



National Basketball Rules

The National High School Federation Rules and Regulations will apply to all U.S.S.S.A. games with the following exceptions.

- I. All games will be played as follows:
 - A. High School games will consist of four eight (8) minute quarters.
 - B. Grade 7 & 8 will consist of two sixteen-minute halves. These grades will use a regulation size basketball.
 - C. Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 contests will consist of two fourteen-minute halves. These grades will use the 28.5 intermediate basketball.
- II. Halftime shall be no longer than 5 minutes. At least a five-minute pregame warm-up will be given if games are running behind schedule. No games will start before their scheduled time unless agreed to by both coaches.
- III. A total of two (2) 30 second time-outs per half and one (1) floating timeout will be allowed to each team. One (1) additional time out per team will be awarded for each overtime period. There will be no carry over of timeouts to the three-minute overtime periods.
- IV. The clock will be stopped for all whistle stoppages.
- V. Two (2) direct technical fouls during a game on any player, coach, or team representative will result in their disqualification for the next game of the tournament.
- VI. Each team is responsible to provide a designated representative to assist in keeping the score book or running the game clock. This must be an adult who will conduct themselves in a professional manner. The team representative will receive a team pass for the duration of the tournament.
- VII. Each team is responsible for their own warmup and game balls and/or any other items brought to the game. U.S.S.S.A. is not responsible for items lost.
- VIII. If a team forfeits two (2) or more pool games; the team will be disqualified from the event and cannot participate in the tourney round of play.

ROSTER RULES:

- I. Players participate at present grade level of school – AND AGE. The U.S.S.S.A. does use a maximum birthday extension guide to accommodate players who have been retained in a grade for more than one year due to academics and/or parental preference. Refer to OVERAGE
- II. Proof of age and/or grade is required. Acceptable proofs of age are, clean photocopies of birth certificates, adoption papers, immigration papers or school documentation. Proof of grade is a clean copy of any report card of the current calendar year. Teams are required to have proof of age and/or grade upon check-in.
- III. Players can play up in grade level but not down.
- IV. No roster additions will be permitted after the team has begun play of its first tournament game.
- V. Completed roster and registration fees must be submitted to U.S.S.S.A. within the time limits noted or the team will be ineligible for play.



National Basketball Rules (cont.)

- VI. Teams participating in the National Tournament are allowed to add two (2) additional players that are not rostered on teams that have qualified and are participating in the National Tournament. Rosters are allowed a maximum of 15 players.
- VII. Players not registered with U.S.S.S.A. cannot play – NO EXCEPTIONS.
- VIII. Any team violating roster or team rules will be ineligible to participate in future tournaments.

POOL PLAY AND TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS FOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- I. In the National Tournament, each team will be placed in a pool for a minimum of three (3) games of play.
- II. All teams will advance to the double elimination championship tourney based on their pool placing. The following criteria will be used to determine pool placing.
 - A. Pool win-loss record.
 - B. Ties are broken by who won head-to-head competitions (2 teams tied).
 - C. Point spread on all games in the pool with a maximum of 20 points counting in any one game (3 teams tied).
 - D. Teams will be seeded in tourneys based on their pool placing.
 - E. The Tournament Director's decision is final regarding placement of any teams.

DIVISIONS OF PLAY:

U.S.S.S.A. Basketball offers three divisions of play at each grade for boys and girls. The Division I level is for elite teams, Division II is for competitive teams, and Division III is for community based or developmental teams. (*See Note 3)

ELIGIBILITY:

All players must participate in their own grade level or above.
Players may play in multiple grade levels in any given tournament.

ELIGIBILITY PROTESTS:

All protests must be filed in writing accompanied by a \$100.00 protest fee (refundable if protest is upheld) with the Tournament Director PRIOR to protested game. If protest is valid, the protested team forfeits all previous games. Tournament Director's ruling on protests is final. If eligibility protests, team must present required proof of eligibility. See ROSTER RULES for acceptable proofs of age and/or grade.

OVERAGE PLAYERS:

The U.S.S.S.A. is a grade and age-based basketball tournament with defined age parameters based on birth dates that allow players in each specific division to compete only against other players currently at the same grade level or age.
The following guide determines all eligible ages at each grade level.



National Basketball Rules (cont.)

BOYS ONLY

- 3rd grade – Player **MUST** be in the 3rd grade or below and **NOT** have turned 11 before September 1 of the current year.
- 4th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 4th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 12 before September 1 of the current year.
- 5th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 5th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 13 before September 1 of the current year.
- 6th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 6th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 14 before September 1 of the current year.
- 7th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 7th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 15 before September 1 of the current year.
- 8th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 8th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 16 before September 1 of the current year.
- 9th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 9th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 17 before September 1 of the current year.
- 10th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 10th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 18 before September 1 of the current year.
- 11th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 11th grade or below and **HAVE** at least one year of high school eligibility remaining.

GIRLS ONLY

- 3rd grade – Player **MUST** be in the 3rd grade or below and **NOT** have turned 11 before January 1 of the current year.
- 4th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 4th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 12 before January 1 of the current year.
- 5th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 5th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 13 before January 1 of the current year.
- 6th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 6th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 14 before January 1 of the current year.
- 7th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 7th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 15 before January 1 of the current year.
- 8th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 8th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 16 before January 1 of the current year.
- 9th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 9th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 17 before January 1 of the current year.
- 10th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 10th grade or below and **NOT** have turned 18 before January 1 of the current year.
- 11th grade – Player **MUST** be in the 11th grade or below and **HAVE** at least one year of high school eligibility remaining by September 1 of the current year..

- NOTE: (1) Area and State Tournaments have the authority to modify local playing rules to accommodate local circumstances. All teams participating in the National Tournaments must adhere to the National Tournament Rules as outlined above and have state director's approval for the respective divisions of play.
- (2) There must be a minimum of six teams per division for the National Tournament to be held. If less than six teams, all teams will be contacted to see if they want to play in another division.
 - (3) School teams can play in any division but must have the applicable state director's approval for the division they elect to participate in. This is being done to insure parity of play in all divisions