

SOUTHWESTERN OHIO BASKETBALL LEAGUE RULES

GENERAL RULES

1. Age divisions are based on the players' 2026-2027 school year grade level. Players may not be more than one year older than the normal age for that grade (based on an August 1 cutoff date).
2. The league will provide both recreation and athletic divisions, numbers permitting. The league reserves the right to move a team up or down at any time.
3. The league will allow teams to play in more than one division or age level, but they must play in the same competitive division in both situations.
4. All divisions will play according to the Ohio High School Athletic Association rules unless otherwise specified in these rules.
5. Rosters must be turned in before receiving schedules. Coaches should always carry a copy of their rosters.
6. **Once league schedules are distributed, they are expected to be followed as scheduled.**
7. No player may wear any type of jewelry during a game. This is for your safety and that of the others. No exceptions.
8. Blood Rule: Any player with blood on any part of their uniform or body must remain out of the game until bandages are put onto the wound, the bleeding has stopped and the uniform is changed if needed.
9. Protest: The score book must be signed by the protesting coach and head referee immediately. The score, quarter, and time on the time clock shall be noted. All protests must be submitted (through the mail or by fax) in writing within 72 hours, and a ruling will be made by the Southwestern Ohio Basketball League office within 7 days of notification. A \$100.00 fee must be submitted with your protest and is refundable if the protest is upheld.
10. ***The League allows gyms to charge admission. There is a maximum of \$4.00 per adult, \$2 per student and all children under 12 are free. We will allow facilities providing an off-duty police officer as security to charge \$5 per adult this year. This is at the discretion of the gym coordinator.***

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Any player on a OHSAA Jr. High or High School roster for the 2026-2027 season will not be permitted to be on a Southwestern Ohio Basketball League roster for the same season. Exception: If a player is cut or quits their Jr. High or High School team before Dec. 31st they may then be added to your roster.
2. No player may be added to your roster after Dec. 31st of the current season.
3. No player may play on more than one team within the same division.
4. No player may turn 19 before August 1st of the current season.
5. **All 11th /12th grade boys high school coaches must always have copies of birth certificates on them.**

GAME RULES

1. ***Playing time will consist of 20-minute running halves for all age divisions. The Clock will be stop and go during the last minute of each half. Also, the clock will stop during all team and referee timeouts.***
2. Intermission will be approximately 3 minutes between halves. If games are running behind, this may be adjusted by the referee or gym coordinator.
3. Overtime will be 2 minutes stop and go. All time outs are carried over from regulation and each team shall receive one additional time out per overtime.
4. Each team shall receive 4-timeouts per game and can be used at any time.
5. Bonus: The 1 and 1 bonus is in effect on and after the team's 7th personal foul in any half. The double bonus is in effect on and after the team's 10th personal foul.
6. The 3-point goal is in effect for all age groups if the gym is clearly marked.
7. The 2nd through 6th grade boys and all girls' divisions will use the 28.5" intermediate size ball in the Southwestern Ohio Basketball League. The boy's 7th grade through High School divisions will use the 30" regulation size basketball.
8. ***The league reserves the right to make any adjustments necessary for the betterment of the League.***

SPECIAL RULES

1. The 2nd through 4th grade divisions will shoot free throws from the bottom of the circle. This will also determine their 3 second lane.

2. The 5th grade through High School divisions will shoot their free throws from the regulation line. This also will determine their 3 second lane.
3. There will be no back court pressing allowed in the 2nd through 4th grade recreational divisions. ***In the 3rd grade boys athletic we will allow pressing only if both teams agree to press before the game.*** The player must be allowed to have both feet and the ball across the mid court line to be considered in the front court. Once the player is in the front court, any half-court defense is permitted.
4. **During the last minute of the game in the divisions mentioned in Special Rules #3, the clock will stop on each dead ball situation and after made baskets. The clock will not restart until the ball is touched in the front court. The 10 second rule still applies in the back court.**
5. Teams in the recreation divisions must release back court pressure when their team leads by 15 points or more. A technical may be called at the referee's discretion.

REFEREES

1. Each team is responsible for paying one referee before a game can begin. The following is the pay schedule for each division:

3 rd - 8 th	\$35.00	OR	\$20.00 (if only one official shows)
HS	\$35.00	OR	\$20.00 (if only one official shows)
2. The referee, or gym coordinator, has the right to clear the gym or building of anyone that interferes with the game in any manner.
3. The referee shall be approached by the head coach only during the game.
4. Only players and coaches listed on the league roster are permitted to sit in the bench area.
5. **If a team does not show up at a regularly scheduled game, you will forfeit your \$50 deposit.**

CONDUCT

1. All unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated by any participant or spectator, by Southwestern Ohio Basketball and its officials. This includes such items as:
 - a. pushing, shoving, fighting, etc.
 - b. the use of profanity in any manner
 - c. verbal abuse of other players, coaches, or officials
 - d. any dangerous or illegal unsportsmanlike play.
2. Any player, coach, or spectator ejected from a Southwestern Ohio Basketball game will be suspended for its team's next league or tournament game.
3. Any player, coach, or spectator ejected for fighting in a Southwestern Ohio Basketball game will be suspended its team's next two games pending a league investigation. League decisions will be final.
4. Any player, coach, or spectator ejected for a second time in a session will be suspended for the remainder of that session pending a league investigation. League decisions will be final.
5. HS Division: A 21-year-old or older coach must be present at all league and tournament games, or the game shall be forfeited.

TOURNAMENT

1. All teams will be entered into the single elimination post season tournament.
2. Coaches are responsible for paying the refs still in tourney.
3. The post season tournament will begin approximately one week after the regular season ends.
4. ***Teams that perform strongly or poorly in their respective divisions will be moved up or down accordingly.***
5. ***The tournament format will be determined no later than Feb. 1st by the league officials AND IS NOT SEEDED!***

AWARDS

1. Team and individual awards will be given to the league champions. (Maximum 12)
2. Individual awards will be given to the 1st and 2nd place teams in the post season tournament. (Maximum 12)