



This memo is meant to provide important and useful information regarding the 2024 State Basketball Tournament. **Please be sure to read this ENTIRE document!** Also, make sure to pass this information along to all your coaches so that they have the most accurate information for the tournament.

## **Tournament Locations & Dates**

### Sectionals:

Saturday, March 22

7 different locations

(the Basketball Directory will list Sectional Locations)

### Youth:

Sunday, March 29

University of Indianapolis

1400 E. Hanna Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46227

### Women's &

### Men's & Unified:

Saturday & Sunday, April 5 – 6

Pacers Athletic Center

200 E 186<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A

Westfield, IN 46074

## **Sectional Locations**

**Area 1** – Wheeler High School

**Area 2** – Hauser Junior – Senior High School

**Area 5** -- Manchester University

**Area 6** – Monroe Central High School

**Area 8** –Chapel Hill 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center

**Shelby County** – Triton Central High School

**Area 10** – Boonville Middle School & High School

## **Upcoming Entry Deadlines**

Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – Team Entry Form

Team Entry form will be submitted using the summary and either the 3v3 entry and/or 5v5 entry form in the Entry form Packet. Please send to [entries@soindiana.org](mailto:entries@soindiana.org). These forms can be found in the Entry packet, labeled red, and named Summary, 3v3 Entry, and 5v5 Entry. Once all team entry forms have been received, then we will put together the Team Directory. The Team Directory will be sent out no later than December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**All Forms due on December 9<sup>th</sup> are labeled Red in the Entry Packet.**

Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> – GMS Window Closes for Teams

Final Rosters and Coach/Chaperones will be due via GMS. If you don't currently have access to GMS you should submit the Final Rosters Form to [entries@soindiana.org](mailto:entries@soindiana.org). These forms can be found in the Entry packet, labeled blue, and named '3v3 Roster', '5v5 Roster', and Coach/Chaperone form. All Class A Coach Chaperones are to be entered directly into GMS. Any CCs not found in GMS can be submitted via the entry packet. Once you see your assigned Sectional Location on the Team Directory, Katie will enter your team into your Sectional in GMS. It will be your responsibility to add your athletes to each specific team. Please use the GMS tutorial found on the [basketball page of the website](#). **All athletes, Unified Partners, coaches, chaperone, and HOD must be compliant when being entered on this date.**

**All Forms due on January 20<sup>th</sup> are labeled Blue in the Entry Packet.**



## Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> - Game Records and Delegation Entry Form

Please complete each one of these documents, found in the Entry packet. For the Game Records, you will need to print this off to complete, you will also need to get the signature of all your opponent's coaches. The Game Records forms are the only document you will need to print out to complete.

## Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – GMS Window Closes for Individual Skills

Skills entries can be submitted through GMS (RECOMMENDED) or through the Individual Skills Entry form found in the Entry Packet. You will need to register them for the sectional tournament that you will be attending, please be sure to confirm this location with the State Office. Skills athletes must compete at a sectional to be eligible to compete at state.

All Forms due on February 24<sup>th</sup> are labeled Green in the Entry Packet.

### **Rules Reminders**

Basketball rules can be found on Pages 179-189 of the 2024-2025 Program Information Guide. Please know that this is not a complete collection of all the rules that we follow on the state level. The National Federation of State High School Associations Basketball rules shall be employed except when they conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Basketball. It is YOUR responsibility to read these rules and make sure you understand them. There are no new rule changes this year, but please see below for changes to entry deadlines, games requirement, and team levels.

### **Basketball Directory**

The 2024 - 2025 Basketball Directory will be sent out no later than December 20<sup>th</sup>. Every team entered will be listed by their Sectional assignment, then by their 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. Historically, women's teams have gone directly to the State Final, this decision will be decided based on the number of teams that register. Use the directory to double-check your team's information! If the information is incorrect, call the State Office immediately. Use this directory when scheduling regular season games prior to Sectional competition.

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

If your team requires a change in classification (i.e., changing from Traditional to Unified, or Master to Senior), contact the State Office immediately for permission. You must get permission to change your team's classification! This could change your Sectional assignment. If a team receives permission to change its classification, the team is still required to meet the game's 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 Katie Hilt.

### **Games Requirement**

- 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 2024-2025 season.
- 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/Female - coed teams play in Men's competition).
  - Opponents in the same level. Exception: teams can play other teams who are either a level higher or a level lower, for example Level 2 teams can play Level 2 team or a high ability Level 3 team
- Women's and Youth teams must play at least 2 games against opponents who meet the above requirements.
- Men's/COED teams must play 3 games against opponents who meet the above requirements.
  - Men's/COED teams must play 1 game against an opponent within their Sectional
  - Men's/COED teams must play 1 game against an opponent outside of their Sectional



- Men's/COED teams must play 1 game against an opponent outside of their County Program
- Multiple games may be played against the same opponent, but this will only count as 1 game towards the game's requirement.
- As a reminder, you must have the opposing coach's signature and game notes on your *Game Records Form*!
- Coaches will be required to provide notes on the *Game Records Form* to provide as much detail on the game as possible. This information will help the divisioning committees in determining more equal matchups. If no notes are required, the game record will be sent back to the coach.
- Please record all games played on the *Game Records Form*, even if you've already met the game's requirement.

## Team Levels

Team levels are assigned by the Basketball Sport Management Team. Level assignments are based on results from past competitions, attributes of the team, and whether they can play by the rules. During the regular season or divisioning process, a team's level is subject to change by the Basketball Sport Management Team. For example, 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, and 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.

## Player Evaluations

Player Evaluations will not be required to be submitted for the 2024-2025 season. This will allow you time to provide additional feedback on your game records. If no notes are provided, the game record will be sent back to the coach.

## 3-on-3 Competition

Please refer to Pages 184-186 in the Program Information Guide for additional information. 3 on 3 are not required to submit a skills assessment or player evaluation. We will continue to use leveling for our 3-on-3 teams. Please refer to the Basketball rules for information on each level and game requirements for 3 on 3. Levels at the start of the season are based on your performance at the end of last year, if you disagree with your level on the directory, please notify Katie to have a conversation. Men's 3-on-3 teams must compete and win at Sectionals to advance to State. Youth 3-on-3 teams advance directly to the State. Katie will determine if Women's 3-on-3 teams will be competing at sectionals after seeing how many women's teams sign up to participate.

## Rule Changes for 3 on 3 Competition

For the 2024-2025 season, we will be implementing the following rule changes, they are highlighted yellow.

### *Inbound:*

To begin the game and after all dead balls (i.e. fouls/out of bounds, made field goals) the official will give the ball to the offensive player to inbound the ball. The throw in for 3-on-3 Basketball will be from the half-court circle on the side of the court where the game is being played.

The DEFENSIVE players must stay behind the free throw line extended to allow the OFFENSIVE player the opportunity to inbound the ball. Once inbound, the defensive team can pressure the ball past the free throw line extended. The Offensive player must inbound it to a player who is in front of the free throw line, they can not inbound it to an offensive person who is in back of the free throw line.

### *Time:*

The game ends after 20 minutes or 20 points, whichever comes first. All games will go on for at least 15 minutes, to get the most out of competition. If a team scores 20 points before 15 minutes have elapsed, the game will continue but scoring will not be recorded.



## **Individual Skills Competition**

Please refer to Pages 186-187, and 189 of the Program Information Guide for additional information on the Individual Skills Competition. Athletes must compete at Sectionals to advance to the State; they do NOT need to win to advance. Athletes absent from the Sectional competition will be ineligible for the State tournament. Please be sure to confirm your state site preference at Sectionals. For athletes who may need a bell basketball, we will have these for use at the State Tournament. Please notify Katie if you wish to use these for the tournament.

## **Team Skills Competition**

At the State Tournament, we will be having an exhibition competition for Team Skills. Team skills is a step up from individual skills and was recommended to be added by the Athlete Leadership Council. For 2025, Athletes will be able to enter in both individual skills and team skills. Since this is an exhibition event there will be no awards given. We will go through the rules of competition at the Preseason Coaches Meeting.

## **Invitational Basketball Tournaments**

This year we will be holding a Zoom meeting to go through the standards for rules, divisioning, and competition management for any tournament that is being held to count toward game records for Special Olympics Teams. This Zoom will be December 11, 2024, at 6:30PM EST. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87221381368>

We will be posting the information and registration forms for basketball tournaments that are available to all County Programs. Games played during these tournaments will count towards your game's requirements, as long as they meet the necessary requirements. 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.

## **Athlete Eligibility**

All athletes must have ATHLETE REGISTRATION AND MEDICAL EXAM FORM ON FILE WITH THE STATE OFFICE prior to the first practice. Athletes who do not meet these requirements for eligibility will not be registered for the basketball season. Please use GMS and Athlete Listings (available upon request), to confirm athlete eligibility. Eligibility will be pulled for all athletes after the GMS Entry window closes on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Anyone not eligible at this deadline will not be allowed to participate in the post season tournaments.

## **Preseason Coaches Meeting**

There will be a preseason coach meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm EST. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89221798753>

## **Questions or Concerns**

Please contact Katie Hilt at the State Office with any questions or concerns. Katie can be reached via email ([khilt@soindiana.org](mailto:khilt@soindiana.org)) or phone (317-328-2011).