

2026-27 TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

BASKETBALL (BOYS AND GIRLS)

- **Pre-Season Team Practice** is not allowed.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 17.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 21. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 24 games. Maximum number of tournaments is three with each tournament counting as two games.
- Maximum of eight days of **Off-Season** team practice within a 15 consecutive school day period.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- Coaches may participate in a maximum of 10 days of team-against-team competition which must occur after the conclusion of the school year until the **Dead Period**.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

IMPORTANT BASKETBALL DATES

Rules Meeting information can be found on the [TSSAA Website](#).

First Practice Date	Oct. 26, 2026
Hall of Champions Games	Nov. 16-21, 2026
First Contest Date.....	Nov. 23, 2026
Deadline to File Eligibility & Schedules	Nov. 23, 2026
DII-A Regions (MBC).....	Feb. 20, 2027
DII-A Girls First Round, DII-AA Girls First Round	Feb. 23, 2027
DI Districts, DII-A Boys First Round & DII-AA Boys First Round.....	Feb. 24, 2027
DI Girls Region Quarterfinals, DII-A & DII-AA Girls Quarterfinals	Feb. 26, 2027
DI Boys Region Quarterfinals, DII-A & DII-AA Boys Quarterfinals	Feb. 27, 2027
DI Girls Region Semifinals	Mar. 1, 2027
DI Boys Region Semifinals.....	Mar. 2, 2027
DI Girls Region Finals	Mar. 3, 2027
DI Boys Region Finals.....	Mar. 4, 2027
DII Boys and Girls State Championships (A, AA)	Mar. 4-6, 2027
DI Girls Sectionals	Mar. 6, 2027
DI Boys Sectionals	Mar. 8, 2027
DI Girls State Championships (3A, 4A, 1A, 2A).....	Mar. 10-13, 2027
DI Boys State Championships (3A, 4A, 1A, 2A)	Mar. 17-20, 2027
Dead Period.....	June 28 – July 11, 2027

50% Rule – Participation (includes practice or games) during the school year on a non-school team prior to the school season by students that will play the following season on the high school team is limited to 50% of the number of players required to play the game, which would be three in basketball. Only the specified number of students participating on a non-school team prior to the school season may be placed on the high school eligibility list the following season. Those students cannot be interchanged on the school's team roster.

Dead Period Rule – No coaching, observing, or contact between coach and players in sport involved. There is no practice, no open facilities, and no weight training/conditioning. The Dead Period, which is to be observed by all schools, is the week of the 4th of July and the preceding week. – 14 days.

Hall of Champions Games – Schools may choose to participate in up to three boys' and three girls' games during the week preceding the regular season. These games will not count against the number of regular season contests schools are allowed to schedule. Schools must request permission to participate in a Hall of Champions Game, regardless of whether or not the school is the host. Schools will be charged a fee of \$250 for each game (boys' and girls') they host.

Off-Season – Begins with the school's elimination from postseason tournament play in a particular sport and concludes with the end of the school year. Individual instructions may be given to no more than three students per day.

Open Facilities – Permitted year round (Monday through Friday) except during the **Dead Period**. Schools may use their facilities for students in their building prior to or after the school day. Coaches may serve in a supervisory capacity only. There is no instruction, no teaching, no coaching, etc. Coaches may not participate or play in any manner. It is a free play type atmosphere. Sport specific skills cannot be taught. ATTENDANCE CANNOT BE MANDATORY.

Practice - Any interaction between a coach and student-athlete(s) where instruction, teaching, coaching, etc., is occurring. Happenstance communications between coach and student-athlete(s), in circumstances where attendance by the student-athlete is neither expected nor required, are not considered to be practice. Such communications may not, however, be used to circumvent the requirement in open facilities that a coach act in a supervisory capacity only. In addition, try-outs are considered practice.

Practice During the School Day – All athletic practice during the regular hours of any school day shall conform to the same rules, regulations, and season as corresponding athletic practice outside the school day.

Pre-Season – Begins the first day of school until the first official day of practice in that particular sport. Individual instructions may be given to no more than three students per day.

Scrimmage Rule – After the TSSAA first official day of practice in all sports, a school can practice with or scrimmage another school. Once a school has played their first game, there can be no more scrimmages. (Applies to High School & Middle School Division). In the high school division a school may have a maximum of four scrimmages or two scrimmage dates or one scrimmage date and two scrimmages (A scrimmage date is defined as more than two schools scrimmaging on the same day). **If registered TSSAA officials are used for a scrimmage, the schools are subject to the same sportsmanship requirements and penalties that apply to regular season contests.**

Summer – The period of time from the end of the school year until the beginning of the following school year.

Tournament – All tournaments shall be held on consecutive days with no other regular season games being played during the tournament unless permission is granted by the Executive Director. A tournament is defined as competition of three or more teams and three or more games, matches, etc., which progress to determine a winner.

Weight Training/Conditioning – Permitted at all times except during the **Dead Period**. Must be generic type program that would be beneficial to all students and not sport specific. Exceptions: 1. In baseball and girls softball, players may throw to condition arms. 2. In lacrosse, players may do stickwork (fundamental catching and throwing). Sport specific skills cannot be taught. Only students who are enrolled and in regular attendance at the school may participate during the school year. ATTENDANCE CANNOT BE MANDATORY.