



National Basketball Rules

(Effective September 1, 2021)

The National High School Federation Rules and Regulations (NHSF) will apply to all USSSA games with the following exceptions.

All games will be played as follows:

- Middle and High School (Grades 7 thru 12) will consist of two sixteen-minute halves and will use a regulation size basketball. Women will use an intermediate size ball.
 - Grades 3 thru 6 will consist of two fourteen-minute halves and will use the 28.5 intermediate size ball.
1. No game will start before the scheduled time unless both coaches agree. There will be a minimum of a 5 minute warm-up period. Halftime will be 5 minutes unless both coaches agree to start earlier.
 2. Timeouts will be awarded under NHSF rules (3 Full / 2 Thirty Second)
 3. Overtime:
 - 3 minutes for Grade School (Grades 3 thru 6)
 - 4 minutes for Middle and High School (Grades 7 thru 12)
 4. The clock will stop for all whistle stoppages
 5. Two (2) direct technical fouls during a game on a player, coach, or team representative will result in their ejection from that game and the next game of the tournament. Fighting and gross unsportsmanlike behavior can be more than one game and is at the discretion of the Tournament Director and/or State Director.
 6. Suspensions from USSSA sanctioned activities shall be governed by the USSSA Constitution.
 7. Each team is responsible for their warm-up and game balls and or any other items brought into the game. USSSA is not responsible for lost items.

8. If a team forfeits two games by not participating; the team will be disqualified from the event and cannot participate in bracket / tournament play.

Roster Rules

1. Rosters are allowed a maximum of fifteen (15) players.
2. Proof of age and grade is required for all players on roster. Acceptable proofs of age are; clean photocopies of birth certificates, adoption papers, or immigration papers. Proof of grade is a clean copy of any report card of the current school year or school document that indicates current grade level. Teams are required to have proof of age and grade upon check-in and throughout the tournament. It must be presented to USSSA representative / tournament director upon request.
3. Girls wishing to compete on boys teams or in boys leagues will be allowed to do so as long as they meet the other age and roster requirements.
4. No roster additions will be permitted after the team has begun play of its first tournament game within any tournament.
5. Teams participating in the National Tournament are allowed to add three (3) additional players that were not on the roster at the time of their qualification.

Grade / Age Divisions

USSSA is grade based with age parameters and limitations determined by birth date, that allow players in each division to compete against other players currently at the same grade / age level. A player may qualify under the age exception rule if they have been advanced in grade due to academic excellence or parental preference. The following guide determines all eligible ages at grade levels.

Boys & Girls

3rd Grade - An athlete must be in the 3rd grade or below for the 2020-2022 school year and cannot turn 11 prior to September 1, 2022. Age Exception: Athlete does not turn 10 before September 1, 2022.

4th Grade - An athlete must be in the 4th grade or below for the 2020-2022 school year and cannot turn 12 prior to September 1, 2022. Age Exception: Athlete does not turn 11 before September 1, 2022.

5th Grade - An athlete must be in the 5th grade or below for the 2020-2022 school year and cannot turn 13 prior to September 1, 2022. Age Exception: Athlete does not turn 12 before September 1, 2022.

6th Grade - An athlete must be in the 6th grade or below for the 2020-2022 school year and cannot turn 14 prior to September 1, 2022. Age Exception: Athlete does not turn 13 before September 1, 2022.

7th Grade - An athlete must be in the 7th grade or below for the 2020-2022 school year and cannot turn 15 prior to September 1, 2022. Age Exception: Athlete does not turn 14 before September 1, 2022.

8th Grade - An athlete must be in the 8th grade or below for the 2020-2022 school year and cannot turn 16 prior to September 1, 2022. Age Exception: Athlete does not turn 15 before September 1, 2022.

9th Grade - An athlete must be in the 9th grade or below for the 2020-2022 school year and cannot turn 17 prior to September 1, 2022. Age Exception: Athlete does not turn 16 before September 1, 2022.

10th Grade - An athlete must be in the 10th grade or below for the 2020-2022 school year and cannot turn 18 prior to September 1, 2022. Age Exception: Athlete does not turn 17 before September 1, 2022.

11th Grade - An athlete must be in the 11th grade or below for the 2020-2022 school year and cannot turn 19 prior to September 1, 2022. Age Exception: Athlete does not turn 18 before September 1, 2022.

12th Grade - An athlete must be in the 12th grade or below for the 2020-2022 school year and cannot turn 20 prior to September 1, 2022.

Divisions of Play

USSSA Basketball offers five divisions of play:

- Div I - Elite Teams
- Div II - Competitive Teams
- Div III – Developing Teams
- School
- Recreation

Protest

All roster protest must be filed in writing accompanied by a \$100.00 protest fee (refundable if the protest is valid) with the Tournament Director within one (1) hour of the conclusion of the protested game. If the protest is valid, the protested team forfeits all previous games. Upon

protest, teams must provide proof of eligibility. (See roster rules for acceptable proofs of age and grade).

- All non-roster protest must be filed in writing within one (1) hour of the conclusion of the contest and must be accompanied by a \$100.00 protest fee (refundable if protest is upheld). Official's calls are not grounds for a protest.
- Tournament Directors rulings on protest are final.

Mercy Rule

Once a team is leading by 30 points anytime in a game, the clock will continue to run. The only time the clock will stop is for injuries or timeouts. If the lead falls below 20 points, the clock will again be stopped for all whistle stoppages.

Tie-Breakers

- Two Teams Tied: Head-to-head result.
- Three or more teams: Point Differential System will be used. Teams will receive a point differential per game up to a maximum of plus 15 points for a win and a maximum of minus 15 points for loss.

The team not involved in the tiebreaker will have its games eliminated. The team with the highest point total will win the tiebreaker and the second highest number will be seeded second, etc. If two teams are tied with points, then revert back to head-to-head. If there are still three teams tied, the team with the fewest points allowed in ALL games played in pool play wins. A forfeit is scored as a 15-0 game.

Concussions

USSSA, as a sanctioning body of athletic events, shares the concerns being raised on a national and local level regarding concussions and concussion symptoms in participants, coaches/managers and umpires/referees in USSSA sanctioned activities. USSSA encourages its directors, umpires, coaches, referees, teams, team managers, and all adults involved in youth activities and participants to learn all they can about concussions in athletics and requires each of them and each of the USSSA directors to follow all federal, state and local laws (including concussion training and reaction laws) with regard to athletic competition sanctioned by USSSA. In addition, USSSA has added the following to the rule books of each USSSA sport which does not defer to another organization for its rule book.

Upon becoming aware that a participant or coach/manager of his team has received a suspected concussion (or has been struck in the head area with any significant force), the Team Manager will not allow that person to participate in any USSSA sanctioned event and if occurring during a USSSA sanctioned event, shall have that person removed from the playing field of any USSSA

sanctioned event. Upon becoming aware that a participant, coach/manager or official/umpire/referee has received a suspected concussion (or has been struck in the head area with any significant force), a USSSA official/umpire/referee or director will have that person removed from the playing field of any USSSA sanctioned event. Without a written medical written clearance from a licensed medical doctor to return to play, such persons will not be allowed to return to the USSSA playing field in a USSSA sanctioned event. For officials/umpires/referees, the medical written consent must be presented to the Team Manager and retained permanently by the USSSA State Director. For participants and coaches/managers, the medical written medical consent must be presented to the Team Manager and retained permanently by the Team Manager. Any Team Manager, who allows a coach/manager or participant back on a USSSA sanctioned event playing field without first obtaining the required written consent, may be suspended by the State Director for up to one year and upon request of the State Director, may be suspended for a longer duration by the USSSA disbarment committee. State Directors allowing an official/umpire/referee back in the field of play without the necessary consent will be subject to being disciplined as determined by the USSSA Board of Directors.

In the event of severe head trauma in a USSSA sanctioned activity, the injured person will not be moved and an ambulance will be called, unless otherwise directed by a qualified medical professional. The parent or guardian of the injured person, however, will not be bound by this protocol and may choose a different approach consistent with their legal rights as the parent or guardian.

Notes

Area and State Tournaments have the authority to modify local playing rules to accommodate local circumstances. All teams participating in the National Tournament must adhere to National Rules outlined above.

- There must be a minimum of four (4) teams per division for the National Tournament to be played. If less than four teams, the tournament director must contact the team with their options.
- Coaches of high school age teams playing in National Tournaments certified by the NCAA must be registered and certified by the NCAA in advance of the Tournament. Team Rosters must be entered on the NCAA site. (Visit www.ncaa.org for guidelines and deadlines to insure compliance on live period events). **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.**
- All players participating on high school age teams playing in NCAA certified events must attend the mandatory educational seminar held during the event.
- All- Tournament / M.V.P. / Hustle awards are determined by the coaches in the events. All recommendations must be submitted prior to leaving the event.

- Coaches are given passes and credentials at check-in. Any coach allowing unauthorized use of these credentials will be disqualified from the event and subject to further disqualifications by USSSA.

- Unsigned seniors may participate in the 11th Grade Division at the National Championships.

Coaches Signature: _____ Date: _____

