
SECTION III – Basketball



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Middle School Athletic Constitution

BASKETBALL

ARTICLE I - Governing Rules/Levels Specific to Basketball

- Section 1** The current edition of the NFHS Basketball Rules Book shall be the official rulebook for the league contests and the championship game.
- 1.1** Each school has the opportunity to form one varsity level team per grade (7th and 8th).
- 1.2** Each school will also have the opportunity to have athletes compete at the junior varsity level in each grade (7th and 8th).
- 1.3** Competition at the varsity level will include 4, 6-minute quarters. The timing during the 4, 6-minute quarters shall be governed by the NFHS basketball rule book. Overtime periods shall be 3 minutes in length and shall continue until a winner is declared. The mercy rule will be in effect for all varsity regular season and post season contests. The championship game will follow this format as described in 1.3 and 1.4.
- 1.4** PSD Mercy Rule – If a team is ahead by **30 or more points** during any varsity regular season or post season contest, the clock will run continuously from that point on except for time outs, injuries and any intermissions. Once the mercy rule has went into effect, the clock will be running for remainder of the game regardless of score differential from that point on.
- 1.5** If a team leads by **20 or more points** at the varsity or junior varsity level, the team that is ahead may not press until the margin is below this standard. Coaches should use good sportsmanship as a guide as to whether to reapply the press if the margin drops below 20 points.
- 1.6** Game time for all varsity contests will be 3:30PM. The junior varsity game will begin 5 minutes after the conclusion of the varsity contest.
- 1.7** The junior varsity contest will include 2, 8-minute halves. The clock will be stopped per NFHS basketball game rules and to mimic procedures used at the varsity level. Overtime periods shall be sudden death with the first team that scores declared the winning team.
- 1.8** Teams will be granted the following amount of time outs: VARSITY - 3 full (60 seconds) and 2, 30-second timeouts per varsity game. One additional full timeout is awarded to each team for each overtime period played. JUNIOR VARSITY - 1 full (60 seconds) timeouts and 1, 30-second time out per junior varsity game.
- 1.9** Standings will be kept during the regular season to determine the seeding for the championship tournament. In the event of a tie for one of the two positions, the following tie-breaker will be used.
- 1.10** If two teams **are tied for any place**, the team that won the head-to-head game during the regular season will be declared the higher seed. The team that lost the head-to-head game during the season will be declared the lower seed.
- 1.11** If **three (or more) teams are tied for any place**, the tie will be broken as follows. Starting at the top of the standings, results will be compared versus each team (i.e. how the tied teams did versus #1 seed, the #2 seed, etc.). If ever two teams remain in a tie, head-to-

head results of the regular season will be used to break the remaining tie. If this procedure fails to break the tie between the tied teams, the District Athletic Director will break the ties using coin flip(s) with a representative of each tied team present.

Section 2 The District Athletic Director will serve as the League Commissioner and will coordinate all schedules, facility use, sport meetings, hiring of Championship Game Director(s), maintain standings, and will rule/act on all matters relative to the Basketball and League Constitution on behalf of member schools.

ARTICLE II - Practice and Game Limitations

Section 1 Practice limitations are governed by the practice guidelines for all middle school sports. This includes first allowable day of required practice, number of days of practice, in-season vs. out-of-season vs. summer guidelines, etc.

Section 2 No changes will be made to competition schedule without approval of the District Athletic Director except for weather-related postponements/cancellations. In the event of such occurrence, the host school Athletic Director shall contact the District Athletic Director to reschedule the contest. Playing a contest outside of the formal schedule will result in a forfeit being recorded for both teams. Further sanctions are possible if deemed necessary by the District Athletic Director

ARTICLE III – Tryout Period/Procedures

Section 1 Tryouts must be a minimum of three days. Individual schools may elect to extend the tryout period to five practices.

Section 2 Each school must carry a minimum of **sixteen** players on the basketball roster. Individual schools may carry more athletes on the roster.

Section 3 Players that **start** a varsity contest may not participate in the junior varsity contest.

ARTICLE IV - Player Eligibility

Section 1 All athletes must have completed all check-out requirements prior to being allowed to practice or participate in any competitions.

ARTICLE V - Game Management

Section 1 Starting times: All varsity league contests will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. The junior varsity contest will begin **five (5)** minutes following the conclusion of the varsity contest.

Section 2 PSD teams will have a minimum of a **ten (10)**-minute pregame warm-up period before the varsity contest. Teams shall warm-up on the basket furthest from their bench. Players may not cross the division line for any of their warm-up activities including stretching.

Section 3 Halftimes for all varsity games will be ten (10) minutes and five (5) minutes for junior varsity.

Section 4 Scouting and Filming

- 4.1** Scouting is per permitted provided that no videotaping is involved. A coach may observe a contest involving other PSD middle schools and take notes, but may not videotape any segment of the contest.
For the intent of the videotaping ban, using or possessing any video of PSD basketball contests, other than video involving your school, shall be considered a violation of this rule. For example, if a parent attends a PSD game and offers the video to the coach of their team, the coach(es) must refuse to take possession of an/or view the video. The coach should inform the parent that this practice is unethical and not within the spirit of this by-law.
- 4.2** Coaches may call other coaches within the league to inquire about an opponent, but coaches are prohibited from sharing any video with other schools not involved in the contest.
Coaches may video their own contests or practices that may be used for game planning or development of their own team only.
- 4.3** Use of computers shall not be used for coaching purposes during the game or between periods. Using an IPAD for keeping stats or videotaping a contest would be permitted. Showing the video to the team during a timeout would be example of a prohibited use of technology as this would be used for coaching purposes during a contest.
- 4.4** Violations of the scouting guidelines will result in sanctions up to an including forfeiture of contest(s), restriction from consideration for championship game, etc.

Section 5 The official game ball will be the Wilson Evolution.

Section 6 The home school shall designate a responsible person to enter the scores for all varsity contests on the www.poudreschooldistrictathletics.org website.

ARTICLE VI – Championship Games

Section 1 A championship tournament will be held for both the 7th and 8th grade varsity level.

- 1.1** The 8th grade tournament will include all 10 teams in a single elimination bracket to determine the PSDMSAL 8th grade champion.
- 1.2** The 7th grade level will consist of the top 4 teams qualifying to play a 4-team, single elimination bracket to determine the PSDMSAL 7th grade champion.
- 1.3** The championship game for the 7th and 8th grade level will be played at a high school venue on the same night.
- 1.4** The 8th grade bracket will have a pigtail round for seeds 7-10. After the pigtail round, the lowest remaining seed shall advance to face the #1 seed and the second lowest seed shall advance to face the #2 seed.

Section 2 As with all of the championship events for PSD middle school athletics, a tournament director(s) will be hired to run the championship tournaments. The determination of the individual or individuals selected to be the tournament director(s) shall be made by the middle school athletic directors and District Athletic Director. Input will be solicited from the head basketball coach at each school.

- 2.1** Once the tournament director(s) has/have been hired, he/she will have authority to run the championship tournaments within the context of the league constitution. Coaches will allow the tournament director(s) to conduct the responsibilities of running such events as a representative of the PSD Athletic League membership and not in the interests of an individual coach or school.

Section 3 At the 8th grade level - The PSDMSAL will award a championship trophy that will travel to the winning school each year. The second place team will be awarded a plaque. Individual medals will also be presented to the 1st and 2nd place teams.

At the 7th grade level – The PSDMSAL will award a plaque to the 1st and 2nd place finishers. Medals will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place participants.

ARTICLE VII - Basketball Chairperson/District Athletic Director

- Section 1** The chairperson will be one of the middle school athletic directors. The role of the chairperson is to assist the District Athletic Director in the operation of the middle school basketball program and championship event as needed.
- Section 2** The chairperson for each year will be designated at the final middle school AD meeting. The chairperson will be an AD that is not a coach of the respective sport to which he/she is assigned.
- Section 3** The middle school athletic directors and District Athletic Director are responsible for the by-law revisions made following each season. Input will be gathered from the head basketball coach at each of the middle schools. Changes in the constitution must be voted on by middle school athletic directors with a 2/3 majority required to amend the existing constitution. The District Athletic Director may mandate changes or additions to the constitution in issues relative to District policy and matters in the best interest of all member schools and students if such action is deemed to be a Tier 1 decision on the Pathway for Decisions. Such action must only be done after informing league coaches, athletic directors and middle school principals.
- Section 4** The District Athletic Director will schedule and coordinate the pre-season and post-season coaches meetings for each sport.
- Section 5** The District Athletic Director will present a two-year PSDMSAL schedule in the sport of basketball by May 1st each scheduling cycle. The schedule will follow the steps below:
- Teams participating in the PSDMSAL in each sport will be randomly drawn every two years.
 - The schedule for Year #1 will be drawn for 7th and 8th grade.
 - The Year #2 schedule will remain the same as the Year #1 schedule to assure that athletes play at home and away versus all league teams during their middle school career.
 - The next two-year schedule will be presented after re-drawing all schools.

ARTICLE VIII – Sportsmanship

- Section 1** It is expected that each building principal and athletic director commit to educating coaches, athletes, the student body and parents in regard to good sportsmanship practices.
- 1.1** Cheers should be positive and directed towards (and in support of) the school that the fans represent and not directed at the opposing team, coaches, officials or participants.
- 1.2** Cheers or comments considered vulgar, derogatory, or profane are grounds for immediate ejection from the contest. If such behavior involves a PSD student or students, the offending person(s) may face further consequences according to the PSD Code of Conduct.
- 1.3** It is recommended that any adult affiliated with PSD schools that is ejected or removed from an athletic venue due to poor sportsmanship be placed on probation and not allowed to return to further PSD athletic events until the following have occurred: 1). The parent meets with the building administration to discuss future expectations for behavior. 2). The parent completes an approved NFHS Sportsmanship course. The course is free and is available online. A certificate of completion must be presented to the District Athletic Director as proof of meeting this requirement.
- 1.4** Future incidents may result in PSD disallowing the parent to attend any future PSD contests.

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- 1.5 It is also expected that coaches understand and commit to their role of modeling superior sportsmanship. The spectators and participants in most cases behave in the manner in which the coach behaves.
- 1.6 PSD does not condone coaches or athletes at the middle school level receiving sanctions of any kind for unsportsmanlike conduct (i.e. technical fouls, yellow or red cards, etc.). It is the responsibility of each coach to assure that these violations do not occur. Building administrators and the District Athletic Director may impose sanctions for egregious acts or repeated acts of unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches or participants. Coaches are to enforce violations of this expectation involving a participant or participants.
- 1.7 Ejections by a participant or coach will result in the following actions:
- The offending party must meet with the building athletic director to develop a plan of action to assure that the behavior will not occur in the future.
 - The offending party will be suspended for one contest at the level involved. The suspension will include suspension from all levels until the one game suspension is served at the level involved. For example if a player or coach is ejected from a JV softball game, the player or coach is suspended from all softball contests (at any level) until the player or coach sits out one JV contest.
 - In the case of a coach, the coach may not assist or coach at any other level until the suspension is served at the level involved. If no contests remain at the level involved, and the coach regularly assists at a higher level, the coach will serve the suspension at the higher level before being allowed to coach at any level.
 - In the case of a participant, if no contests remain at the level involved (and the participant does not suit up for another level in that sport), the suspension will carry over to the next season of middle school competition in that sport.
 - If no contests remain at the level involved (and the participant **does** suit up for another level in the same sport), the athlete shall serve the suspension at that level. A coach may not suit up an athlete for the sole purpose to serve the suspension. The athlete must be a regular member of the level involved.
 - The offending party must complete an approved NFHS Sportsmanship class prior to participation being restored. The NFHS Sportsmanship courses are free and available online. A certificate of completion must be presented to the District Athletic Director as proof of meeting this requirement.
 - There is no appeal process for an ejection.
 - For a second ejection for offending party at the middle school level, the penalty structure shall be repeated except the length of suspension shall increase to 2 games.
 - Any further offenses may result in loss of participation at the middle school level.

ARTICLE IX – Approved Coaches

Section 1 Approved coaches are to be defined as those coaches that are school-approved coaching staff members that have completed requirements for coaches employed through PSD for current year. All coaching staff members, including any volunteers must be approved through the administration of the respective school, and must have a current background check on file **prior to working with students.**

- 1.1 Only such approved coaches may coach or instruct in any match or contest during the championship tournament.
- 1.2 The number of paid coaches will be determined by adhering to PSD policy on extra duty positions. Schools and building administrators should oversee the hiring of all athletic coaches and must balance equity across all programs and genders when approving such hires.