



Hello,

This memo is meant to provide important and useful information regarding the 2017 State Basketball Tournament. I apologize in advance for the length of the document, but I wanted to make sure that all necessary information was included here. **Please be sure to read this ENTIRE document!** Also, make sure to pass this information along to all of your coaches so that they have the most accurate information for the tournament.

Rules Reminders

There is one rule change that will be implemented immediately for the 2016-2017 basketball season...

- During 3-on-3 competition, a timeout will stop the clock, regardless of when the timeout is called.
 - This is something that there has been some confusion on in past years and it warranted being addressed.
 - We felt that not stopping the clock during timeouts could potentially waste up to 4 of the 20 minutes of gameplay.

There were some new rules that were implemented in last year's tournaments...

- *Game Records Forms* **MUST** have the opposing coach's signature for **EACH** game.
 - This is meant to bring back the idea of both coaches meeting after the completion of each game to discuss how their respective teams matched up.
 - A notes section will be provided for each game where coaches are required to write down a few thoughts on the game. For example, if one team was missing a key player, if one team had an "off" night, or other circumstances that would cause the outcome of the game to be lopsided.
 - These additional notes will help the divisioning committee make more accurate decisions with regards to placing your team in its proper division, which will lead to more equal competition.
- 3-Game Requirement for Men's teams **ONLY**
 - Each Men's basketball team is required to play: 1) at least 1 game within their assigned Sectional, 2) at least 1 game outside of their County Program, and 3) a third game against any opponent of their choosing (we strongly encourage playing a team outside of your Sectional).
 - The opponents for all 3 games must be in the same level, classification, age group, and gender group - **Exception: teams in Level 1 and Level 2 may play against each other, and teams in Level 3 and Level 4 may play against each other.**
 - The games requirement is not changing for Women's or Youth teams.
 - This change is meant to provide more data to the divisioning committee with regard to how each team compares to one another, while also providing our athletes more opportunity for competition.
 - One of the biggest problems we run into when divisioning is having 2 teams that we're looking at who have no common opponents. By forcing teams to play against other County Programs, we are hoping to expand the web of interconnectivity between the programs throughout the state, thus giving our divisioning committee extra data for comparison, which will lead to more equal competition.

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Rules Reminders Continued

- Individual Player Evaluations
 - Each 5-on-5 team is required to turn in Individual Player Evaluations which will be due on Monday, February 13, 2017 (with *Game Records Forms*).
 - This is another tool that is meant to provide the divisioning committee more data which will enable them to make more accurate decisions leading to more equal competition.
 - Individual player evaluations will provide further insight into the makeup of a team which will make it easier to compare 2 teams that may not have any common opponents to use as a benchmark.
 - Individual player evaluations should not be completed at the beginning of the season! They should be done closer to February so they are representative of the athletes'/partners' most recent ability level.
- Adapted Skills Competition
 - Athletes requiring assistive devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, or canes will be eligible to compete in the Adapted Skills division.
 - Adapted Skills athletes will compete in the same events as Individual Skills athletes, but the 10-meter Dribble will be modified.
 - Adapted Skills athletes will have an assigned volunteer to assist them. The athlete begins by bouncing the ball to the assistant, and then moving forward. The volunteer will bounce the ball back to the athlete, and this sequence continues until the athlete crosses the finish line.
 - Adapted Skills athletes will not be assessed time penalties for illegal dribbles.
 - This new division of the Skills competition is meant to be more inclusive to our athletes who may require assistive devices that prevent or inhibit them from competing in the 10-meter Dribble.
- 28.5" Ball for Skills
 - All skills athletes regardless of age or gender will use a 28.5" ball for competition.
 - One piece of feedback we received at the State Conference was that many of our skills athletes have a hard time controlling a 29.5" ball. This rule will help ensure that all of our skills athletes have an opportunity to compete at the highest level possible.

Again, these rules are all driven from the necessity to improve our State Basketball Tournament. These changes are all meant to create more equal competition through the divisioning process while also providing the best possible experience to everyone that attends the Tournament.

Basketball Directory

The 2016-2017 Basketball Directory is attached separately with this email and will be posted on the website. Every team entered is listed by its Sectional assignment, then by its team classification (Traditional/Unified, age, and gender). **Make sure you check your team's Sectional assignment!** Programs may be sent to 2 or more Sectional sites. While there was an increase in numbers of teams this year, we were able to keep everyone at the same site they were at last year.

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Basketball Directory Continued

Use this report to double check your team's information! If information is incorrect, call the State Office immediately. Use this directory when scheduling regular season games prior to Sectional competition. Information regarding basketball can be found on Pages 129-138 and Pages 184-193 of the 2016-2017 Program Information Guide. Please note that the rules changes listed above take effect immediately and supersede any rules currently published in the PIG.

Games Requirement

- Teams assigned to the Valparaiso Sectional will be **required** to play in an Evaluation Tournament. Information will be sent to programs very soon directly from the Sectional Director, Jim MacKenzie.
- Prior to Sectional competition, each team must meet the games requirement during the regular season against teams that are registered with the State Office for the 2016-2017 season. **This includes teams from the Valparaiso Sectional.**
- All teams must compete against...
 - Opponents in the same classification (Traditional or Unified) - If you are the only team within your classification at Sectional, you are still required to meet the games requirement against similar opponents.
 - Opponents in the same age group (Junior, Senior, or Master)
 - Opponents in the same gender group (Male or Female - coed teams play in Men's competition)
 - Opponents in the same level - **Exception: teams in Level 1 and Level 2 may play against each other, and teams in Level 3 and Level 4 may play against each other.**
- Women's, Youth, and 3-on-3 teams must play at least 2 games against opponents who meet the above requirements.
- Men's teams must play 3 games against opponents who meet the above requirements.
 - Men's teams must play 1 game against an opponent within their Sectional
 - Men's teams must play 1 game against an opponent outside of their County Program
 - Men's teams may play the third game against any opponent within the same level, class, gender group, and age group. Playing an opponent outside of your Sectional is highly encouraged.
- Multiple games may be played against the same opponent, but this will only count as 1 game towards the games requirement.
- Teams are strongly encouraged to play teams from other County Programs or other Sectionals. If teams only play games within their program, it may result in your teams playing each other.
- Games outside your Sectional are encouraged, but at least 1 game must be played within your Sectional.
- As a reminder, you **MUST** have the opposing coaches signature and game notes on your *Game Records Form!*

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Change of Classification or Level (prior to *Game Records Form* deadline)

If your team requires a change in classification or level (i.e. changing from Traditional to Unified, or moving from Level 2 to Level 1), contact the State Office immediately for permission. **You must get permission to change your team's classification or level! This could change your Sectional assignment, or possibly State assignment!** If a team receives permission to change its classification or level, the team is still required to meet the games requirement within the new classification or level prior to Sectionals or State (whichever comes first). Without State Office permission, team changes will not be acknowledged. **Permission for changes can only be granted by Scott Mingle or Patrick Kozlowski.**

Change in Team Level (after the *Game Records Form* deadline)

During the divisioning process, a team's Level placement is subject to change by the SOIN Basketball Committee prior to Sectionals. Teams entered in Level 1 may be moved to Level 2, and vice versa. Teams entered in Level 3 may be moved to Level 4, and vice versa. Teams entered in level 3 to level 2, and vice versa. After the final rosters, teams may be moved up a level, but will NOT be moved down. Also, during the divisioning meeting, it is possible for some teams to be moved to another sectional due to lack of competition in their level within their sectional.

Individual Player Evaluations

Since we've implemented individual player evaluations, I've received quite a few questions on how to perform the evaluations, as well as how to choose the proper point value for each skill on the evaluation form. I've found a useful video that goes through each skill and point value which will be uploaded to our website. One thing to keep in mind is that some of the skills in the video have a different name than what appears on our evaluation form, but the principles are the same. You'll also notice that there are only 3 point levels for each skill in the video (level 1, 2, and 3). Don't let this throw you off. The levels in the video loosely correspond to our point system as follows...

- Level 1 in video = 6-8 point range in our evaluations
- Level 2 in video = 4-6 point range in our evaluations
- Level 3 in video = 2-4 point range in our evaluations

Keep in mind that this video is meant to help and guide you in selecting the best point value, but it is still your responsibility to conduct a player evaluation and select the most representative point value based on your assessment.

Open Basketball Tournaments

Also attached with this document (and posted on our website) is a listing of basketball tournaments that are available to all County Programs. Games played during these tournaments will count towards your games requirement if they meet the criteria listed above. We highly encourage all County Programs to participate in one of these tournaments to provide more opportunities for competition for our athletes, as well as providing more competition data to use during divisioning. Please contact the listed tournament director for more information on any of the tournaments. Teams are accepted on a first come, first serve basis, and spots will fill up quickly.

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3-on-3 Competition

Please refer to Pages 133-134, 186, 188, and 192 in the *Program Information Guide (PIG)* for additional information and forms. In addition to the required 2 games, each member of a 3-on-3 basketball team must go through a skills assessment. This assessment will aid the SO Indiana Basketball Committee when divisioning for Sectionals and/or State. Men's 3-on-3 teams must compete and win at Sectionals to advance to State. Women's or Youth 3-on-3 teams advance directly to State.

Mercy Rule

If a team moves ahead of its opponent by 20 points or more any time after the end of two (2) quarters, the clock will continue to run until the end of the game, other than time-outs. On all free throws, clock will stop until the first shot.

New Forms Attachment

With the various rules changes listed above, some of the forms for basketball will also be changing. These forms are all included as attachments with this email. Only the new forms should be used! Old forms will not be accepted. Here is a list of the new forms that are included in this email...

- Game Records Form (5-on-5 and 3-on-3): due Monday, February 13, 2017
- Individual Player Evaluation: due Monday, February 13, 2017

Final Roster Forms

Final Roster Forms for 5-on-5 and 3-on-3 teams are due IN HOUSE before the end of business on Monday, January 9, 2017. Final rosters must include the program information, team name, head coach, team classification, and names of all players on the team (5 minimum and 12 maximum for 5-on-5, and 3 minimum and 6 maximum for 3-on-3).

Game Records Form

Game Records Forms for 5-on-5 and 3-on-3 teams are due IN HOUSE before the end of business on Monday, February 13, 2017. *Game Records Forms* must include opponents played, game scores, your assessment of how your team compared to the opponent, and the opposing coach's signature. Please record all games played, even if you've already met the games requirement.

Individual Skills Competition

Please refer to Pages 135-136 and 193 of the PIG for more information. Entry forms for athletes participating in Individual Skills or Adapted Skills Competition are due IN HOUSE before the end of business on Monday, February 13, 2017. Athletes must only compete at Sectionals in order to advance to State; they do NOT need to win in order to advance. Athletes absent from Sectional competition will be ineligible for State. Please be sure to confirm your State site preference at Sectionals.

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Application for Participation

New Athletes or Unified Partners must complete the Application for Participation. Applications must be into the State Office prior to their first practice. Any program discovered to be allowing participation without a valid Application for Participation is subject to probation or suspension by Special Olympics Indiana.

Medical Forms

Each athlete's completed Medical Form must be at each of his/her practices, games, and special events during the season. Any program discovered to be allowing participation without a valid Medical Form is subject to probation or suspension by Special Olympics Indiana.

Questions or Concerns

Please contact Patrick Kozlowski at the State Office with any questions or concerns. Patrick can be reached via email (pkozlowski@soindiana.org) or phone (317-328-2011 or 800-742-0612 ext. 233).