tournament game, including charging an admission fee for the preliminary or quarterfinal games, the school shall locate another site or forfeit the home court advantage.
- B. Health and safety of participants.
- C. Comfort and safety of spectators (including adequate seating and parking, and restrooms).
- D. Handicapped accessible for spectators.
- E. Relative travel requirements of participating schools.
- F. The ability to sell, collect and account for ticket sales.
  - The home of the higher seed's principal or designee will be in contact with the visiting school to reach an agreeable number of tickets to be reserved for each game.
- G. Playing surfaces must meet the requirements as established for that sport.
- H. Facility rental charge (if applicable).
- I. Sufficient parking.
- J. Other costs associated with running the event.
  - 1. Public Safety – Approximate costs
  - 2. Custodial
- K. Receptivity and cooperativeness of personnel working at site.
- L. Provide concessions (Facility keeps all sales).
- M. Provide area for NHIAA memorabilia sales.
- N. Adequate seating to accommodate attendance for the scheduled event based on past NHIAA attendance numbers and the rivalry of two schools.

Once the playoff team selections have been made, a Basketball Committee member appointed by the Committee Chair and the Executive Director shall make contact with the athletic director at the host school to determine if the criteria set forth above have been satisfied. If there are concerns or questions the committee member and Executive Director may visit the site. In the event the home school fails to meet the criteria the other school will be contacted to determine if they can properly host the game. Should neither school satisfy the Committee requirements, the Committee will set out to find an appropriate neutral site. If it is determined that a school does not meet the criteria or cannot meet the criteria to host the game, the school has the right to appeal the decision to a sub-committee comprised of three members appointed by the Basketball Committee Chair prior to the start of the tournament events. The decision of this sub-committee will be final and cannot be appealed further.

#### **19. JEWELRY AND BODY PIERCING RULE:**

No jewelry, which includes body-piercing objects, shall be worn. Religious or medical alert medals must be properly secured under the uniform.

#### **20. NFHS AUTHENTICATING MARK:**

All game balls at all levels of play shall have the NFHS Authenticating Mark imprinted.

The following procedure is to be followed:

- A. Prior to the start of the game the head official is to inspect the game ball(s) to ensure the NFHS Authenticating Mark is imprinted. If the home team's ball does not have the mark the visiting team's ball with the Authenticating Mark is to be used.
- B. In the event neither ball has the mark, the game is to be played and the head game official is to report the matter to the Supervisor of Officials, who in turn will notify the NHIAA office.

#### **21. NOISEMAKERS:**

The playing of musical instruments and/or amplified music while the game is in progress shall be prohibited. The only time that a game is not “in progress” after it has started is during a time-out or during between periods and halftime.

Possession and/or the use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited at all time during the NHIAA regular season and tournament games.

The official interpretation of an artificial noisemaker is being any object that is used to manufacture noise by contact with another object or surface. **No “rally sticks” allowed.**

## **22. BENCH PERSONNEL:**

For liability reasons Below Grade Nine students/children are not allowed to be on the team benches or on the sidelines at any regular season and tournament contest.

## **23. PHOTOGRAPHS:**

All photographs submitted to the NHIAA for the tournament programs must meet the following criteria:

- a. Photographs can be black and white or in color and no bigger than 8x10.
- b. Each team member must be identified in the photograph (including players, coaches and managers).
- c. Players must be **IN A TEAM UNIFORM** with the shirt number exposed.

**In order to be included in the tournament program, all pictures and rosters must be received at the NHIAA Office by the following dates:**

1. 2025-26 Girls & Boys Rosters and Photos Division III – Monday, February 9, 2026
2. 2025-26 Girls & Boys Rosters and Photos Division IV – Monday, February 16, 2026
3. 2025-26 Girls & Boys Rosters and Photos Division I – Thursday, February 19, 2026
4. 2025-26 Girls & Boys Rosters and Photos Division II – Monday, February 23, 2026
5. NHIAA Tournament Awards Roster (if applicable)
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## **24. DISQUALIFIED ATHLETE:**

A Disqualified athlete is not to be sent to the locker room or off the court unsupervised. If no supervision is available the disqualified athlete shall remain on the bench and become the coach’s responsibility to supervise.

## **25. TRAINERS:**

Schools requesting medical services are to provide the necessary supplies for the trainer at all regular season and tournament games.

## **26. NFHS Rule 12-2-1 – EQUIPMENT WORN OF HEAD FOR MEDICAL OR RELIGIOUS REASONS**

Specific procedures have been established for allowing a head covering to be worn for medical or religious reasons. A player who is required to wear a head covering for medical or religious reasons must provide a physician’s statement or appropriate documented evident to the state association for approval. If approved, the state association shall provide written authorization to the school to be made available to officials. States are at liberty to determine the system for approval that works best in that state.

## 27. Divisional Alignment

Boys and girls basketball shall be aligned into four (4) divisions based upon enrollments and petitions

### BOYS BASKETBALL

| DIV. I (900+)   |      | DIV. II (501-899) |     | DIV. III (281-500) |     | DIV. IV (1-280)      |     |
|-----------------|------|-------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| 22 Schools      |      | 20 Schools        |     | 22 Schools         |     | 24 Schools           |     |
| Pinkerton       | 3079 | Oyster River      | 844 | Monadnock          | 499 | Newmarket            | 280 |
| Nashua South    | 1704 | Man. West         | 781 | Stevens            | 499 | Franklin             | 272 |
| Nashua North    | 1626 | Merrimack Valley  | 763 | Gilford            | 492 | Mascenic             | 260 |
| Concord         | 1464 | Pembroke          | 756 | Fall Mountain      | 490 | Farmington           | 233 |
| Dover           | 1417 | Hollis/Brookline  | 750 | Kearsarge          | 485 | Epping               | 221 |
| Bedford         | 1404 | Kingswood         | 746 | Prospect Mountain  | 410 | Profile              | 221 |
| Spaulding       | 1390 | Kennett           | 707 | Somersworth        | 406 | Littleton            | 214 |
| Exeter          | 1384 | Milford           | 698 | Winnisquam         | 403 | Woodsville           | 212 |
| Man. Memorial   | 1365 | Souhegan          | 693 | Newfound           | 394 | Portsmouth Christian | 178 |
| Keene           | 1341 | Hanover           | 689 | Hillsboro-Deering  | 382 | Hinsdale             | 164 |
| Londonderry     | 1291 | Coe-Brown         | 662 | White Mountains    | 375 | Nute                 | 161 |
| Man. Central    | 1161 | Con-Val           | 658 | Conant             | 373 | Pittsfield           | 161 |
| Merrimack       | 1102 | Plymouth          | 651 | Belmont            | 360 | Gorham               | 141 |
| Salem           | 1096 | John Stark        | 648 | Campbell           | 356 | Moultonborough       | 141 |
| Winnacunnet     | 1073 | Lebanon           | 618 | St. Thomas Aquinas | 354 | Sunapee              | 132 |
| Goffstown       | 1043 | Bow               | 611 | Berlin             | 348 | Wilton-Lyndeborough  | 131 |
| Alvirne         | 1025 | Laconia           | 590 | Raymond            | 343 | Pittsburg-Canaan     | 129 |
| Portsmouth      | 1024 | Pelham            | 556 | Mascoma            | 342 | Groveton             | 119 |
| Windham         | 995  | Sanborn           | 524 | Hopkinton          | 300 | Concord Christian    | 114 |
| Timberlane      | 986  | *Bishop Brady     | 261 | Newport            | 292 | Colebrook            | 112 |
| *Bishop Guertin | 771  |                   |     | Derryfield         | 291 | Lisbon               | 81  |
| *Trinity        | 327  |                   |     | Inter-Lakes        | 285 | Lin-Wood             | 77  |
|                 |      |                   |     |                    |     | Holy Family          | 66  |
|                 |      |                   |     |                    |     | Mount Royal          | 49  |
|                 |      |                   |     |                    |     |                      |     |
| *Petition       |      |                   |     |                    |     |                      |     |

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

| DIV. I (900+)      |      | DIV. II (501-899) |     | DIV. III (281-500) |     | DIV. IV (1-280)      |     |
|--------------------|------|-------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| 23. Schools        |      | 20 Schools        |     | 21 Schools         |     | 23 Schools           |     |
| Pinkerton          | 3079 | Oyster River      | 844 | Monadnock          | 499 | Newmarket            | 280 |
| Man. Central-West  | 1942 | Merrimack Valley  | 763 | Stevens            | 499 | Franklin             | 272 |
| Nashua South       | 1704 | Pembroke          | 756 | Gilford            | 492 | Mascenic             | 260 |
| Nashua North       | 1626 | Hollis/Brookline  | 750 | Fall Mountain      | 490 | Farmington           | 233 |
| Concord            | 1464 | Kingswood         | 746 | Kearsarge          | 485 | Epping               | 221 |
| Dover              | 1417 | Kennett           | 707 | Prospect Mountain  | 410 | Profile              | 221 |
| Bedford            | 1404 | Milford           | 698 | Somersworth        | 406 | Littleton            | 214 |
| Spaulding          | 1390 | Souhegan          | 693 | Winnisquam         | 403 | Woodsville           | 212 |
| Exeter             | 1384 | Hanover           | 689 | Newfound           | 394 | Portsmouth Christian | 178 |
| Man. Memorial      | 1365 | Coe-Brown         | 662 | Hillsboro-Deering  | 382 | Hinsdale             | 164 |
| Keene              | 1341 | Con-Val           | 658 | White Mountains    | 375 | Nute                 | 161 |
| Londonderry        | 1291 | Plymouth          | 651 | Conant             | 373 | Pittsfield           | 161 |
| Merrimack          | 1102 | John Stark        | 648 | Belmont            | 360 | Gorham               | 141 |
| Salem              | 1096 | Lebanon           | 618 | Campbell           | 356 | Moultonborough       | 141 |
| Winnacunnet        | 1073 | Bow               | 611 | St. Thomas Aquinas | 354 | Sunapee              | 132 |
| Goffstown          | 1043 | Laconia           | 590 | Berlin             | 348 | Wilton-Lyndeborough  | 131 |
| Alvirne            | 1025 | Pelham            | 556 | Raymond            | 343 | Pittsburg-Canaan     | 129 |
| Portsmouth         | 1024 | Sanborn           | 524 | Mascoma            | 342 | Groveton             | 119 |
| Windham            | 995  | *Derryfield       | 291 | Hopkinton          | 300 | Colebrook            | 112 |
| Timberlane         | 986  | *Bishop Brady     | 261 | Newport            | 292 | Lisbon               | 81  |
| *Bishop Guertin    | 771  |                   |     | Inter-Lakes        | 285 | Lin-Wood             | 77  |
| *Trinity           | 327  |                   |     |                    |     | Holy Family          | 66  |
| *Concord Christian | 114  |                   |     |                    |     | Mount Royal          | 49  |
|                    |      |                   |     |                    |     |                      |     |
| *Petition          |      |                   |     |                    |     |                      |     |

# **Tournament**

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL**



Prepared by the NHIAA Basketball Committee

1. **GAME BALLS:**

The Boys Basketball “Wilson, Evolution WTB0516” and Girls Basketball “Wilson, Evolution WTB0586” are the official tournament balls of the NHIAA.

**TEAMS MUST BRING PRACTICE BALLS TO ALL NEUTRAL SITE VENUES (University of New Hampshire, Keene State College, and Colby Sawyer College).**

2. **TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS:**

The maximum number of teams allowed per By-Law Article IV: Classification; Sect. 10: Tournament Selection Requirements will qualify for the boys and girls tournament.

3. **SEEDING BRACKETS:**

- Once the official NHIAA Tournament Pairings have been released, there will be no switching of bracket placements.
- Game times (not date) may be adjusted at tournament contests held at the home of the higher seed, if both teams are agreeable.
- At neutral sites there shall be **NO** date or time changes with two (2) exceptions:
  - A. Graduation Exercises
  - B. Weather and/or facility issues

4. **PASSES:**

Tournament passes will be distributed in accordance with By Law Article I, Sect. 12. Competitors will be identified through the Tournament Program at the Pass Gates at all neutral sites for the session in which they are playing.

5. **SCORER'S TABLE AT STATE TOURNAMENT:**

The following priorities shall govern seating at this table:

- The official timer - adult
- The official scorer - adult
- Assistant scorer - adult
- Public Address Announcer - adult

6. **SCOREBOOK:**

The NHIAA Basketball Committee will provide the official scorebook for each contest. Please plan to have your teams' scorer sit near the scoring table to assist the NHIAA official scorer.

7. **OFFICIALS' FEES (POST-SEASON):**

Officials shall be paid by the NHIAA via a check, do not pay out of gate receipts.

8. **OFFICIALS' ROOMS:**

Rooms for the officials who will officiate the games will be provided and will serve as a dressing/lounging room. All visitors, except official tournament personnel, will be excluded from the officials' dressing room during the entire program.

- The Game Director is to assign personnel to escort the tournament officials to their room during the half time break and at the completion of the game.

9. **TOURNAMENT TRAINERS:**

Trainers shall be required to be on duty at neutral tournament sites one half (1/2) hour before the contest begins. Schools requesting medical services are to provide the necessary supplies for the trainer.



10. **DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES:**

Teams will be assigned dressing rooms upon their arrival for the game. Do not allow the players to leave their valuables in the locker rooms.

11. **LINE UP FORMS:**

Sufficient line up forms are provided for each school in the tournament. The form, signed by the coach, must be presented to the official scorer at all neutral sites upon the team's arrival at the site. The form cannot be altered after presentation to the official scorer.

12. **PRACTICE SESSIONS:**

In accordance with By Law Article I, Sect. 24: Practice at State Tournament Sites, "No practice is allowed at the site of the state tournaments ten days prior to the start of the tournament except when that site is the HOME site of a participating school. The home team may practice according to their usual home schedule."

13. **BENCH OCCUPANTS:**

- During a contest, a maximum of 21 individuals will be allowed in the bench area. Of the 21 persons, no more than 15 of them will be players.
- At all neutral sites, the home team (light uniforms) shall occupy the bench to the right of the official scorer as he normally faces the playing floor. The visiting team (dark uniforms) shall occupy the bench to the left of the official scorer. Teams will not change player benches during the contest. Each team's first half basket is the one furthest from the bench.

*Bench Personnel:*

For liability reasons Below Grade Nine students/children are not allowed to be on the team benches or on the sidelines at any regular season and tournament contest.

14. **COACHING BOXES:**

The box will be of approximately 14 feet beginning at the bench nearest the score's table and extend toward the end line. The floor will not have to be marked for this modification.

15. **PRE- GAME WARM-UPS:**

For Preliminaries and Quarterfinals (Home of the Higher Seed):

The game courts will be cleared one hour prior to the game. 30 minutes prior to game time will be allocated for stretching purposes with the last 15 minutes allocated for warmups with the use of basketballs.

For Semifinals and Finals:

15 minutes prior to start time will be allocated for pre-game warmups.

**\*TEAMS MUST BRING PRACTICE BALLS TO ALL NEUTRAL SITE VENUES**  
(Colby-Sawyer College, Keene State College, and UNH).

16. **PRE GAME CEREMONIES: (Introductions)**

To further enhance good sportsmanship by setting a positive tone for the games, the following policy is in effect for all tournament games at ALL rounds. The introductions of the starting line ups will be as follows: (Coaches are expected to instruct their players on this procedure.)

- A. The starting team players will be alternated in their introduction PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME.
- B. After the players have been introduced, the opposing coaches will meet at the scorer's table and shake hands.
- C. The National Anthem will be played prior to the start of all games.

D. At the preliminary and quarterfinal round of the tournament, the home team shall be responsible for providing the playing of the National Anthem. At neutral tournament sites, the NHIAA Basketball Committee shall have the responsibility of providing the playing of the National Anthem.

- If a tournament team wishes to provide the service at a neutral site, a request must be made to the NHIAA Executive Director at least 24 hours before the game. Again, the Basketball Committee reserves the right to select the presentation of the Anthem.
- The NHIAA Basketball Committee encourages schools to institute this procedure for regular season games as well as for tournament games.

17. **PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM:**

The public address system will be under the control of the NHIAA Game Director who will also be responsible for all announcements to be made over the sound system.

18. **NOISEMAKERS:**

- The playing of musical instruments and/or amplified music while the game is in progress shall be prohibited. The only time that a game is not “in progress” after it has started is during a time-out or during between periods and halftime.
- Possession and/or the use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited at all times during the NHIAA tournament games.
  - The official interpretation of an artificial noisemaker is being any object that is used to manufacture noise by contact with another object or surface. No “rally sticks” allowed.

19. **FIFTY/FIFTY (50/50) RAFFLES:**

Fifty/Fifty drawings are permitted by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA); at the site of an NHIAA member school hosting any round of an NHIAA tournament event (s). Fifty-fifty raffles will not be permitted at "neutral sites" that are not NHIAA Member School sites.

20. **1000 POINT SCORES:**

The game shall not be stopped to recognize a 1000-point scorer at any time during a tournament game at any round. An announcement can be made, signs can be held up and a brief ceremony can take place at the team bench area immediately after the game. Schools may purchase the tournament ball for \$40.00.

21. **HALF-TIME ENTERTAINMENT:**

- All sites will have 12-minute half times.
- Any school intending to participate in a half-time program must receive approval from the NHIAA Basketball Committee prior to the date of the tournament game.
- A total of six (6) minutes is devoted to half-time routines. Each school will have a maximum of three (3) minutes for a routine if they both choose to perform. If only one school performs, then the total six (6) minutes may be used.
- No basket shooting will be permitted by anyone between halves of tournament games except the few minutes required by each team to warm up prior to the start of the second half.

22. **POST-GAME CEREMONY:**

The Chair of the Basketball Committee or his designee shall present the Championship and Runner-Up Plaques and medals to both of the schools competing.

- A. You must complete the roster in order that the deserving athletes will be called forward to receive their award. You will have 21 medals that can be awarded to players, managers and coaches. This roster
- B. must be provided to the game director prior to starting the game.
- C. Both head coaches will be briefed prior to the game regarding post-game ceremonies and behavior expectations.

- D. Upon the conclusion of the game, both teams are to return to their respective benches after going through the handshake line.
- E. All medals and plaques will be presented at center court, after the normal team celebration time
- F. The public address announcer will call up the coach and captains of the runner up team to present the Runner up medals.
- G. Each player on the Runner-up team will be introduced and shall come forward to receive a Runner-up medal. Once the Player has received the medal, he/she will line up beside the Coach. The team will then receive the Runner up plaque.
- H. When all awards have been distributed, the players and Coach will return to their team bench.
- I. This process will be repeated for the Championship team.
- J. The Championship team and coaches will be introduced individually to receive 21 medals. The team will then receive the Championship plaque.

23. **POST-GAME INTERVIEWS:**

At the semifinal and final rounds of the tournaments held at neutral sites, post-game interviews will be conducted off the court area. Please move off the court to hold your interview.

24. **TOURNAMENT EVENT POSTPONEMENTS (WEATHER):**

If weather causes a tournament event postponement, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Home Site Event - Event moved to the next day, unless the Basketball Committee and the Executive Director grant a waiver. The NHIAA must be notified if the home school makes a change. It shall be the responsibility of the home site Game Director to notify the game officials.
- Neutral Site Event - The NHIAA will make the decision to postpone and schools and game officials will be so notified in a timely manner.

25. **PROTEST PROCEDURE AT STATE TOURNAMENTS:**

During the preliminary and quarterfinal round games if a protest of a game should take place it is the responsibility of the game manager to contact the rules interpreter and resolve the issue the night of the game. During State Tournament play, there shall be no appeals of protests to the Executive Director. All protests shall be resolved at the game site at the time of the protest.

## NHIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT REGULATION FOR SPIRIT TEAMS AND PEP BANDS

### **SPIRIT**

At Basketball Tournaments the following regulations will be in place:

1. **Maximum of 22 cheerleaders and one (1) coach will be allowed.** The coach is requested to sit with the cheerleaders. Requests for more than 22 cheerleaders *will not* be granted in accordance with NHIAA Basketball Committee regulations.
2. Cheerleaders will be admitted free only to the session in which their team is playing.
3. Cheers will be alternated with the opponent's cheerleaders. **THIS MEANS ONLY ONE CHEER PER TIME OUT.**
4. Cheerleaders will perform during time-out periods and between quarters.
5. Any time the players are ready to play, the horn will blow, the cheer will stop and cheerleaders will leave the floor immediately.
6. Cheerleaders will cheer in an area designated by the Game Director.
7. Only cheerleaders who are listed as members on the official NHIAA tournament roster of the high school may participate. No below grade nine students who have not received a waiver may be on the floor or standing on the sidelines.
8. All cheerleaders shall be "ground-bound" at all NHIAA basketball tournament games, preliminary through championship rounds. There shall be **NO TOSSES, LIFTS, TUMBLING, ETC.**, and the cheerleaders' feet will remain on the floor. Jumps **WILL** be allowed as long as the athlete does not use another athlete to complete this activity.
9. Half-time Entertainment: At all tournament sites, half time will be 12 minutes.
10. Any school intending to participate in a half-time program must receive approval from the NHIAA Basketball Committee prior to the date of the tournament game. A total of six (6) minutes is devoted to half-time routines. Each school will have a maximum of three (3) minutes for a routine if they both choose to perform. If only one school performs, the total six minutes may be used.
11. No Elementary or Pre-School cheerleaders will be allowed.
12. Cheerleaders at Plymouth State University **CANNOT** stand on the end lines to cheer.

### **PEP BANDS**

The Basketball Committee will permit "Pep Bands" to play at all tournament sites. The following "ground rules" will be followed regarding "Pep Bands" playing at the State Tournament Games:

1. **"Pep Bands" will be allowed free admission for a MAXIMUM of 20 members to the games in which their team is competing only when accompanied by an Advisor.**
2. "Pep Bands" will be assigned a seating location by the Game Director. An advisor must be with the band at all times they are playing.
3. For game #1 of a two-game program, the band representing the team in **LIGHT UNIFORMS** will play prior to the game. The band representing the team in the **DARK UNIFORMS** will play between the halves of the game.
4. The National Anthem will be played by the combined bands who are in the gymnasium if mutually agreed upon.
5. Members of bands whose teams are not on the floor playing will be assigned a seating location by the Game Director.
6. Non-playing band groups will **NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE INSTRUMENTS INTO THE GYM.**
7. These instructions apply to **ALL** tournament games played at **NEUTRAL SITES** under the direction of the NHIAA Basketball Committee.
8. At games played at the site of the higher seeded team, the Game Director shall direct bands to the proper seating arrangements.
9. Bands are not permitted to play during foul shots or when the ball is "live" and in play.

New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association  
 251 Clinton Street  
 Concord, N.H. 03301-8432  
 Phone 603-228-8671 E-Mail [info@nhiaa.org](mailto:info@nhiaa.org)

**NHIAA TOURNAMENT AWARDS ROSTER  
 RETURN TO SEMI-FINAL GAME DIRECTOR**

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_ BOYS \_\_\_\_\_ GIRLS \_\_\_\_\_

**(ROSTERS MUST BE TYPED)  
 PLAYERS - MANAGERS - COACHES**

|                    |            |  |
|--------------------|------------|--|
|                    | FIRST NAME | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SAMPLE FORM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">This form can be found at <a href="http://www.nhiaa.org">www.nhiaa.org</a><br/>         under the AD forms section.</p> |
| <b>HEAD COACH</b>  | <b>A.</b>  |  |
| <b>ASST. COACH</b> | <b>B.</b>  |  |
| <b>ASST. COACH</b> | <b>C.</b>  |  |
| <b>ASST. COACH</b> | <b>D.</b>  |  |
| <b>MANAGER</b>     | <b>E.</b>  |  |
| <b>MANAGER</b>     | <b>F.</b>  |  |
| <b>PLAYERS:</b>    | <b>1.</b>  |  |
|                    | <b>2.</b>  |  |
|                    | <b>3.</b>  |  |
|                    | <b>4.</b>  |  |
|                    | <b>5.</b>  |  |
|                    | <b>6.</b>  |  |
|                    | <b>7.</b>  |  |
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|                    | <b>9.</b>  |  |
|                    | <b>10.</b> |  |
|                    | <b>11.</b> |  |
|                    | <b>12.</b> |  |
|                    | <b>13.</b> |  |
|                    | <b>14.</b> |  |
|                    | <b>15.</b> |  |

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED IN TO THE GAME DIRECTOR AT THE STATE TOURNAMENT SITE PRIOR TO THE SEMI FINAL GAME.**

**A COPY MUST BE SENT TO [RMISIASZEK@NHIAA.ORG](mailto:RMISIASZEK@NHIAA.ORG) AT LEAST 2 (TWO) DAYS BEFORE THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.**

New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association  
251 Clinton Street  
Concord, N.H. 03301-8432  
Phone 603-228-8671 Fax 603-225-7978 E-Mail [info@nhiaa.org](mailto:info@nhiaa.org)

TO:       ATHLETIC DIRECTORS and  
          GIRLS and BOYS BASKETBALL COACHES

FROM:     JEFFREY T. COLLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE:       BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RECORDS

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While the tournaments are still fresh in your memories, please take a moment to review the records and if you feel a record has been broken, give accurate information and a copy of the score sheets for preliminary games regarding the new record that has been established. This information is vital in publishing a complete program for all classes of boys and girls basketball.

When reporting a record for the "State Tournament", please remember this is a total, which includes all four rounds of the tournament: Preliminaries, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals.

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE NHIAA BY FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026  
SO THE VERIFICATION OF THESE RECORDS MAY BE MADE.**

## BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RECORDS

**PERSON REPORTING RECORD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: **BOYS**   **GIRLS**

**DIVISION: I   II   III   IV**

**TITLE OF RECORD** \_\_\_\_\_

New Record Information \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE OF RECORD** \_\_\_\_\_

New Record Information \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE OF RECORD** \_\_\_\_\_

New Record Information \_\_\_\_\_

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New Record Information \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE OF RECORD** \_\_\_\_\_

New Record Information \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE OF RECORD** \_\_\_\_\_

New Record Information \_\_\_\_\_

### SAMPLE FORM

This form can be found at [www.nhiaa.org](http://www.nhiaa.org)  
under the AD forms section.

**PLEASE INCLUDE SCORE SHEETS IF PRELIMINARY INFORMATION  
IS INCLUDED IN RECORD.**

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE NHIAA BY FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026  
SO THE VERIFICATION OF THESE RECORDS MAY BE MADE.**



