

2026-27 Basketball

Classification based on grades 9-12

6A	1,400 and over	3A	349-175
5A	1,399-700	2A	174-90
4A	699-350	1A	89 and under

2026-2027 Basketball Season

	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
First Day of Practice	Nov. 2	Nov. 13
First Game	Nov. 13	Nov. 28
Dist. Tourn. Completion	Feb. 9	Feb. 23
State Play-ins	Feb. 13	Feb. 27
State Tournaments	Feb. 18-20	Mar. 4-6

*All teams will be required to enter rosters, schedules and scores on MaxPreps.

Game Limitations for Each Team

Teams are strongly encouraged to limit their schedule to 18 games but may play up to 20 games. If a team participates in a three- or four-game tournament, it is allowed a maximum of 21 games. If a team misses a scheduled tournament game or is unable to attend due to circumstances beyond its control, the lost game may be rescheduled.

Game Limitations for Individuals

During the regular season, athletes in 6A, 5A, and 4A classifications are allowed to play up to 80 quarters of basketball, with the exception of 84 quarters if a 21-game schedule is played due to a tournament. 3A, 2A and 1A athletes may play in 100 quarters of basketball.

6A, 5A, and 4A athletes may play no more than four quarters per day when participating in a single game. 3A, 2A, and 1A athletes are allowed up to five quarters per day in a one-game schedule. All athletes may play up to 8 quarters in a single day if participating in two games against different schools.

6A, 5A, and 4A basketball programs may petition for a waiver of the 4/80 quarter limitation. This waiver would allow sub-varsity players to participate in up to 5 quarters per night and 100 quarters per season. The petition must be signed by the school principal and athletic director and include verification of the following:

1. There are 14 or fewer participants in the program and the program desires to field two teams; or there are 21 or fewer participants in the program and the program desires to field three teams; and
2. The lack of participants will cause the loss of a sub-varsity program; and
3. The lack of participants will cause the school to cancel scheduled games at the sub-varsity level; and
4. A minimum of seven 'varsity only' players must be designated. The designated 'varsity only' players will be limited to four quarters per day and 80 quarters per season; and
5. The school's coaching staff has not, and will not, cut players or discourage anyone from participating in basketball, regardless of their ability
6. If 1-5 occur anytime during the regular season due to illness or injury, a school may request a waiver during the regular season.

Individuals may compete in a junior varsity and varsity contest on the same day. Fouling out of a contest has no bearing on eligibility to participate in the second contest.

Individuals may play in a post season tournament (Freshman, J.V., etc.) and then be eligible to participate in the varsity district tournament.

Players who exceeds the limitations of regular season participation will become ineligible for district, state or any other additional IHSA sponsored basketball competition.

Number of Participants/ Coaches/Support Personnel

Varsity teams may have up to fifteen players in uniform at the start of all play-in and state tournament contests. Violating this rule will result in the school being fined the maximum amount for dressing more than the allowed number of players, and the game will be forfeited if excess players participate. All classifications are allowed four coaches and three support personnel admission without an IHSA card or tournament pass. Any additional coaches or support personnel must have an IHSA card or purchase a tournament pass.

Rules

All contests will be played under National Federation rules. Rule books and case books will be provided to school representatives at the district rules clinic.

Rule 5-10

Once a student participates at the varsity level in a district tournament contest, he/she may not compete in the sub varsity level district tournament.

Mercy Rule

If a 30-point differential is reached at any point during the fourth quarter, the mercy rule will go into effect. Once in effect, the game clock will run continuously and will only stop during team timeouts. Officials will notify the timekeeper that the rule is in effect. Once activated the rule cannot be revoked. The mercy rule may be used at the discretion of each district tournament.

The mercy rule does not apply to IHSA playoff or championship games.

Official Ball

The official basketball for all play-in and state tournament games will be the BX7E-PRO Perfection® ElitePRO™ for boys and the BX6E-PRO Perfection® ElitePRO™ for girls.

2026-27 Basketball Representation

State tournament representation in basketball is determined for a two-year period based on 40% of schools in each classification. See Rule 2-5.

State Play-ins

Matchups will be determined by MaxPreps rankings. The highest seeded team according to MaxPreps will host.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

6A Girls Play-in Pool

4 teams – 2 games

*District 5-6B (Guarantee host)

3 At-Large

5A Girls Play-in Pool

4 teams – 2 games

4 At-Large

4A Girls Play-in Pool

2 teams – 0 games

2 At-Large automatic berths

Or

2 At-Large automatic berths

4 teams – 1 game

*District 1A

1 At-Large play-in game berth

3A Girls Play-in Pool

6 teams – 3 games

*District 3B

5 At-Large

2A Girls Play-in Pool

6 teams – 3 games

*District 2B

*District 3B & 3C

*District 4B

2 At-Large

1A Girls Play-in Pool

4 teams – 2 games

4 At-Large

BOYS BASKETBALL

6A Boys Play-in Pool

4 teams – 2 games

*District 5-6B (Guarantee host)

3 At-Large

5A Boys Play-in Pool

4 teams – 2 games

4 At-Large

4A Boys Play-in Pool

2 teams – 0 games

2 At-Large automatic berths

Or

2 At-Large automatic berths

2 teams – 1 game

*District 1A

1 play-in game berth

3A Boys Play-in Pool

6 teams – 3 games

*District 3B

5 At-Large

2A Boys Play-in Pool

6 teams – 3 games

*District 2B

*District 3B & 3C

*District 4B

2 At-Large

1A Boys Play-in Pool

4 teams – 2 games

4 At-Large

Practice at State Tournament Site

No team will be allowed to practice at a state tournament site.

2026-27 Bracketing

Qualifying teams will be seeded into the state bracket according to the final rankings through and including all regular season and district tournament games. The high seed is considered the home team for all games in the tournament.

#2 Seed

#7 Seed

#3 Seed

#6 Seed

#4 Seed

#5 Seed

#1 Seed

#8 Seed

State Tournaments

Girls: February 18-20

6A	The Ford Idaho Center, Nampa
5A*	Mountain View High School, Meridian
4A*	Skyview High School, Nampa
3A*	Bishop Kelly High School, Boise
2A*	Columbia High School, Nampa
1A*	Nampa High School, Meridian

*All Championship games will be played at The Ford Idaho

Center

Boys: Mar. 4-6

6A	The Ford Idaho Center, Nampa
5A*	Rocky Mountain High School, Meridian
4A*	Eagle High School, Eagle
3A*	Meridian High School, Meridian
2A*	Vallivue High School, Caldwell
1A*	Caldwell High School, Caldwell

*All Championship games will be played at The Ford Idaho

Center