



This memo is meant to provide important and useful information regarding the 2025 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. All major changes can be found in **YELLOW**.

## Sectional and State Tournament Locations & Dates

### Sectionals:

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

7 different locations (the Basketball Directory will list your assigned Sectional Locations)

Boonville Sectional	Saturday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Boonville High School and Middle School
Chapel Hill Sectional	Sunday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chapel Hill 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Center
Hauser Sectional	Sunday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Hauser Junior- Senior High School
Monroe Central Sectional	Sunday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Monroe Central High School
Pioneer Sectional	Saturday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Pioneer High School
Shelby County Sectional	Sunday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Triton Central High School
Wheeler Sectional	Sunday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Wheeler High School

### Women's &

### Men's & Unified:

Saturday & Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

Pacers Athletic Center  
200 E 186<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Westfield, IN 46074

### Youth:

Saturday, March 28

University of Indianapolis  
1400 E. Hanna Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46227

## Upcoming Entry Deadlines

Monday, December 8<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 19<sup>th</sup>.

**All Forms due on December 8<sup>th</sup> are labeled Red in the Entry Packet.**

Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – GMS Window Closes for Teams, Skills Athletes, and Coach/Chaperones

Final Rosters, Skills Athletes, and Coach/Chaperone information must be submitted via GMS. If you do not currently have access to GMS, please submit the Final Rosters Form to [entries@soindiana.org](mailto:entries@soindiana.org). Please use the GMS Tutorial found on the Basketball page of the website for guidance.

These forms can be found in the Entry Packet, labeled blue, and titled "3v3 Roster," "5v5 Roster," and "Coach/Chaperone Form."

All Class A coaches and chaperones should be entered directly into GMS. Any coach or chaperone not listed in GMS can be submitted using the forms in the Entry Packet.



You will enter your rosters, skills athletes, and volunteers into the sectional assigned to your county within GMS. Katie will enter all teams into GMS under each sectional; it will then be your responsibility to add your athletes to their respective teams.

## Skills Entries

Skills entries can be submitted through GMS (recommended) or by using the Individual Skills Entry Form found in the Entry Packet.

- When entering in GMS, register athletes for the Sectional Tournament your county has been assigned to.
- Please confirm your sectional location with the State Office.
- Skills athletes must compete at a sectional to be eligible for State Competition.

All athletes, Unified partners, coaches, chaperones, and Heads of Delegation (HOD) must be compliant by the date of entry and remain compliant through their respective State Tournament dates: March 22 – Adults, March 28 – Youth

All Forms due on January 19<sup>th</sup> are labeled Blue in the Entry Packet.

## Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> - Game Records, Individual Skills Scores, and Delegation Entry Form

This is the final deadline for submitting Game Records, Skills scores, and the Delegation Entry Form for each team wishing to participate in Sectionals.

## Game Records

We are no longer using paper Game Record forms.

All Game Records must be submitted via the digital form: [Basketball Game Records Form](#)

Coaches must submit their Game Records by Tuesday of the following week for games played the previous week.

All Forms due on February 16<sup>th</sup> are labeled Green in the Entry Packet.

## **Rules Reminders**

Basketball rules can be found on Pages 180-190 of the 2025-2026 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 2026 Basketball Directory will be sent out no later than December 19<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 two or more Sectional sites. Historically, Unified and 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, email Katie immediately. Use this directory when scheduling regular season games prior to Sectional competition.



## Team Levels

Team Levels will be based off where teams have finished in the 2025 season. You can see what level your team will be starting at for this season on the basketball page of the website under Resources – 2026 Basketball Team Levels. If your team needs to change classification or level please see below. 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 also be moved up or down based on the results from their regular season play. 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.

## 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 Katie Hilt. 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. Request to change Classification must be made by January 19<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 2026 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 1,2, or 3 teams
- Women's and Youth teams must play at least 2 games against opponents who meet the above requirements.
- Men's/COED 3 on 3 teams must play at least 3 games against opponents who meet the above requirements.
- Men's/COED teams must play 3 games against opponents who meet the requirements below.
  - 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 complete submit their digital Game Records by Tuesday of the following week for games played the previous week.
- Please record all games played on the *Game Records Form*, even if you've already met the game's requirement.

## Player Evaluations

Player Evaluations will not be required to be submitted for the 2026 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

We will continue to use leveling for all 3-on-3 teams; please see the Basketball Rules section for information on each level.

Levels at the start of the season are determined by each team's performance at the end of last year.

If you believe your assigned level in the directory is inaccurate, please contact Katie to discuss a possible adjustment.

- **Men's 3-on-3 teams must play a minimum of three (3) games.**
- Men's 3-on-3 teams must compete and win at Sectionals to advance to the State Tournament.
- Youth 3-on-3 teams will advance directly to the State Tournament.
- Women's 3-on-3 competition at Sectionals will be determined by Katie, based on the number of teams registered.

## Rule Changes for 3 on 3 Competition

For the 2026 season, we will continue to follow the rule changes that were put in place last year. Which includes the inbound rule and time.

**Inbound:** 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 187-189 of the Program Information Guide for additional information on the Individual Skills Competition. All Athletes competing in skills (no matter than age) 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. Youth athletes should compete in skills at the Youth Basketball State Tournament and adult athletes should compete at the State Tournament on March 21<sup>st</sup>. For athletes who may need a basketball ball, 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

We will be hosting the Team Skills competition at the State Tournament in 2026. Team skills is a step up from individual skills and it was recommended to be added by the Athlete Leadership Council. For 2026, Athletes will be able to enter in both individual skills and team skills. [Here is a video on how to do Team Skills](#)

## Athlete Eligibility

All athletes must be eligible to participate by having their health history and release complete in COE OR having a previous registration and medical on file through March 22<sup>nd</sup> or March 28<sup>th</sup>, depending on the event that they participating at. 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 19<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 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm EST. [Click here for Preseason Coaches Meeting Link](#)

## Questions or Concerns

Katie Hilt is the basketball contact at the State Office. Katie can be reached via email (khilt@soindiana.org) or phone (317-328-2011).



## Regular Season Basketball Tournaments

We highly encourage all County Programs to participate in regular season basketball tournaments hosted by county programs. This provides 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. Directors of these tournaments should make sure to follow the quality standards of hosting a basketball tournament found here:

Tournament Name	Date	Location	Contact	Email	Who's invited
Area 5 Basketball Invitational	1/11/2025	Caston Jr/Sr. High School	Michelle Jones	<a href="mailto:jonesgirls03@gmail.com">jonesgirls03@gmail.com</a>	All Counties
Delaware County IMPG Basketball Invitational	1/18/2025	Monroe Central High School	Barb Cox	<a href="mailto:barb.cox@oldnational.com">barb.cox@oldnational.com</a>	All Counties
Area 4 Wabash Basketball Tournament	2/8/2026	Wabash Fieldhouse	Tori Gregory and Kenny Melvin	<a href="mailto:victoriaegregory@gmail.com">victoriaegregory@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:soinarea4@yahoo.com">soinarea4@yahoo.com</a>	All Counties
Elkhart Tip Off Tournament	1/25/2026	Goshen High School	Shai Matthews	<a href="mailto:Mathews.Shailyn@gmail.com">Mathews.Shailyn@gmail.com</a>	All Counties
Grant County Take it to the Hoop Tournament	2/7/2026	Taylor University	Jessica Fortney	<a href="mailto:soingrant@gmail.com">soingrant@gmail.com</a>	All Counties
RODs Hoosier Classic Tournament	1/25/2026	Batesville High School	Greg Townsend	<a href="mailto:gtownsend@soindiana-rod.org">gtownsend@soindiana-rod.org</a>	All Counties
Shelby County Arnie Petre Memorial Tournament	2/7/2026	Shelbyville High school	Abby Shuck	<a href="mailto:abigailmshuck@gmail.com">abigailmshuck@gmail.com</a>	All Counties
Women's, Youth, and Unified Regular Season Tournament	2/15/2026	Pro Net Sports Facility	Katie Hilt	<a href="mailto:khilt@soindiana.org">khilt@soindiana.org</a>	All Counties
Marshall Starke Basketball Tournament	2/8/2026	Culvner Community Middle and High School	David Graf	<a href="mailto:stjoehod@gmail.com">stjoehod@gmail.com</a>	All Counties
Porter County Basketball Tournament	2/8/2026	Ben Franklin Middle School	Tracy Anderson	<a href="mailto:Tracyscott295@gmail.com">Tracyscott295@gmail.com</a>	All Counties