



2025 - 2026 Boys Basketball Handbook

Updated 10/12/2025

Boys' Basketball Seeding Committee

NAME	TITLE	SCHOOL
Wally Bachman	Section VIII Coordinator	Jericho
Jennifer Keane	Asst. Coordinator	Wantagh
Michael Bongino	District A.D.	Cold Spring Harbor
Jay Allen	President NCBCA	Sewanhaka
Darius Burton	Committee Member	Baldwin
Jack Davenport	Committee Member	Bethpage
John Cantwell	Committee Member	Carle Place
Jason Mercurio	Committee Member	Cold Spring Harbor
Matt Johnsen	Committee Member	Friends Academy
James Hegmann	Committee Member	Garden City
Jared Weir	Committee Member	Hempstead
George Bruns	Committee Member	Manhasset
Michael Harris	Committee Member	Plainview
Sean Dooley	Committee Member	Port Washington
Michael Wimmer	Committee Member	Valley Stream Central
Matt Simeone	Committee Member	Wantagh
Rich Slater	Committee Member	Wheatley

NCBCA Committee

Jay Allen	President	Sewanhaka
Sean Boyle	Vice President	Floral Park
Ryan Berglin	Secretary	North Shore
Jerry D'Angelo	Treasurers	South Side
Michael McVeigh		Valley Stream North

Message from Section VIII Coordinator Walter Bachman

The Section VIII Boys' Basketball 2025-2026 Handbook is updated annually and distributed as a resource for all persons involved during the basketball season.

The handbook contains important information about the methods and procedures to be applied for the 2025-2026 Season.

Please read it thoroughly.

I would like to thank everyone involved in boys' basketball for all their support and hard work during last season. It was a great year and it could not have been achieved without everyone's cooperation.

I would also be remiss in not thanking the members of the Boys' Basketball Committee. Without their hard work and tireless efforts we would not have the outstanding program that we currently have.

On behalf of the Basketball Committee, I would like to wish you the very best of luck during the season and hope your basketball experience will be both successful and rewarding. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at:

Cell (516) 965-9215

E-mail: walterbachman6@gmail.com

Lopsided Score Policy

The Section VIII Athletic Council has asked that all sports adopt a lopsided score policy. In the event a team(s) does not adhere to the policy, there will be an investigation and findings brought to a Section VIII lopsided score committee. They will decide if it warrants any type of action like a coach suspension.

The boys basketball committee has come up with the following policy approved by the Athletic Council:

At any time during a Section VIII game (league or non-league) if either team is up by 35 points, BOTH teams must remove their starters. Teams may play second and third string players and the defense must begin at the top of the key of their defensive zone. Each team can play zone or man to man, but cannot trap.

If the losing team gets the score to 20 points or below, starting players may come back into the game. If the score gets back to a 35 points differential, both teams must follow the policy stated above.

All scores that exceed 35 points will be reported to the sports coordinator and an investigation will take place on why this happened. The lopsided score committee, AD's and Coaches from both schools will meet to discuss the possibility of a consequence.

*Thank you,
Walter Bachman
Head Basketball Coach, Jericho High School
Sports Coordinator, Nassau County Boys Basketball*

Score Differential Policy

Philosophy: “Section VIII Athletic Programs are educationally based designed to encourage safety, participation and sportsmanship.” Contributors of Section VIII for all playing levels, (V, JV, JH) feel that this policy will serve to provide a wider range of players with additional playing time while keeping the game competitive.

Guidelines: Each sport coordinator will be charged with writing guidelines, to be included in the sport overview, for coaches to follow while competing during season play. This policy will enforce the written guidelines for each sport.

First Reported Incident: If the score exceeds the written sport guidelines, a report must be submitted online on the SECTION VIII UNSPORTSMANLIKE Behavior/INCIDENT/DISQUALIFICATION REPORT This report is to be completed and submitted by game officials and athletic directors of both schools within 24 hours of the incident and/or violation. The form will include recording the score and a statement to be made by the sender: In your opinion, was this an infraction of the sport guidelines set for the score differential, YES or NO. A notification of this report will be sent to the school's athletic director, principal, and superintendent. If report indicated YES, it will be reviewed by the sport coordinator, coach's association president and office of the executive director and if warranted, a letter of warning will be issued by the office of the Executive Director to the athletic director, principal and superintendent of the offending school.

Second Reported Incident (In the Same Season): A second reported incident involving a coach will be communicated to all the listed above, but the details involved will be addressed by a committee of: Sport Coordinator, Coaches Association President, office of the Executive Director, HSAA President, Sportsmanship Chairperson, and OCC President. The committee will consider evidence (scorebooks, video, written/verbal reports from both coaches and officials) to determine if an adequate attempt was made to mitigate the score. The coach will be suspended during the pending review by this committee, pending appeal from the athletic director. A letter of reprimand with a recommendation of consequences will be issued by the office of the Executive Director to the athletic director, principal and superintendent of the offending schools.

Third Reported Incident (In the Same Season): A third reported incident involving a coach will be referred to the committee that met in the second incident, with an immediate suspension with no appeal from the athletic director until the incident is ruled upon. This may lead to more severe disciplinary action including suspension for the remainder of the season. Such disciplinary action could carry over into subsequent sports seasons. Additional consequences may also be recommended by the office of the Executive Director.

2025-2026 Season Timeline

High School Sport Standards

Maximum number of games (Non-League and League Combined):

20 for Varsity, 19 for JV

Required number of practices prior to first scrimmage/non-league game:

6 (individual)

Minimum time between contest: 1 night

Individual Contest Limitations per Day: 1 contest

Scrimmage limitations per day: 1 scrimmage

Rules: NFHS

Official Ball: Spalding (TF1000 Legacy)

Pre-Season Coaches Meeting - TBA

First Day of Practice - Monday, November 17

First Day to Scrimmage/Non-League Games - Monday, November 24

Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 27

1st set of League Games - Monday-Wednesday, December 11, 12, & 13

Christmas Eve (*No contest or scrimmages*) - Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Day (*No contest or scrimmages*) - Thursday, December 25

Martin Luther King Jr Day - Monday, January 19

Regents Exams - Tuesday-Thursday, January 20, 21, & 22

Lunar New Year - Tuesday, February 17

Last Day of the Regular Season - Saturday, February 14

End of Season Meeting - *Must attend* - Monday, February 16

Playoffs - (*ALL PLAYOFF DATES ARE TENTATIVE*)

1st Round - Wednesday, February 18 & Thursday, February 19

Quarters - "AAA" & "A" - Saturday, February 21 & "AA" Tuesday, February 24

Semi-Finals - "B" - February 22, "A" - February 28, "AAA" March 1, "AA" - March 2

County Championships

"B" - March 4

"A" - March 6

"AAA", "AA" - March 7

Long Island Championships

"A" & "B" - March 10

"AAA" & "AA" - March 11

Regionals - March 14

States - March 19-22 - Binghamton

NFHS Basketball Rules Changes - 2025-26

4-22-1 & 2: This change removes the offensive team from goaltending violations, simplifying enforcement for officials and reducing ambiguity over whether a ball was a shot or a pass. It also encourages more scoring opportunities and minimizes confusion for players and coaches.

Rationale: The change eliminates the possibility of an offensive goaltending violation, which simplifies the rule for officials and players. It removes the need to judge whether a ball in flight is a try or a pass, resulting in clearer enforcement, greater consistency, and more opportunities for scoring plays near the basket.

4-22-3 (NEW): This rule change establishes that once the ball contacts the backboard, it is automatically considered to be on its downward flight. Therefore, if a player touches the ball after it hits the backboard, and the ball has a possibility of entering the basket, it is ruled as goaltending.

This clarification helps protect legitimate shot attempts, reduces rough rebounding situations, and addresses a common rules misconception among coaches and players. It provides officials with a clearer standard for enforcing goaltending in backboard-related plays.

Rationale: This change enhances officiating clarity and protects legitimate shot attempts. It also addresses a common misconception among coaches and players by explicitly defining goaltending, leading to more consistent enforcement.

4-34-1: This rule change updates the definition of a player to clarify that a player is one of the five team members legally on the court at any given time, except during time-outs or intermissions. The change ensures consistency in rule enforcement by recognizing that it is difficult to distinguish between players, substitutes, and bench personnel during time-outs and intermissions. This clarification also supports the accountability of coaches for all team conduct during these periods and helps avoid misapplication of penalties such as technical fouls.

Rationale: This change ensures consistent enforcement of penalties for unsporting conduct by bench personnel. It allows officials to issue technical fouls to bench personnel during time-outs, aligning with the current rules for intermissions. It eliminates confusion and potential misapplication of rules and ensures fair and consistent enforcement of penalties for unsporting behavior, regardless of the individual's role.

7-5-4: This rule change updates the procedure for determining the designated throw-in spot following a stoppage of play (not due to the ball going out of bounds) in the frontcourt. Instead of relying on an imaginary line, officials now use existing court markings, specifically the three-point line, to determine the location. This change improves accuracy, consistency, and clarity for officials by using visible floor markings rather than imaginary lines, which were often misjudged.

Rationale: By using the visible three-point line as the line of demarcation, officials will have a clearer and more consistent method for determining throw-in locations. This improves accuracy and reduces confusion, resulting in more reliable throw-ins.

9-2-12 & 9-3-4 (NEW): This rule change addresses situations where a thrower purposely and/or deceitfully delays returning inbounds after legally stepping out of bounds and then becomes the first player to touch the ball upon re-entering the court. Previously penalized as a technical foul, this action is now treated as a violation, aligning it with similar out-of-bounds scenarios. The change reduces the severity of the penalty to encourage more consistent enforcement by officials and prevents players from gaining an unfair advantage through deceptive re-entry tactics.

Rationale: This change lessens the penalty for players who delay their return after being out of bounds, shifting the penalty from a technical foul to a less severe violation. This rule aligns with the penalty structure of similar violations, such as Rule 9-3-3 (where a player steps out of bounds on their own volition). The change is intended to make it easier for officials to recognize and penalize these actions consistently while reducing the severity of the penalty, encouraging more accurate enforcement.

10-4-4b: This rule prohibits players from illegally contacting the backboard or ring in ways that create an unfair advantage or interfere with a scoring attempt. This rule is designed to maintain fair play and protect the integrity of scoring opportunities by penalizing actions affecting the outcome of a shot, with a technical foul.

Rationale: The rule change aims to standardize and clarify the enforcement of basket interference, leading to fairer outcomes and more consistent officiating. The removal of subjective judgments around intent allows for clearer rulings and better alignment with current game dynamics.

4-6-1a & b (NEW): This rule change clarifies and expands the definition of basket interference to include additional actions that unfairly affect the ball while it is in a scoring position. Basket interference now occurs when a player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the backboard or basket to vibrate, while the ball is on or within the basket, touching the backboard, or within the cylinder.

Rationale: This clarification helps officials consistently identify interference that affects scoring plays and ensures the integrity of the basket area during shot attempts.

2025-26 Basketball Editorial Changes

4-19-3c, 4-47, 5.2.1 SITUATION C, 6-3-2a, 6-3-5b, 10-5-2

2025-26 Basketball Points of Emphasis

1. Bench Decorum and Communication
2. Faking Being Fouled
3. Contact on the Ball Handler

Section VIII Boys' Basketball Coaching Responsibilities

1. Submit scores
 - a. To Newsday <https://sportscentral.newsday.com/login>
 - b. To BOCES using DigitalSports
2. Review the Section VIII Sportsmanship Policy with your players, staff and spectators
3. Coach in the spirit of sportsmanship, follow the lopsided score policy
4. Complete regular season games by Saturday, February 14
5. Complete official game ratings
6. Fill out the officials' ranking for playoffs assignments
7. Attend the end of season meeting on Monday, February 16

Breakdown of Classifications

Classification	Number of Teams	Playoff Bracket
AAA	16	8
AA	22	12
A	16	8
B	5	4

AAA - 16 SCHOOLS (2 Leagues)

League 1

Freeport
Syosset
Uniondale
Hempstead
Massapequa
Hicksville
Plainview OBP
Farmingdale

League 2

Port Washington
Oceanside
Westbury
Valley Stream Central
Herricks
Baldwin
East Meadow
Academy Charter

AA - 22 SCHOOLS (3 Leagues)

League 3

Great Neck South
Jericho
Long Beach
MacArthur
Calhoun
New Hyde Park
Bellmore - JFK

League 4

Roslyn
Great Neck North
Mepham
Glen Cove
Roosevelt
Garden City
Hewlett

League 5

Sewanhaka
Manhasset
Division
Carey
Bethpage
Elmont
Clarke
South Side

A/B - 21 SCHOOLS - 16 A/5 B (3 Leagues)

League 6

V.S South
Mineola
Wantagh
V.S. North
Floral Park
Lynbrook
Plainedge

League 7

Lawrence
North Shore
Island Trees
Seaford
Malverne
Locust Valley
Friends Academy

League 8

Wheatley (A)
West Hempstead (A)
Cold Spring Harbor (B)
Oyster Bay (B)
East Rockaway (B)
Carle Place (B)
Evergreen Charter (B)

League Overview “AAA” Classification & Schedules

16 Teams in 2 Leagues (1 & 2)

- 8 Teams in each League
- Play everyone in league Home/Away - 14 League Games - 6 Non-League Games

League 1

1 - Freeport
 2 - Syosset
 3 - Uniondale
 4 - Hempstead
 5 - Massapequa
 6 - Hicksville
 7 - Plainview OBP
 8 - Farmingdale

League 2

1 - Port Washington
 2 - Oceanside
 3 - Westbury
 4 - V.S. Central
 5 - Herricks
 6 - Baldwin
 7 - East Meadow
 8 - Academy Charter

8 TEAM CONFERENCE – 14 Games

Thursday 11-Dec	Monday 15-Dec	Thursday 18-Dec	Wednesday 7-Jan	Saturday 10-Jan	Tuesday 13-Jan	Friday 16-Jan
4 @ 3	7 @ 5	2 @ 1	5 @ 4	6 @ 2	3 @ 7	1 @ 3
7 @ 1	8 @ 4	3 @ 8	1 @ 8	8 @ 7	2 @ 8	2 @ 4
6 @ 8	3 @ 2	4 @ 7	7 @ 2	1 @ 4	5 @ 1	8 @ 5
2 @ 5	1 @ 6	5 @ 6	6 @ 3	3 @ 5	4 @ 6	7 @ 6
Friday 23-Jan	Monday 26-Jan	Thursday 29-Jan	Wednesday 4-Feb	Saturday 7-Feb	Tuesday 10-Feb	Friday 13-Feb
3 @ 4	5 @ 7	1 @ 2	4 @ 5	2 @ 6	7 @ 3	3 @ 1
1 @ 7	4 @ 8	8 @ 3	8 @ 1	7 @ 8	8 @ 2	4 @ 2
8 @ 6	2 @ 3	7 @ 4	2 @ 7	4 @ 1	1 @ 5	5 @ 8
5 @ 2	6 @ 1	6 @ 5	3 @ 6	5 @ 3	6 @ 4	6 @ 7

League Overview “AA” Classification & Schedules - Leagues 3 & 4

22 Teams in 3 Leagues (3, 4 & 5)

- **7 Teams in Leagues 3 & 4** - 8 Teams in League 5 (schedule on the next page)
- Play everyone in league Home/Away - 12 League Games - 8 Non-League Games

League 3

1 - Great Neck South
 2 - Jericho
 3 - Long Beach
 4 - MacArthur
 5 - Calhoun
 6 - New Hyde Park
 7 - Bellmore - JFK

League 4

1 - Roslyn
 2 - Great Neck North
 3 - Mepham
 4 - Glen Cove
 5 - Roosevelt
 6 - Garden City
 7 - Hewlett

7 TEAM CONFERENCE – 12 Games

Saturday	Tuesday	Friday	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	Saturday
13-Dec	16-Dec	19-Dec	5-Jan	8-Jan	14-Jan	17-Jan
4 @ 3	7 @ 5	2 @ 1	5 @ 4	6 @ 2	3 @ 7	1 @ 3
7 @ 1	3 @ 2	4 @ 7	7 @ 2	1 @ 4	5 @ 1	2 @ 4
2 @ 5	1 @ 6	5 @ 6	6 @ 3	3 @ 5	4 @ 6	7 @ 6
6 BYE	4 BYE	3 BYE	1 BYE	7 BYE	2 BYE	5 BYE
Friday	Tuesday	Friday	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	Saturday
23-Jan	27-Jan	30-Jan	2-Feb	5-Feb	11-Feb	14-Feb
3 @ 4	5 @ 7	1 @ 2	4 @ 5	2 @ 6	7 @ 3	3 @ 1
1 @ 7	2 @ 3	7 @ 4	2 @ 7	4 @ 1	1 @ 5	4 @ 2
5 @ 2	6 @ 1	6 @ 5	3 @ 6	5 @ 3	6 @ 4	6 @ 7
6 BYE	4 BYE	3 BYE	1 BYE	7 BYE	2 BYE	5 BYE

League Overview “AA” Classification & Schedules - League 5

22 Teams in 3 Leagues (3, 4 & 5)

- 7 Teams in Leagues 3 & 4 (previous page) - **8 Teams in League 5**
- Play everyone in league Home/Away - 14 League Games - 6 Non-League Games

League 5

- 1 - Sewanhaka
- 2 - Manhasset
- 3 - Division
- 4 - Carey
- 5 - Bethpage
- 6 - Elmont
- 7 - Clarke
- 8 - South Side

7 TEAM CONFERENCE – 12 Games

Saturday	Tuesday	Friday	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	Saturday
13-Dec	16-Dec	19-Dec	5-Jan	8-Jan	14-Jan	17-Jan
4 @ 3	7 @ 5	2 @ 1	5 @ 4	6 @ 2	3 @ 7	1 @ 3
7 @ 1	8 @ 4	3 @ 8	1 @ 8	8 @ 7	2 @ 8	2 @ 4
6 @ 8	3 @ 2	4 @ 7	7 @ 2	1 @ 4	5 @ 1	8 @ 5
2 @ 5	1 @ 6	5 @ 6	6 @ 3	3 @ 5	4 @ 6	7 @ 6
Saturday	Tuesday	Friday	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	Saturday
24-Jan	27-Jan	30-Jan	2-Feb	5-Feb	11-Feb	14-Feb
3 @ 4	5 @ 7	1 @ 2	4 @ 5	2 @ 6	7 @ 3	3 @ 1
1 @ 7	4 @ 8	8 @ 3	8 @ 1	7 @ 8	8 @ 2	4 @ 2
8 @ 6	2 @ 3	7 @ 4	2 @ 7	4 @ 1	1 @ 5	5 @ 8
5 @ 2	6 @ 1	6 @ 5	3 @ 6	5 @ 3	6 @ 4	6 @ 7

League Overview “A” & “B” Classification & Schedules - Leagues 6, 7 & 8

21 Teams (16 A & 5 B) in 3 Leagues (6, 7 & 8)

- 7 Teams in each Leagues
- Play everyone in league Home/Away - 12 League Games - 8 Non-League Games

League 6

1 - V.S. South
2 - Mineola
3 - Wantagh
4 - V.S. North
5 - Floral Park
6 - Lynbrook
7 - Plainedge

League 7

1 - Lawrence
2 - North Shore
3 - Island Trees
4 - Seaford
5 - Malverne
6 - Locust Valley
7 - Friends Academy

League 8

1 - Wheatley (A)
2 - West Hempstead (A)
3 - Cold Spring Harbor (B)
4 - Oyster Bay (B)
5 - East Rockaway (B)
6 - Carle Place (B)
7 - Evergreen Charter (B)

7 TEAM CONFERENCE – 12 Games

Friday 12-Dec	Wednesday 17-Dec	Saturday 20-Dec	Tuesday 6-Jan	Friday 9-Jan	Monday 12-Jan	Thursday 15-Jan
4 @ 3	7 @ 5	2 @ 1	5 @ 4	6 @ 2	3 @ 7	1 @ 3
7 @ 1	3 @ 2	4 @ 7	7 @ 2	1 @ 4	5 @ 1	2 @ 4
2 @ 5	1 @ 6	5 @ 6	6 @ 3	3 @ 5	4 @ 6	7 @ 6
6 BYE	4 BYE	3 BYE	1 BYE	7 BYE	2 BYE	5 BYE
Saturday 24-Jan	Wednesday 28-Jan	Saturday 31-Jan	Tuesday 3-Feb	Friday 6-Feb	Monday 9-Feb	Thursday 12-Feb
3 @ 4	5 @ 7	1 @ 2	4 @ 5	2 @ 6	7 @ 3	3 @ 1
1 @ 7	2 @ 3	7 @ 4	2 @ 7	4 @ 1	1 @ 5	4 @ 2
5 @ 2	6 @ 1	6 @ 5	3 @ 6	5 @ 3	6 @ 4	6 @ 7
6 BYE	4 BYE	3 BYE	1 BYE	7 BYE	2 BYE	5 BYE

League Standing

Based on overall conference winning percentage. Total conference wins divided by total conference games = winning percentage.

Place of Finish

1st place = +5 points

2nd place = +3 points

3rd place = +1 point

Undefeated in league = +2 points

If there is a tie, it will be broken by the tie breaker...

- Head to head
- Record vs teams in ascending order

Once teams have qualified for the postseason...

League Bonus Points: Top 4 teams will receive the following bonus points based on how many league wins their opponents (who are also in the Top 4) achieved during their regular league season.

Any team that qualified for the post season with a .500% record *below* the Top 4 will not give or receive bonus points. Their seeding will be based solely on their winning percentage.

Conference 3- “A” schools must finish in the Top 4 to earn League Bonus Points.

Bonus Points are based on .75 increments and are as follows...

Points for League Wins

6 Wins - .5

7 Wins - 1.25

8 Wins - 2

9 Wins - 2.75

10 Wins - 3.5

11 Wins - 4.25 **same as 13 wins for AA*

12 Wins - 5 **same as 14 wins for AA*

13 Wins - 4.25 **same as 11 wins for AA*

14 Wins - 5 **same as 14 wins for AA*

Team Example: Team C finishes in 3rd place

9 wins / 12 games = .75 X 100 = 75 + 1(3rd place points) + 3.5 (Team B's wins) +
5 (Team A's wins) + 2 (Team D's wins) = 86

Conference Example:

Conference	League Record	League Wins/ Games Played	Multiply by 100	League Winning %	Bonus Points	Total %
Team A	11-1	11/12	X 100	91	10.25	101.25%
Team B	10-2	10/12	X 100	83	9	92.00%
Team C	7-5	7/12	X 100	58	9.25	67.25%
Team D*	6-6	6/12	X 100	50	9	59.00%
Team E*	6-6	6/12	X 100	50	0	50.00%

**The tie between teams D & E was broken by using tie breaker, head-to-head then record vs teams in ascending order.*

Tentative Boys Basketball Playoff Schedule 2026 – Updated 10/12/25

DATE		DAY	START TIME	GAMES	VENUE
Feb	18	Wednesday	TBD	A, AAA 1st Round (if needed)	@ Higher Seed
Feb	19	Thursday	TBD	AA 1st Round	@ Higher Seed
Feb	21	Saturday	TBD	A & AAA Quarters-Finals	@ Higher Seed
Feb	22	Sunday	5:00 - 7:30	B Semis-Finals	SUNY FARMINGDALE
Feb	24	Tuesday	TBD	AA Quarter-Finals	@ Higher Seed
Feb	28	Saturday	5:30 - 8:00	A Semis-Finals	@ Higher Seed
Mar	1	Sunday	5:00- 7:30	AAA Semi-Finals	SUNY FARMINGDALE
Mar	2	Monday	5:30 - 8:00	AA Semi-Finals	SUNY FARMINGDALE
Mar	4	Wednesday	8:00	B Finals	SUNY FARMINGDALE
Mar	6	Friday	8:00	A Finals	SUNY FARMINGDALE
Mar	7	Saturday	5:00 - 7:30	AA & AAA Finals	SUNY FARMINGDALE
Mar	10	Tuesday	5:00 - 7:30	B & A LIC	SUNY FARMINGDALE
Mar	11	Wednesday	5:00 - 7:30	AA & AAA LIC	SUNY FARMINGDALE
Mar	14	Saturday	3:30 - 6:00 - 8:30	A, B & C Regional	SUNY FARMINGDALE
Mar			TBD	AA & AAA Regional	@ Section 1/9
Mar	19- 22	Thurs - Sun	TBA	New York State Championships	Binghamton

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

1. List teams and their records, both league and non-league, that have qualified for the playoffs.
2. If necessary, fill allotted playoff spots available, with the next team(s) based on index score.
3. Review qualified teams' Point Index scores
4. Seed teams by their point index score.
5. In necessary, break ties based on Tie Breaker Criteria
6. If the tournament director and his assistant are available, they will select a third neutral member to create the three-man protest committee. If they are not available, the tournament director or his designee and the athletic directors of the two schools shall formulate the committee. If both Athletic Directors are present the protest committee is comprised of both Athletic Directors and the tournament director's designee. However, if either one or both athletic Directors are not present the protest committee will be solely manned by the tournament director or his designee.
7. The Protest Committee will be available to hear any alleged protest that does not involve an official's judgment by using the following format:
 - a) The coach will notify the game official immediately if, in his opinion, there is a violation of a written rule.
 - b) The official will stop the game and notify the Tournament Representative.
 - c) The committee will meet and render a decision so that the game may continue under the conditions set forth by the committee.
 - d) Under no circumstance will a game be rescheduled since in Tournament Play the winner must advance on an established schedule.

TOURNAMENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

I. QUALIFYING FOR TOURNAMENT

- Each team, in all classes, must go at least .500 in league play in order to qualify for postseason.
- If there are still allotted playoff spots available, then the next team(s) based on index score will fill those spots.
- No School is compelled to enter.
- All Games up to and including the Quarterfinals will be held at the higher seed.
- Semi-finals & Finals will be held at a neutral site to be determined.

II. COMPLETION OF LEAGUE GAMES

- It is mandatory that all league games be completed by Saturday, February 14, 2026
 - This will allow the Basketball Committee to seed all teams that qualify for the playoffs on Monday, February 16, 2026 at TBD @ TBD
- Any game played after the mandatory completion date shall not count unless extremely unusual circumstances exist.
- Only the Basketball Committee shall determine extremely unusual circumstances, and their decision shall not be subject to appeal.

III. INFORMATIONAL MEETING

- An informational meeting for all participating schools will be held on:
 - Monday, February 16, 2026 at 7 p.m. @ TBD
- Qualifying schools will be expected to have a representative at the Monday night meeting to obtain the following information:
 - Your playoff seed within your classification
 - Site and time of your game
 - Contact your opponent to determine the site and time.

IV. WITHDRAWAL

- If a school withdraws after the Tournament Bracket is determined, or while the Tournament is in progress, the opposing team will receive a forfeit win and automatically advance to the next round with the appropriate placement on the bracket.

V. PLAYOFF SITES

- At the higher seed school's gymnasium:
 1. If this gymnasium is not available, the opponent's gymnasium shall be used, not an alternate gymnasium. The lower team becomes the home team.
 2. If neither gymnasium is available, a neutral site will be selected by the Tournament Committee at some expense to both schools.

3. At neutral sites, the upper bracketed team will be designated as the home team and wear white or light-colored uniforms.

VI. BANNERS/SIGNS, ETC.

- Banners, signs and any other paraphernalia may not be posted at either end of the court. Only the side to which a school is assigned may be used for this purpose.

VII. GAME TIME

- The host school shall determine the game time. **No game should be scheduled before Noon.**

VIII. PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP (Semi-Final & Final Rounds)

- After Regional Play, five classifications winners will travel to Binghamton to play beginning Thursday, March 19, 2026 through Sunday, March 22, 2026 in the semi-final and final rounds to determine the New York State Public High School Classifications Champions.
- Section VIII will provide round-trip bus transportation for section VIII teams that make it to the New York State Championship round. Each School needs to contact the BOCES office to confirm all travel arrangements. Hotel accommodations for 18 people will also be provided by Section VIII. Winning coaches at the Regional playoffs will receive a packet of information containing further details.
- Each school participating at Binghamton will be expected to conform to guidelines in the state published brochure. These include, but are not limited to, uniform and home team guidelines, protest procedures, team supervision and discipline, code of conduct, cheerleaders, etc. It is the responsibility of the coach and other school personnel to make sure the state guidelines are followed.

IX. TICKETS

- Semi-Final and Final games at neutral sites will be TBD per session.
- Regional games in the Section will be TBD per session.
- Regional games played in other Sections are subject to that Section's Rules.
- State games are priced as shown in the brochure.

X. GATE LIST

- Participating schools shall be required to submit a gate list to the person in charge of admissions for all post-season contests. This list will include: statisticians, supervisors, Board of Education members, school press, photographers, etc.
- Boys' Varsity Basketball Coaches plus one assistant coach (assistant coach must be with the varsity coach at the time of entry) from Nassau County Public High Schools will be

admitted free of charge to all Nassau County Boys' Basketball Playoff games. This **does not** include the Long Island Championship games.

XI. PASSES

- The N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.- Section VIII White or Gold (retirees) passes will be honored at all section games. **NO PASSES WILL BE HONORED AT REGIONAL GAMES.** This is a State Association ruling. Sections I & XI are obliged to follow the same rule. Any members of the working press must have credentials and make prior arrangements regarding admission and table space. Under **NO** circumstances will a Conference Pass be honored.

XII. GAME BALL

- The coach of the higher seeded team (home team) will determine the basketball to be used that must be approved by the game official. First, Second, Quarters , Semi-finals, Finals and Regional games will use a Spalding ball supplied by the coordinator.

XIII. SECTIONAL AWARDS

- The following plaques will be provided by Section VIII:
- Section VIII Classification Championship Teams
- Section VIII Classification Finalist
- 18 Individual Awards (maximum) to the 1st Place Team in each Classification

XIV. ARRIVAL TIME

- The host school will establish the starting time. It is expected that the visiting team will allow enough time to arrive, dress, warm-up and be ready to play five (5) minutes before the scheduled time.
- In the event you are unavoidably detained, you must be ready to play thirty (30) minutes after your arrival at the site. In this case, please make arrangements to call ahead and notify your opponent of your delay.
- It is the responsibility of each participating school to have a working telephone number in order to notify your opponent of a delay, or to send a representative to the site to notify the appropriate individuals of the problem. If, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, a reasonable effort is not made to comply with this rule, the forfeit rule will be applied.

XV. SPORTSMANSHIP

- Section VIII has adopted a Sportsmanship Policy. All aspects of this policy will be in effect during every game of the Tournament regardless of the site or round. Participating and Host Directors are required to report any violations of this policy to the Tournament Director, and the chairman of the Sportsmanship Committee.

XVI. CODE OF CONDUCT

- A Code of Conduct form must be signed by each athlete and his parent or guardian before the athlete can participate in N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Regional or Championship competition. The Code of Conduct forms will be distributed to the winners of the Semi-Final Round in each classification. It will then be the responsibility of the Athletic Director to have these forms completed and given to the Tournament Director or his designee prior to the Championship Game.

DUTIES OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

ARRIVAL TIME:

Arrive at the game site no earlier than one hour before game-time. You will not be permitted on the floor until thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled start.

GAME-TIME:

All higher seed games will begin at the time set by the Director of the host school. Neutral site game times will be determined by the Basketball Committee. Coaches will terminate warm-ups in order to have their teams ready to begin five minutes before game-time.

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

For higher seed games, if there is some doubt as to whether the game will be played, the participating Directors will contact each other to make a decision. The home team (host school) will notify officials when the game is postponed, and the rescheduled date and time. The game must be rescheduled at the next available playing date. It is assumed that the next day is available. In any case, the game must be replayed before the next scheduled round. For neutral site games the tournament director will make the decision.

HOME TEAM:

The team that is the higher seed is the home team. That team will contact the opposing school to eliminate the possibility of a conflict in the color of uniforms. The home team will make the decision based upon standard procedure.

WINNING TEAM:

The winning team shall call the game and individual scores to Newsday @ (631) 843-2820

BENCH:

The home team will determine the location of each team's bench.

BASKET:

Each team's basket for the team's warm-up and for the first half shall be the basket further from its bench.

PRACTICES:

No visiting team should request to practice or scrimmage on a host school's court. Neither team should request to practice on any neutral court to be used in the tournament.

SCOREKEEPERS:

MUST BE ADULTS! Each school should supply a scorekeeper. The visiting team will be the official scorer and the home team (at its court) will run the clock. At neutral sites, the timer and the official book will be provided by Section VIII.

CLOCK OPERATOR:

The host school will supply the clock operator. He or she must be an adult, and from the school at which the game will be played. If other arrangements are to be considered, the Participating Directors and the Host Director have the authority to appoint the official clock operator.

CHEERLEADERS:

- *Cheerleading squads are instructed to report to the host director upon arrival.

- *Only cheerleaders in uniform will be admitted free of charge when accompanied by a school advisor. Advisors are expected to sit in the area used by the cheerleaders and actively supervise them throughout the game. A maximum of twelve (12) cheerleaders will be admitted and/or permitted to cheer on the floor.

- *Schools are requested to limit each cheering session to one cheer.

- *Cheering is not to be performed during foul shots.

- *Pyramids will not be permitted for safety reasons.

- *There are no seats reserved for cheerleading teams at any of the tournament sites.

- *Arrival approximately 30 minutes before game-time will insure cheerleading teams of front row seats. Teams arriving later than this time cannot expect the Host Director to move paying spectators already seated in the bleachers.

NOISEMAKERS:

No noise makers are permitted at any game. No radios, tape players, or other electronic devices will be permitted in the gym. Signs and other paraphernalia may NOT be posted on either end of the gymnasium. Use only side walls for banners, signs etc. This will be strictly enforced.

CROWD CONTROL:

Control of the crowd is the responsibility of the Participating Directors and the Host Director.

Each school must provide a minimum of five (5) supervisors. It is their responsibility to supervise the conduct of the students from their school. Please arrange to have responsible people available for this important assignment. They should be easily identifiable by wearing a school jacket, or sweater. Each school must make its own provisions for reimbursing these staff members. Also, keep in mind that problems often arise after the game, outside the gymnasium and in the parking fields, etc. This remains the responsibility of the participating schools.

RESPECT OF PROPERTY:

Coaches and Athletic Directors are urged to impress upon players and spectators the necessity of respecting the property of the schools that are hosting the tournament games. It has become increasingly difficult in recent years to obtain school facilities for tournament use. Coaches are requested to arrange a clean-up of the dressing rooms after the teams have finished using them. Every coach has a responsibility to remind the players of the need to respect the facilities that have been made available for their use.

DAMAGE

- * Each participating school is responsible for any damage done to the host school.
- * Any damage incurred must be reported to Wally Bachman, the Tournament Director @ cell (516) 965-9215

SEATING:

Whenever possible, the home team spectators will sit on the same side as the scoring table. The team and cheerleaders will sit at the right side of the table (facing the court). Visiting team spectators will sit opposite the scoring table along with their cheerleaders.

DUTIES OF THE HOST DIRECTOR

1. Be at the game site 1 ½ hours prior to starting time in order to set up for a regular game.
2. Appoint a timer and scorekeeper who are adults. The visiting team's book will serve as the official scorebook.
3. Appoint the necessary personnel to supervise the entire site. Please be sure to have the outside of the gym secured as well. Assign supervision to the visiting teams bus.
4. Make a telephone and a Public Address system available. Have a person available to use the system in case of emergency. Have a room and a stretcher available in case of emergency. Whenever possible, secure an athletic trainer for the game.
5. Make scoring table arrangements: place a timer, a person on the books from each school, space for newspaper reporters on the table. Please have a manual clock available in case of a malfunction of the electric clock.
6. An AED must be available at the games.
7. Provide a boat horn to end quarters in case there is too much noise in the gymnasium for the players and officials to hear the regular horn.
8. Please provide a separate room for officials. Post someone to see that they have privacy within the room and easy access before, during halftime, and after the game.
9. Have a flag in your gymnasium. Start the game with the National Anthem and/or the Pledge of Allegiance.
10. Announce the Tournament Rules as listed in this handbook, and insert your own local rules for the benefit of visitors.
11. Insert the names of the participating schools on the scoreboard if possible. If not, announce which terms represent home or away on the board.
12. Plan seating arrangements as per the handbook. Post signs at the entrance of the court to direct spectators to their seating. Do not mix crowds by closing a side. This is a sure way to invite trouble.
13. Be sure to supply a game ball to the officials, and remind them to return the ball at the conclusion of the game. It's always wise to have a pump available.
14. Only the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. – Section VIII White, or Gold Retiree's passes are acceptable. These are good for the bearer and a guest. Varsity Coaches are listed in this book. Please extend the courtesy of admission.
15. The teams are required to supply a Gate List filled-out to the specification in the Section VIII Handbook.

PRE-GAME GUIDE FOR HOST DIRECTOR

1. Spectators are an important part of the game and shall at all times conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.
2. Spectators shall at all times respect officials, coaches, and players, and extend all courtesies to them.
3. Wholesome cheering is encouraged.
4. Stamping of feet, taunting, foul and abusive language, inflammatory remarks, and disrespectful signs and behavior are not acceptable.
5. Spectators shall observe and obey the rules and regulations of the school concerning smoking, food and beverage consumption, use of lavatory facilities, and parking of cars.
6. New York State Laws prohibit alcoholic beverages of any kind on school property, and further prohibit any person under the influence of alcohol to be on school property.
7. Spectators shall respect and obey all school officials, supervisors, and police at all athletic contests. VIOLATORS OF THIS CODE ARE SUBJECT TO EVICTION FROM THE SITE
8. Announce the starting line-ups and introduce the coaches and referees.

NCBCA COACHES CONTACT LIST

SCHOOL	COACH	SCHOOL	COACH	
Academy Charter	Prentice Small	Island Trees	Matthew Schultz	
Baldwin	Darius Burton John Henry	Jericho	Wally Bachman	
Bellmore JFK	Mike Gattus	Lawrence	Chris DeMarzo	
Bethpage	Jack Davenport	Levittown Division	Jordan Dasch	
Calhoun	Jay Kreutzberger	Locust Valley	Andrew Siegel	
Carey	Laurence Reid	Long Beach	Scott Martin	
Carle Place	John Cantwell	Lynbrook	Brian Donaldson	
Clarke	Joe Hasbrouck	MacArthur	Brian Maini	
Cold Spring Harbor	Jason Mercurio	Malverne	Darrol Lopez	
East Meadow	Tom Rottkamp	Manhasset	George Bruns	
East Rockaway	Paul Collins	Massapequa	Chris Cafiero	
Elmont	Ryan Straub	Mepham	Jamie Adams	
Evergreen Charter	Dylan O'Connor	Mineola	Jamie McAndrew	
Farmingdale	Jimmy Pastier	New Hyde Park	Shireem Cobb	
Floral Park	Sean Boyle	North Shore	Ryan Berglin	
Freeport	Daryl Johnson	Oceanside	Ed Riesner	
Friends Academy	Matt Johnsen	Oyster Bay	Brian Soper	
Garden City	Jim Hegmann	Plainedge	Jared Bursky	
Glen Cove	Peter Falen	Plainview JFK	Mike Harris	
Great Neck North	Kevin Graham	Port Washington	Sean Dooley	
Great Neck South	Mike Holleran	Roosevelt	Brian Kuar	
Hempstead	Jared Weir	Roslyn	Greg Tull	
Herricks	Larry Steimer	Seaford	Jay Lynch	
Hewlett	Andrew DeBernardo	Sewanhaka	Jay Allen Ahkeel Rodney	
Hicksville	Frank Locascio Ed Dempsey	South Side	Jerry D'Angelo	

SCHOOL	COACH			
Syosset	Greg Cardona			
Uniondale	Jazz Styles			
Valley Stream Central	Mike Wimmer			
Valley Stream North	Michael McVeigh			
Valley Stream South	Michael O'Brien			
Wantagh	Matt Simeone			
West Hempstead	Eric Rubin			
Westbury	Keith Moody			
Wheatley	Rich Slater			
NCBCA	Jay Allen			