

LUTHERAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS
STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
GRADE SCHOOL RULES
(Latest Revision: April, 2023)

FORMAT

- 1.01 There shall be two divisions of competition. Participation for each of these events is based on the athlete's sex as assigned at birth, as further defined herein.
- 1.02 Each division shall consist of either eight, twelve or sixteen teams, depending upon the number of entries received.
- 1.03 The number of teams in a division will not necessarily exceed eight or twelve teams unless a minimum of nine or thirteen entries, respectively, are received from teams having qualified for the state tournament by virtue of having won state-wide, regional, metropolitan, or league tournaments and/or league or league section championships.
- 1.04 The STATE Tournament shall be conducted on a single elimination basis with a consolation bracket, in which a team will continue play after a loss in a first round game.
- 1.05 Each team will be guaranteed to play a minimum of two games; the final round will be played on Sunday. Teams submitting entry applications must be prepared to play on Friday, possibly as early as 10:00 A.M. Teams moving to the winners' bracket on Friday will play 4 games.
- 1.06 The STATE Tournament shall be conducted annually during the month of March.

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

- 2.01 The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois, Inc. ("LSA") shall select, or cause to be selected by whatever means in their opinion is appropriate in the circumstances, the most representative teams in the state (also see Rule 2.03) for participation in each division.
- 2.02 The LSA Board of Directors reserves the right to require preliminary playoffs in circumstances where, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, more entries are received for a division than can be accepted for participation.
- 2.03 Team selection preference will generally be given in the following order in determining which entry applications are to be accepted based upon tournament and league championships properly communicated to the LSA board or its basketball committee before the selection meeting. Championships won following the selection meeting will not be considered in the selection of the playing field (also see Rule 2.01):
 - STATEWIDE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS
 - REGIONAL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS
 - METROPOLITAN TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS
 - LEAGUE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS
 - LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
 - LEAGUE SECTION CHAMPIONS
 - OTHER CHAMPIONS
 - INDEPENDENT TEAMS (as defined in Rules 2.04 and 6.07)
- 2.04 Any team which is not a champion of a tournament, league or league section shall be considered to be an "at large".
- 2.05 "At Large" teams, especially tournament or league runners-up, are encouraged to submit entry applications for consideration and possible acceptance in order to round out the tournament division field.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- 3.01 Teams must be established squads which have represented a Lutheran grade school in an established league or tournament during the current basketball season.
- 3.02 Teams rosters are limited to fifteen players.

Illustrations

The following are provided for illustrative purposes only and are neither binding nor to be construed as having the effect of the By-laws or Constitution of the Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois.

Q. Our team has played with more than 15 players during the regular season. What can I do so that they can participate in the STATE Tournament?

A. Since each school's final roster may include no more than fifteen players, schools that use more than fifteen players during the season will have to make the decision of which fifteen players to include on their STATE roster.

- 3.03 Each team is allowed a maximum of three adults to function as coaches, manager or statistician. Each team must have at least one person who must be at least twenty-one years of age to function in one of the above capacities. There may be two student managers that are currently enrolled at the participating school.**
- 3.04 A team must have played a minimum of seven official league, tournament and/or non-conference games in order to be eligible for participation in the STATE Tournament. This means that the champion of a tournament or league in which the entering team played less than seven games must also have played a sufficient number of other official games. Certification and approval of the entry application by the chairperson of the tournament or league represented may be required as provided in Rules 6.03 through 6.05.**

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.01 Players must be students of the sponsoring grade school and have complied with the eligibility rules of their league(s) and/or tournament(s). A student is defined as a full-time student of the participating school. To participate in the STATE Tournament, players must have been full-time students before November 1 of the given tournament year.**

Illustrations

The following are provided for illustrative purposes only and are neither binding nor to be construed as having the effect of the By-laws or Constitution of the Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois.

Q: A home schooled student is taking PE and choir at our school. They want to compete in athletics. Our School Board has granted her permission to play. Is she eligible for STATE events?

A: No, she is not eligible for STATE events as she is not full time student.

Q: Our school offers an open gym program for the local public school students. They often practice with us. Are they eligible for STATE events?

A: No. They are not full time students at your school.

- 4.02 No student is eligible to participate in the same sport for two different schools during the same academic year. A student becomes a member of the school team when he/she participated in a practice or athletic contest.**
- 4.03 A student who transfers his/her attendance from one school to another shall become eligible upon completing the eligibility requirements.**

Illustrations:

Q: My daughter played basketball in March at one school. She transferred schools and played basketball in the winter at another school. Is she eligible?

A: Yes. It is a new school year.

Q: My son started the basketball season at one school. Due to circumstances we transferred him to another school. He would like to play basketball there. Is he eligible?

A: No, but if you believe special circumstances may apply an exemption letter for the Board of Directors consideration and acceptance will need to be written as per the directions in rule 10.07.

- 4.04 All students shall be in grades three (3) through eight (8) and shall not have passed eighth grade standing. Students who have met or completed the requirements for the eighth grade are not eligible.**
- 4.05 For the purpose of meeting the requirements of Rules 4.01 and/or 4.02, a school will be considered to have had one 7th and/or 8th grade basketball roster whether that be a single team or a combined school roster for boys and/or one 7th and/or 8th grade basketball roster whether that be a single team or a combined school roster for girls during the current season.**

Illustrations:

Q: Our school would like to combine our teams for the state tournament. We would like to have our 5&6 team suit up and play with the 7&8 team. What do I need to do?

A: All of these athletes are eligible. You will need to list all of the players on the tournament application.

4.06 Any individual unable to comply with Rules 4.01 through 4.05, as applicable, will not be permitted to participate in the STATE Tournament.

4.07 No student shall be a member of a high school team.

Illustrations

Q: I have a player who is playing on a "high school feeder team." This team is comprised of students in grades 7-8. Is he eligible?

A: Yes

4.08 A player must not have reached the age of fifteen (15) prior to the first day of September.

4.09 If a player turns fifteen (15) years old prior to the first day of STATE competition, the principal must send a letter using the school letterhead that verifies that the player has been a student for the entire school year. The letter should be sent to the event chairperson.

Illustrations

Q: I have a player who is turning fifteen in October. What steps do I need to follow to insure his eligibility?

A: The principal must send a letter using the school letterhead that verifies that the player has been a full time student for the entire school year. The letter should be sent to the event chairperson.

Q: I have a player who will be turning fifteen on the second day of the STATE competition. Is she eligible?

A: Yes.

Q: I have a player who will turn fifteen a few days after the STATE tournament. Is he eligible?

A: Yes.

CHEERLEADER ELIGIBILITY

- 5.01 Cheerleaders must be students of the sponsoring school and have complied with the eligibility rules, if any, of their league(s) and/or tournament(s).**
- 5.02 Each cheerleading squad must have one person to function as coach or manager and this person must be at least twenty-one years of age.**
- 5.03 All cheerleaders and their coach or manager must be listed, on the official roster certified by the principal of the sponsoring school and submitted no later than the entry deadline date.**
- 5.04 Each cheerleader, coach, manager and statistician must be able to prove his/her identity with a currently valid school identification card or other acceptable proof of identity.**
- 5.05 Any individual unable to comply with Rules 5.01 through 5.05, as applicable, will not be permitted to participate in the STATE Tournament.**
- 5.06 Only registered cheerleaders may be on the floor during the STATE Tournament.**
- 5.07 The final roster is sent to the principal to be signed for approval.**

TEAM ENTRY APPLICATION

- 6.01 Each team is required to submit by the entry deadline date, which shall be February 1st of each year before the STATE Tournament, an entry application and the entry fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the *Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois, Inc.***
- 6.02 All entry applications and rosters must be approved by the principal of the sponsoring school.**

- 6.03 Each conference is responsible for determining its conference champion. The league chairperson is responsible for collecting (or causing to be collected) any information that the Board or its committee deems appropriate.
- 6.04 In the case of applications of tournament champions, the Board of Directors may require the approval of the tournament chairperson and/or additional information in the form of certified copies of the complete tournament schedule, score results of all tournament games, a completed tournament bracket, the tournament roster, tournament rules and any other information that the Board of Directors deems appropriate.
- 6.05 In the case of applications of independent teams, the Board of Directors may require the approval of league and/or tournament chairpersons and/or additional information in the form of certified copies of league and/or tournament schedules, score results, rosters, rules, final standings and any other information that the Board of Directors deems appropriate.
- 6.06 The official application (as found on the LSA web page – all three pages including school information, roster, and coaches) and roster must contain the following information for each player: full name, age at the time of the tournament, position (guard, forward or center only), height, uniform numbers, certification by the team's principals, and Schedule and Results.
- 6.07 Any application received or not completed until after the entry deadline date will be considered as having been received from an “at large” (see Rule 2.03) and will be accepted only if a STATE Tournament berth is available.
- 6.08 Teams participating in a play-in game will be charged the cost of 1 referee. The losing team’s entry fee will be returned to the school minus the cost of one referee for the play-in game. Teams not selected will have their full entry fee returned.
- 6.09 Acceptance of entry applications shall be final and entry fees accompanying approved applications shall not be refundable.

EQUIPMENT

- 7.01 Each team is required to supply game and locker equipment.
- 7.02 Each team is required to have two sets of numbered basketball shirts, each set to be of contrasting basic colors. Teams may use the uniforms of one of their local area teams that are not participating in the STATE Tournament in order to fulfill this requirement.
- 7.03 Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to participate in a game without a numbered basketball shirt, conventional basketball pants and conventional basketball shoes.

PLAYING RULES

- 8.01 All games shall have at least two referees, one timekeeper and one scorekeeper. Referees shall be members of basketball officials' associations selected by the Board of Directors.
- 8.02 Any player, coach, manager, statistician or cheerleader ejected from a game shall automatically be ineligible to participate in the team's next game. Before such next game, the Board of Directors shall review the event of ejection and gather or require any other information that the Board deems necessary to determine if a further penalty should be assessed. Such further penalty, if any, shall be assessed before the team's next game and may not be appealed.
- 8.03 The smaller 28.5 inch basketball has been adopted for girls STATE Tournament play.
- 8.04 The three-point field goal is mandatory for all STATE Tournament play.
- 8.05 All games shall consist of six-minute periods. Overtime periods shall be three minutes.
- 8.06 The LSA has adopted the use of a 14 ft coaching box for STATE Tournament play.

AWARDS

- 9.01 In each division of competition, one team award shall be awarded to all participating teams.
- 9.02 In each division of competition, one award shall be presented to the team that best exemplifies the true spirit of Christian fellowship and sportsmanship both on and off the playing court.

- 9.03 In each division of competition, one individual award shall be presented to the principal, athletic director, each player, coach, manager and statistician on the Championship and second place teams (the first and second place teams in the championship bracket) up to a maximum of 25 medallions (additional medallions may be purchased at the school's expense).
- 9.04 In each division of competition, one individual award shall be presented to each player selected as a member of the all tournament team..

GENERAL

- 10.01 The Principal, and the Principal's designees, shall be responsible to the LSA, STATE hotels, and STATE host sites for matters pertaining to all athletic and non-athletic activities of their school at the STATE tournament. In addition, they shall be responsible to insure that their school is properly represented at all STATE events and shall be responsible for the conduct of their participants and other persons from their school, including spectators. Coaches, team captains, and Principal, and the Principal's designees shall also be responsible for team conduct both on and off the playing court.
- 10.02 It is the clear obligation of students, school staff, boards of education and all other official representatives of participating schools to practice and promote the highest principles of Christian behavior, sportsmanship and ethics of competition. It is also their obligation to maintain proper crowd control at all STATE activities. The LSA, its directors, volunteers, host schools, tournament sites and tournament officials shall have no responsibility for crowd control nor of the actions of school representatives, including spectators. The Board of Directors shall have full authority over all schools, their representatives and spectators and shall have full authority, at its sole discretion, to penalize any school, any of whose representatives or spectators may be adjudged upon competent evidence to have violated these obligations.
- 10.03 Housing accommodations, transportation, meals and incidental expenses shall be the responsibility of participating teams, except that all teams not commuting from their home towns for each day's game schedule must stay in LSA-approved lodging facilities.
- 10.04 Game schedules for the STATE Tournament will be posted on luthsports.org approximately seven days prior to the first playing date.
- 10.05 Players and teams must comply with the eligibility rules of their own league(s) and/or tournament(s) and the STATE Tournament.
- 10.06 These STATE Tournament rules will not operate to make a player or team eligible when such player or team would be ineligible under the rules of a team's regular season league(s) and/or tournament(s). The rules of season league(s) and/or tournament(s) will not operate to make a player or team eligible for the STATE Tournament when such player or team would be ineligible under STATE Tournament rules.
- 10.07 Requests for granting of exceptions to published rules must be submitted in writing to all members of the LSA Board of Directors no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date by which a ruling on such request is required. Rulings by the Board of Directors are final. The directors' e-mail addresses are available at www.luthsports.org.
- 10.08 Under no circumstance may a team take the game floor sooner than 20 minutes prior to the start of a game.
- 10.09 The playing of music/sound effects shall be prohibited during the play of the game. LSA retains the right to control pre-game and halftime music. In addition, the use of artificial noisemakers shall be prohibited at any time.