

Hosting Information

Basketball Tournament Series

SCHEDULE OF GAMES

Girls Regionals – Tuesday, February 24; Friday, February 27; Saturday, February 28

Girls Sectionals – Thursday, March 5; Saturday, March 7

Boys Regionals – Tuesday, March 3, Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7

Boys Sectionals – Thursday March 12 and Saturday, March 14

- Games should begin at 7:00 pm on weeknights
 - Any change must be approved by the WIAA
 - Saturday Regional Final games may not begin prior to 4:00 pm for athlete recovery.
- In the event that a school has their Girls team competing in the Sectional Final game and their boys team competing in the Regional Final game (Saturday, March 7), the boys game must be held after 4:00 pm
- In the event a school is participating in both a Sectional Semifinal Boys game and a State Girls game, the boys game must be moved to Wednesday night.
- All games will be played at the home of the higher seeded team during the Regionals.
- All sectionals will be played at sites predetermined by the WIAA. No school in any division will be allowed to play on their home court during sectional level play (semifinals and finals).

OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO COMPETITIONS

- Assignments of officials will be posted by using the Official's ID number and can be found in the Officials Center on the WIAA website. Click Tournament > Basketball (Boys or Girls) > (scroll down) Officials Assignments > [Game Date].

Assignments will be available on the following dates:

<u>Girls Tournament</u>	Release of Officials (Tentative)
February 24	February 17
February 27	February 25
February 28	February 25
March 5	March 2
March 7	March 2
<u>Boys Tournament</u>	Release of Officials (Tentative)
March 3	February 24
March 6	March 4
March 7	March 4
March 12	March 9
March 14	March 9

- Officials have been informed of the dates they will be contracted and who their officiating partners will be. Once the tournament brackets are completed after the Seeding Meetings, officials will be assigned to a site by the WIAA.

- Officials assigned www.wiaawi.org > located under Tournaments > Girls or Boys Basketball, and click the Officials Assignments bar. Officials will be listed using their Officials Number. Names will not be used. Please use Officials Quick Lookup to obtain their name, phone numbers, etc.

- The WIAA will send contracts to the officials through Arbiter.

- If an official informs you that he/she cannot work your game(es), notify WIAA office immediately. Suggestions for a replacement (by the official) are welcome, however the final decision will be up to the WIAA.

The WIAA will then contact you as tournament manager with the name of the replacement.

- Payment for officials follows this pay structure for 2026 Regional Tournament Game Fee \$90, Sectional Tournament Game Fee \$100 *Mileage of 55¢/mile will be paid to ONE CAR. The official crew may choose to split the mileage. If officials choose to split the mileage. All officials will be paid by Arbiter this year.

TRAVEL PARTY

- The maximum number of players allowed in uniform is 18. The total number allowed in the travel party is 22 plus the Athletic Trainer/Medical Staff. Names of these individuals should be provided to the host school prior to the contest. No exceptions. The make-up of the 22-member party is a local decision.

- Free admission is only provided for:

- A party of 22 including players, coaches, managers etc. No more than 18 may be players, in uniform.
- 8 complimentary admissions for event supervisors/administration. These individuals will have crowd control responsibilities.
- 8 cheerleaders. Additional cheerleaders are allowed but must buy tickets.
- Game officials, scorers, timers, ticket takers and sellers, ushers, concessionaires, workers. They shall not be provided with an additional ticket for a companion.
- Members of the working press (will have a press pass), radio and television.
- Regional Child/Student/Adult \$6.00 Children under 6 \$1.00
- Sectional Child/Student/Adult \$7.00 Children under 6 \$1.00
- State Child/Student/Adult \$11.00 (children two and under do not need a ticket).

- The gym should be split in half at the midcourt line. All adult fans should be placed on the same side of the gym being placed behind their respective player bench. Student fans should be placed directly across from their adult fans. No student fans for any team should be placed behind their opponent's player bench.

- Rushing the court during or immediately following a game is prohibited.

DETERMINING GAME SITES

- After the seeds are released, sites for the first and second round regional games will be determined. The higher seeded team will host through the regional final game. Sectional sites will be announced when regional competition concludes.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Schools are asked to send a copy of their tournament roster to the athletic director of the school hosting each tournament game in which their school will be a participant.
- Schools who choose to use an outside provider for their spectator programs are asked to notify the schools involved that businesses in their communities may be contacted by these providers. The WIAA logo may not be used in conjunction with these programs provided by outside vendors.

AWARDS

- Regional Awards: Plaque to Championship Team
- ESCO, will send the regional final awards to those designated as the higher seeds in a given bracket and to sectional awards to predetermined hosts.
- Sectional Awards: Plaque to Championship Team Medals (18) to members of Championship Team and Runner-Up Team
- Schools may purchase additional medals for members of the championship and runner-up teams from the WIAA following the tournament competition.

BROKEN BACKBOARDS/TORN NETS

- Financial responsibility for broken backboards during the WIAA Tournament Series must be assumed by the school whose student athlete caused the damage. Host schools should have a plan for completing the game if a backboard is broken.

GAME RECORDING

- Tournament managers must determine if they are able to make space available for schools to record their game. If space is provided, equal space shall be provided for both teams.
- Tournament managers are not obligated to share recordings with other schools later on in the tournament series.
- Spectators are allowed to use hand-held recording equipment from their seats. Tripods and power cables are not allowed.
- Live streaming is only allowed by those who have permission and paid a rights fee.

PHOTOGRAPHY/MEDIA

- The WIAA membership-sponsored tournaments are the collective property of the Association and not of any individual member. The Association reserves the right to promote and advance the membership's interest with

publication information; exclusive arrangements to create recognition and exposure to school-sponsored activities; restrictive policies prohibiting exploitation and commercialization of membership-sponsored tournaments; appropriate proprietary interest; and the use of images or transmissions identifying students; administrative personnel and member school marks.

REPORTING SCORES

- Hosting schools must report the game score using the ScoreCenter reporting tool. If you are unable to enter a score, please email Candace Ostertag costertag@wiaawi.org or Molly O'Brien mobrien@wiaawi.org or text Melissa Gehring at (920) 306-0590 or LeVar Ridgeway at (715)240-8501.

CELL PHONES

- State law (175.22) prohibits the use of cell phones (and other image recording devices) in locker rooms except in emergency situations.

NEUTRAL ENVIRONMENT

- The WIAA expects schools hosting a WIAA basketball tournament game, even though their school might be involved, to provide a neutral environment. Tournament managers are asked to make their announcer aware of their responsibilities in providing a neutral environment.
- Temporary banners are allowed with some restrictions.
 - Must be hand held and stationary
 - May NOT have offensive language, or be used to disrupt the players or officials.
 - May not interfere with spectators' view
 - May not be used in an inappropriate manner or carried around during an event
- Banners of the host school are allowed, such as those depicting conference schools, sportsmanship themes, or current team members recognition, or with welcoming messages.
- Individual and/or Team honors may NOT be presented during a tournament game (example: 1,000 point scorer, conference champs, etc).

SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES

- Artificial noisemakers are prohibited by NFHS rule 1-18
- Laser Pens are prohibited at all WIAA Tournament competitions.
- Violators shall be removed from the contest and banned items confiscated.
- Shakers/Pennants/Homer Hankies/Etc.
 - Shakers and pennants attached to a wooden/plastic stick are allowed.
 - Homer Hankies, towels, No. 1 Fingers, hands, are allowed provided the printing includes only school name, nickname or mascot, and provided they do not cause crowd problems.

- Hand-held Banners are legal provided they are not offensive in nature, do not disrupt players, officials or interfere with spectators and are not carried around the gym before, during or after the game.
- Paper confetti is prohibited
- School flags are permitted as long as they are only used in front of their own fans.
- Schools participating in the WIAA Basketball Tournament Series are competing for the Rural Sportsmanship Award, which is presented annually to a team demonstrating a high level of sportsmanship throughout the entire basketball Tournament Series.

WIAA COMPETITION RULES NO PRACTICE AT FACILITY/PRACTICING AT SECTIONAL SITE

- Host schools are not permitted to allow participating schools to practice at their facilities prior to tournament competition. Schools are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for sectional and State Tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

PLAYING FLOOR

- Schools may not use a tournament playing floor for a minimum of two hours prior to the start of a WIAA tournament game for shooting, passing, etc. If a game is scheduled to start at 7:00 pm, neither school is allowed to have any players on the court after 5:00 pm, or before the 15-minute warm-up period. This rule applies only to the floor that will be used for tournament play.
- If a school violates this provision, the coach of that team will lose the use of the coaching box for the entire game and must remain seated for the entire game.
- The game will not start with the shooting of technical foul free throws as a result of these violations, nor will there be team fouls awarded.

GAME BALL

- The official ball of the 2026 WIAA State Basketball Tournament is the Spalding Legacy TF-1000.
- Spalding will be sending each Sectional site one game ball for use in the game.
- Host schools should place this ball and one additional NFHS approved Spalding ball at the scorer's table for use during the game.
- These balls will not be used for warm-ups.
- Competing teams shall bring their own balls for warm-ups.

JERSEY COLOR

- Regional games: Home team will wear white - if neutral site higher seed will wear white.
- The first school alphabetically (according to the WIAA Directory of Member schools) will wear white for sectional and state games. The school wearing white jerseys will be designated as the home team on the scoreboard when neither team is playing on its home court.

PREGAME WARMUP

- Schools are required to conduct a pre-contest meeting (Pre-event Emergency Action Plan Meeting) that shall include event management, the head official and medical personnel present at the event, to discuss the Emergency Action Plan.

- Warm-up procedures to be used during the WIAA Basketball Tournament are as follows:

Game Clock - 15:00 Warm-up begins. Officials enter the court and go directly to positions to supervise

12:00 Referee goes to the table and checks the scorebooks, briefs scorer and timer, checks game ball (see NFHS Pre-Game Protocol).

10:00 Remaining official(s) go across the floor to join referee, greet the visiting coach, then greet the home head coach.

- Referee goes to the area in front of the scorer's table.
- U1 and U2 will get respective head coaches and captains from teams.
- Referee does introductions of officials, coaches, and captain(s).
- Referee conducts a pregame briefing to include discussing legal equipment and good sporting behavior with head coaches and captain(s). Also discuss team color, proper basket, other appropriate items and answer any questions.
- Return to original positions 0:00 National Anthem, followed by Player Introductions

PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS

- Announcer shall introduce all 5 starters for visiting team (team in dark jerseys)
- Announcer shall introduce all 5 starters for home team (team in white jerseys) *For State Tournament games, announcers will be provided with detailed information.

ANNOUNCER

- The PA may be used only to make tournament-related announcements. Schools may not use the PA system during the tournament series for the purpose of prayer.
- No Individual or Team honors may be announced (example: 1,000 pt scorer, conference champions, etc).
- The following announcements are required:
- Sportsmanship Announcement (printed in program also requested) "[Insert School Name], [Insert School Name], and the WIAA require good sportsmanship at education-based sporting events. Attendance at interscholastic activities is a privilege with the expectation to exhibit positive and respectful behavior. For the enjoyment and respect of all in attendance, your cooperation in demonstrating the high ideals of sportsmanship is expected and greatly appreciated."
- National Anthem Announcement "To honor America and those defending our freedom, we ask those who are able to stand, remove your hats, and place your hand over your heart for the playing/singing of the National Anthem."

SCORER

- Required to wear a black and white striped shirt.
- An X should be placed on the floor in front of the scorer, to be easily identified by substituting players

IN-GAME ACTIVITIES RECORDED MUSIC

- All music used before, during, and following a contest must be reviewed and have school administration approval. Lyrics may not be lewd, offensive or profane, and must be appropriate for an educational setting. Please play the music at a reasonable level so it can be enjoyed.

GIMMICKS/RAFFLES

- Schools hosting a WIAA basketball tournament game may NOT conduct 50-50 raffles, half-time shot contests, or similar “gimmicks” as part of the tournament event.
- Political campaigning, distribution of leaflets, etc., is not appropriate at WIAA tournament games.
- Contact the WIAA if you are uncertain as to whether or not something should be allowed.

TOURNAMENT SUPPORT GROUPS

- Host schools will determine if halftime performance will be allowed. If allowed, the individual performers must be on the list of allowed spectators, and pay for admission.
- Half time performance may last a maximum of three minutes per school.

BANDS

- Competing schools must be allowed to bring a band and have a group (e.g., pom squad, drill team, etc.) perform at halftime of their game. Free admissions shall not be given to members of a band or persons involved in half time or between game entertainment, except the host school's band may be admitted free if it performs.
- Bands may use amplifying devices with permission from the manager.
- Bands will be permitted to play only before and after competition, during time-outs, and between periods when not in conflict with other scheduled events.

CHEERLEADERS/DANCE TEAMS

- A maximum of eight cheerleaders will be provided with free admission to the game. Additional cheerleaders are allowed, but must buy a ticket to gain admission.
- For safety reasons, mini-tramps, spring boards, or any other rebounding devices or related pieces of equipment are prohibited. All legal pyramids are limited to two persons high. The top person must be in direct contact with the base(s) who is in direct contact with the floor or ground. Cheers which involve dunking a basketball are prohibited.
- Break-throughs may be used at the discretion of the tournament manager. Contact the tournament manager hosting your game to seek their permission to use a break-through.

FINANCES

- Financial forms are available on the WIAA website – AD Resource Page. Please complete these forms as quickly as possible following your event and submit them to the WIAA. It is NOT necessary to include payment with your report.

HOST SCHOOL ALLOWANCES

- A financial report provided by the WIAA must be filled by each school conducting a tournament game.
- The following items are authorized for payment out of tournament receipts.
 - Fees and expenses of officials (according to printed schedule).
 - 20% of total receipts, or \$290 whichever is greater to host school to cover items such as lights, workers, etc., including a fee for the host school manager \$90 per game.
 - 15% of total receipts to the WIAA. This amount is to cover administrative costs of setting up the tournament program.
 - The WIAA may make special financial arrangements, if necessary, with host schools which conduct tournaments in non-school facilities. However, these arrangements must be approved in advance by the WIAA.
- The balance remaining after the preceding items have been deducted from total receipts shall be allocated as follows:
 - Pre-state ▪ 25% to the host school ▪ 75% to the WIAA ALLOWANCE TO PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS
 - No allowance to participating schools at any level of the tournament series.