


2026-27

Girls Basketball

Handbook

NCAA Girls Rule Book:

New York State Basketball Coaches' Association www.BCANY.org

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## 2026-27 Girls Basketball Calendar

First Practice ..... November 16
First Scrimmage ..... November 23
First Contest ..... November 23
Pre-season Committee Meeting, ..... November 12. 2026 via Zoom
League Game Cut-off Date .....February 17, 2026

## **Girls Basketball Chairman**: Doug Webster

## Divisional Alignments

| A Division | B Division |
|---|---|
| Cardinal O'Hara | Buffalo Seminary |
| Nardin | Mount Mercy |
| Nichols | Mt. St. Mary |
| Sacred Heart | The Park School |
| St. Mary's | |

## MMHSAA 2026-27 Girls Basketball Tentative Playoff Schedule 2026-27

All games at Villa Maria College unless noted.

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, 2/17/27 | Last regular season game |
| AA Division | |
| Monday, 2/22/27 | Division B Semi-Final Games |
| Wednesday, 2/24/27 | Girls AA MMHSAA Championship Game |
| B Division | |
| Sunday, 2/21/27 | Division B Semi-Final Games |
| Wednesday, 2/24/27 | Girls B MMHSAA Championship Game |
| A Division | |
| Wednesday, 2/24/27 | Girls A Relegation Game at Higher Seed |
| Friday, 2/26/27 | Girls A Relegation Game at TBD |
| | |
| 3/5/27-3/7/27 | NYS CHSAA Championships - TBD |

## Reporting Scores to the League and recording statistics.

All coaches are required to report their scores and statistics in a manner that is approved by the league. Scores will be reported using the MMHSAA Scores reporting form. **All coaches must report their scores for league, non-league and tournament games regardless of location, immediately after the game.**

Athletic directors will be notified of delinquent statistical reporting.  Failure to report scores and/or statistics  will result in the following:

- First offense – warning to the athletic director and to the coach
- Second offense - $100 fine and 24-hour notice to bring your stats up to date
- Third offense - $250 fine and suspension of coach

We will be using MaxPreps to track league records and statistics.

MaxPreps Links  App links

http://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us

## Definition of a Scrimmage

A scrimmage is a practice that is a SIMULATED CONTEST. In scrimmages, both squads use the same field simultaneously with both coaches making corrections and giving instructions.  GAME RULES MUST BE ALTERED;

- no official score is kept
- no admission is charged
- the use of officials would be permitted and encouraged whenever possible for the purpose of instruction regarding the rules and proper application of rules.
- Scrimmages will be 90 minutes in length on a school wall clock, starting promptly at the time listed in Arbiter.
- Special situations may be included as per the rule book:
    - Definition of a Scrimmage A scrimmage is a practice that is a SIMULATED CONTEST.. A basketball scrimmage must include 10 minute time periods with running time (except time-outs) and unlimited time outs. The score will be cleared at the end of the time period and the time will be reset.
    - Scrimmages must also include one or more of the following:
        - Optional shot clock.
        - Shoot only fouls against the shooter with free throws awarded in a one plus one.
        - At the end of the 1st and 3rd quarters, each team will run five (5) special plays. Example: out-of-bounds play underneath the basket; sideline out-of-bounds
- Once a team has played their first game (home or away),  any scrimmage that they host will be considered in-season and they must pay officials regular season pay.

## General Regulations

Athletic Directors of participating schools (or their designees) are responsible for assigning adequate supervision for all their students attending playoff games. The general rule is one supervisor for every fifty presale tickets sold. The financial responsibility of these assignments lies with the participating schools.

Supervisors will be allowed at neutral sites for playoffs. Supervisors will be issued a game ticket at the site. These supervisors are to report to the Game-Site Chairperson for their supervisory assignment.

Athletic Directors (or their designees) shall instruct their faculty supervisors and students that the following items are NOT ALLOWED at any playoff game:

- Sirens, noise makers, whistles, megaphones, or any other distracting device.
- Confetti, streamers, etc.

NOTE: THESE REGULATIONS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED!

## Coaches' Responsibilities

The official representative and leader of each team is the participating coach. He/she presumably understands youth.

It is not his/her responsibility to demonstrate against officials, nor to intimidate them. This is a rule infraction in basketball, and, as the team leader, he/she should set the example for spectators by conducting him/herself as a professional and a good sport at all times.

Recommendations for all coaches are listed below, and it is the intention of the Executive Committee that they be honored:

- Dress — Each coach is encouraged to dress appropriately.
- Appearance — Each coach shall be neat, clean, and well-groomed.
- Speech — Each coach shall address all people, including officials, with respect, courtesy and understanding.
- Decisions — Each coach will not attempt to influence the decisions of officials.
- Acting — Each coach must be careful of his/her gestures and mannerisms so as not to incite the crowd.
- Sportsmanship — Coaches and players are requested to meet on the playing floor directly after the game to exchange congratulations. This creates a good image.
- Smoking — There will be no smoking by anyone on the bench during any game or warm-up.

- Violation – Violation of any of the regulations outlined in this section may not only affect the outcome of any one game but may seriously jeopardize the future of the playoffs.
- Transportation – If this is the coach's responsibility, he/she must be sure to be on hand to supervise his/her players.
- Valuables – Each coach is to make definite arrangements for care of team valuables during a contest. Valuables are not to be left unprotected. MMHSAA will take no responsibility for lost or stolen articles.

## Cheerleaders Advisors' Responsibilities

The number of cheerleaders admitted to playoff games will be limited to sixteen

- The names of all cheerleaders must be on the Admittance Form in order to be admitted to the playoff site without charge.
- Cheerleaders will not be admitted unless they are in uniform.
- All Cheerleading teams must adhere to the regulations in MMHSAA Safety Policy on Cheerleading. Game-Site chairs will stop squads that are not following this policy for post-season play.

## Tickets Prices

1. The Executive Committee sets the price for all playoff games.
2. The league maximum that you may charge for Home game admission will be $10.00.
    a. A higher admission fee may be charged if mutually agreed upon by both schools and provided to the Executive Director in writing.
3. The Athletic Directors may mutually agree upon a home admission charge for a particular sport at the seasonal directors' meeting.
4. The home school must notify the opposing schools if you will charge and the cost of admission.

MMHSAA PLAYOFF GATE

1. Admission for MMHSAA playoffs hosted by a member school will not exceed $25.
2. Admission for events hosted by a member school, where MMHSAA makes presale tickets, will be up to $20 presale and no more than $25.00 at the door on the day of the game.
3. Admission for all games at a neutral site where MMHSAA will be determined by the Executive Committee.
4. Admission for State Tournaments which MMHSAA hosts TBD

5. Admission will be charged for all Quarter-finals, Semi-finals, Finals and Relegation games.

Each Athletic Director (or designee) should turn cash or a check for the pre-sale tickets sold over to the Game-Site Chairperson. The Game-Site Chairperson may check the number of pre-sale tickets to verify this amount.
**NOTE:** All persons attending playoff games must have tickets in accordance with MMHSAA regulations, passes will not be accepted. (See MMHSAA Pass Policy.)

## Admittance Forms

Each Athletic Director (or designee) of a participating team will submit the Admittance Form (to the Game Site Chairperson. The Admittance Form will contain the following information:

Name, address, and phone number of the school
Names of Principal, Athletic Director, and Coaches
Names and/or number of supervisors
Names of players
Names of cheerleaders (maximum 16)
Names of statisticians and managers (maximum 4)
Names and/or number of bus drivers

The bench will be reserved for coaches, dressed players, managers, statisticians, A.D., and principal. Under no circumstances shall the number of persons on the bench exceed twenty-five.

## Evaluation Reports

This report is necessary only when unusual or exceptional circumstances are encountered at or during the game. If nothing out of the ordinary occurs, no report needs to be filed.

The Executive Committee asks that evaluation reports be filed by the following people:

Athletic Director or coach of participating teams
Game-Site Chairperson
Game Officials
These reports will evaluate the conduct of the
Crowd
Coaches
Players (specific number and/or name)

Game Officials
These report forms will be provided by the Game-Site Chairperson and should be returned to him/her.

## MMHSAA Seeding Policy

All teams may take part in the playoffs. A school may choose not to have their team participate and must notify the Executive Director before February 19, 2025. The seeding will be done according to the teams' standing in league games. If there is a tie, see the tiebreakers in the Seeding Policy below. Once seeded, a team is expected to participate.

The MMHSAA Seeding Policy shall be followed for seedings:
In the event of a tie in the standings, both teams will be awarded the position.
The following tie breakers will be used for seeding purposes only and include all 14 league games:

- Tie Breakers
- Head to head
- wins over common opponent in our league
    - Tied teams start with the top of the regular season standings, and work their way down the standings until there is a difference in record against a team.
    - Once there is a difference, the team with the better record becomes the higher seed.
- Point differential between the teams that are tied
- If the above tie-breakers fail to break the tie, it will be broken by the flip of a coin by the league designee.
- In the event of a 3-way (or more) tie, the above procedure will be applied using only the games played between the tied teams
- Once a tie is broken by the above system, remaining tied teams will be broken by starting again at step 1,

## Play-off Procedure

- Each Basketball team shall be responsible for bringing their own warm-up balls
- Each school must provide an admittance form for the team and cheerleaders
- Each school is responsible for the supervision of their own students and spectators
- The higher seed will provide the play-off game ball

- Game jersey - Coaches should come prepared with two sets in case of emergency. *Note: The highest-seeded team shall be the home team and will wear the light-colored uniforms!

## Method Of Determining A Playoff Champion

MMHSAA Girls' basketball will conduct a AA Division Championship, an A Division Relegation round single, and a B Division Tournament. The AA league champion will represent MMHSAA at the AA NYS CHSAA State tournament. The A relegation winner will represent the MMHSAA at the A NYS CHSAA State Tournament.The B winner will represent the MMHSAA at the B NYS CHSAA State Tournament.

AA Division: The team losing in the quarter final game will be eliminated. The Teams losing in the semi-final games will be relegated to the A bracket. The team losing in the AA championship will be relegated to the A bracket and face the winner of the first relegation game to determine who will represent the MMHSAA in NYS CHSAA A division.

B Division: Will be a 4 team bracket with the winner advancing to the B NYS CHSSA states.

## Game-Site Chairperson

- The Game Chairperson will make him/herself accessible and visible to supervisors, coaches, players, spectators, and officials by wearing identifiable insignia.
- He/she will station all supervisory personnel assigned to the game.
- He/she should greet supervisors at the door and make assignments immediately.
- He/she will assign the following adults:
- Scorekeeper
- Timekeeper
- Ticket Sellers and Takers
- Police
- Others as necessary
- He/she shall collect the Admittance Forms from participating Athletic Directors (or their designees). No one is to enter the gymnasium unless his/her name appears on this form.
- At the gate, he/she shall check the names that appear on the Admittance Form with the participating Athletic Directors (or their designees).
- The Game-Site Chairperson is to destroy the tickets at the end of the game.
- SAFETY: During post-season play, the site chairperson will be responsible for the following:
- Enforcing the MMHSAA Safety Policy on cheerleading by stopping squads that are performing prohibited stunts.

- SCOREBOOK: The home team scorebook is designated as the official scorebook.
- GAMEBALL: the game ball will be provided by the highest seed.
- He/she will provide suitable horns and timepieces.

**Supervisors**

- All supervisors are to report to the Game-Site Chairperson for supervisory assignments.
- It is highly recommended that each school participating in sectionals provide supervision to assist MMHSAA supervisors as needed.
- If more participating school supervisors are available, they will be stationed discriminately throughout their stands.
- The Game Chairperson will also station his host school supervisors with discretion.
- Unless necessary, supervisors are strongly admonished NOT to sit together.

**Special Responsibilities**

- The Game-Site Chairperson will inform participating coaches about the amount of warm-up time prior to the game to ensure a reasonable and safe warm-up period.
- Provision shall be made for a simple Flag Ceremony or Star-Spangled Banner prior to game time.
- Starting teams and game officials should be introduced to the spectators.
- Each Game-Site Chairperson will fill out the three-part Game Report provided by the Basketball Chairperson as follows:
- Conduct of crowd/coach/players
- Game Officials performance
- Performance of staff

## Athletic trainers

MMHSAA recommends and supports the ‘Best Practice’ that every member High School has a Certified Athletic Trainer providing full-time access or coverage to the athletic program. It is the responsibility of each school to provide for their own athletic training needs for all of their school events and to secure an AED for the certified trainer’s use, as the MMHSAA believes that its member schools should observe the Education Law Section 917’s requirements as a “best practice” and therefore strongly encourages them to do so

## Programs

Programs will be made available electronically.

## Game Responsibilities

- Officials are to report at least 30 minutes prior to game time and must be on the floor 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- Official Scorer and Timer are paid adult officials. High school students are not allowed to work playoff games. Adults will be assigned by the Game-Site Chairperson.
- Finals:
- Report to the site designated by the Basketball Chairperson
- A MMHSAA official will greet you at the main entrance and escort you to the dressing quarters.
- Officials will be asked to fill out an evaluation report concerning the conduct of
    - the Crowd, if necessary (be specific)
    - Coaches
    - Players (specify name and/or number)

## Assignment of Officials

Officials for MMHSAA contests will be assigned by the MMHSAA Executive Director or by his designee in Arbitersports.com. Varsity officials who have the potential to work MMHSAA contests must have their availability up to date in Arbiter sports before being assigned. Additional qualifications for selection include:

The official's name must appear on his/her Referee Unit's Official Roster in Arbiter sports prior to the beginning of the soccer season.

The official must have officiated a minimum of six games throughout the season. The MMHSAA Executive Committee may override the six-game minimum in case of extenuating circumstances. An official may submit a request for review of his/her circumstances no later than one week prior to the playoffs.

Geographic location will be considered in assigning for the early rounds of the MMHSAA.

Three-man officiating will be used for semi-finals as well as finals.

## MMHSAA Policies Policy on Travel to States for Team Sports

- Check the MMHSAA Travel Policy for information.

- Member schools participating in state competition will be responsible for all costs related to their participation.

## All-WNY Scholar Athlete Team

Coaches and Athletic Directors are encouraged to nominate athletes for selection as an All-WNY Scholar Athlete. Applications must be completed online. Click here for The criteria for selection and the Nomination Form. Please follow instructions for submission on the Section VI web page. Those selected will be honored by both MMHSAA and The Buffalo News.

## MMHSAA AED Policy

Although the New York State legislature may have not gone so far as to make Education Law Section 917 applicable to nonpublic schools, the MMHSAA believes that its member schools should observe the law's requirements as a "best practice" and therefore strongly encourages them to do so. For events that the MMHSAA hosts at neutral sites, there will be AED equipment present as well as people who know how to operate the equipment. For competitions hosted by member schools, it will be the independent responsibility of each school to ensure whether and how the school will observe these best practices relating to AED.

## Pass Policy

Coaches and/or the school Athletic Director must inform the Athletic Director of the school that you intend to scout, that you will be attending and who will be attending. Only 2 coaches are allowed to attend via this pass policy.

## No Shows at Playoffs

A school team that does not show or refuses to play in a playoff contest after the seeding meeting spoils the integrity of the tournament. MMHSAA schools shall declare their intent to play or not play prior to MMHSAA seeding. Schools failing to fulfill their pre-tournament commitment shall be subject to the following sanction:

One year of ineligibility for sectional play in that sport with the ability to appeal to the Athletic Council. Appeal must occur within 60 days of the completion of sectional play.

The Section Chairperson must notify the Executive Secretary of the occurrence, and the Section office will notify the Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Director of the sanction.

## Regulations Regarding Senior All-Star/Outside Agency Contests

All Senior All-Star and Outside Agency contests MUST be approved by MMHSAA. In addition, Senior All-Star contests must be approved by NYSPHSAA. The forms required are posted on the MMHSAA website*.

All Senior All-Star and Outside Agency contests must be conducted within the season dates approved by the MMHSAA Athletic Council for that sport. The calendar of approved season dates for all sports is posted on the MMHSAA website*.

Only seniors who have completed their secondary school eligibility in that sport may compete in these contests.

A contestant may participate in any approved senior all star athlete contest in the same sport during the school year. (approved October 25, 2013, NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting).

NOTE: A Senior All-Star contest by NYSPHSAA standards is one in which an athlete's participation is based solely on outstanding performance as a member of a high school team. If open tryouts are held, the contest is NOT a NYSPHSAA All-Star contest.

## MMHSAA Policy Contingency Plan for playoff Competition

- Contests hosted by one of our schools will be considered for postponement only if a participating school is officially closed due to weather or illness.
- It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director of a host school (or designee) to notify the Executive Director that the school has been closed due to weather conditions (or illness) as soon as he/she becomes aware of such action. If the game is canceled the officials and the media will be notified by the Executive Director (or designee).
- In the event that a school is closed on the day its playoff contest is scheduled, the decision to play shall rest with the school principal.
- In the event that weather conditions reverse themselves prior to game time, the game may be played with the mutual consent of the participating Athletic Directors and the approval of the Sport Chairperson.

## Games hosted at a Neutral Site

When a contest is at a non-school site (neutral site): If the competition facility and the roads to that destination are open, then the competition will go on as scheduled. If either the roads or the facility is closed, then the competition will be canceled. If a school is closed, the Executive Director of the MMHSAA will communicate with the school to determine if the game can be played as scheduled.  Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES is a site contracted by MMHSAA available for practice when a competition is canceled.

PLEASE NOTE: It is up to the MMHSAA schools to recognize the potential for snow days, power outages, etc. that may cause cancellations and problems. The MMHSAA schools should schedule their last league contest at least one or two days prior to the playoffs, allowing for a make-up of league contest(s) prior to the playoffs if necessary.

## Sportsmanship Philosophy and Code of Conduct Philosophy

We believe that interscholastic athletics is an important part of education and supports the ideals and values embodied in good sportsmanship.

We believe that sportsmanlike behavior is essential if interscholastic competition is to contribute usefully and constructively to the broad goals of education and to the quality of life of those involved.

We pledge ourselves individually and collectively to encourage and support the development and maintenance of a sportsmanlike atmosphere for athletic competition.

**Code of Conduct**
A genuine interest in and enjoyment of interscholastic competition requires conduct that reflects the understanding that contests, as part of an overall school program, are intended to be enjoyed. Behavior that reflects a winning-at-all-costs attitude violates this standard.

Interscholastic competition provides valuable lessons and learning experiences that are not possible in the regular classroom setting. All involved must support the need to develop the ability to compete with enthusiasm and to accept winning with grace and losing with dignity.

Coaches, players, and fans should know that participation is an honor and privilege which requires them to conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor and pride to their school and community.

Respect for the cultural and ethnic diversity of one's opponents, their school, and community is a fundamental tenet of wholesome athletic competition. This standard suggests that planned activity is needed to demonstrate a warm and friendly welcome, mutual respect, and genuine readiness to participate in a sportsmanlike manner.

Players should demonstrate both knowledge of the rules and respect for game officials and their decisions. Coaches and school officials have the responsibility to teach and encourage these attributes.

## SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT REMINDER

The following statement will be read over the public-address system just prior to the pledge to the flag. If there is no public-address system, the statement will be read to both teams by the site chairperson or his representative:

The New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association and the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association requires that game administrators, school administrations and officials enforce a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY for athletes, coaches, and spectators. They will not tolerate negative statements of actions between opposing players, especially abusive language, trash talking, taunting, or baiting of opponents. If such comments are heard or actions seen, a penalty will be assessed immediately. Spectators are reminded that berating of officials; the making of negative comments toward either team; or displaying inappropriate behavior are ejectable offenses.

The playing field is an extension of our classrooms. Please practice good sportsmanship."

This announcement stands as the official warning of the ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. Let today's contest reflect mutual respect between all participants and spectators.

## MMHSAA ZERO TOLERANCE

This policy requires all players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all MMHSAA games.

Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all officials.

Players

- A technical foul for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:
- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a technical foul.

Coaches

- A technical foul for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:
- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators.

- Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, he/she may be assessed an ejection

Officials

- Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as “baiting” or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited.
- Officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

Parents/Spectators

- The game will be stopped by game officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The game officials will identify violators to the schools supervisor and/or coaches for the purpose of removing parents/ spectators from the spectator’s viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Failure to do so may result in a technical foul being assessed to the head coach. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:
- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, players bench, or on the court, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard

## Mercy Rule

During a MMHSAA Varsity/JV/Freshman basketball game, if a team builds a lead of 35 or more points, the game clock converts to running time.

The 35-point differential becomes effective beginning with the ensuing possession resulting in the following changes, regarding rules determining when the clock will and will not be stopped. The clock will run continuously except for the following situations at which time it will be stopped:

1. Intermission between quarters
2. For an injured player
3. Anytime a team calls a time out
4. Anytime officials determine it is necessary for safety reasons

5. If the score margin drops below 20 points, normal timing will resume for the remainder of the game or until the 35-point plateau is again reached.
6. If in effect at the start of the fourth quarter, the running clock remains in effect until the game ends.

PLEASE NOTE: Each school is responsible for providing a laminated copy of this rule at their scores table. This rule applies to all MMHSAA league basketball games.