



ILLINOIS LUTHERAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

RULES FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT DIVISIONS

(Latest Revision: August 21, 2022)

Revisions are underlined in RED

- old Rule 3.03 Removed

FORMAT

- 1.01 There shall be a maximum of four divisions of competition based upon age, sex, entries received, and as further defined in Rules 4.01 through 4.08. Generally, the High School Freshman-Sophomore Men's Division shall be for men who are freshmen and sophomores in high school; the High School Varsity Men's Division for all men of high school age; the Senior Men's Division for older men no longer attending high school; and the Women's Division for women of all ages. Women shall be eligible to participate in the High School Varsity Men's and High-School Freshman-Sophomore Men's Divisions if they meet all of the other qualifications of participation described herein.
- 1.02 Each division shall consist of a minimum of eight teams and a maximum of sixteen teams.
- 1.03 The 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.
- 1.04 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 begin play on Friday, possibly as early as 4:00 PM on Friday afternoon.
- 1.05 The state tournament shall be conducted annually during the month of February or March.

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

- 2.01 The LSA Board of Directors 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:
 - STATEWIDE TOURNAMENT
 - CHAMPIONS REGIONAL
 - TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS
 - LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
 - INDEPENDENT TEAMS (as defined in Rules 2.04, 5.05 and 5.06)
- 2.04 Any team which is not a tournament or league champion (see Rule 2.03) shall be considered an independent team unless:
 - (a) such team obtains a waiver of participation from the champion and any other team which, by virtue of its record in the applicable tournament or league, is more qualified to enter the state tournament; or
 - (b) each team which, by virtue of its record in a tournament or league, is more qualified to enter the state tournament, has been accepted by the Board of Directors for participation as a qualified representative of another tournament or league. Where all conditions of Rule 2.04 as stated above in either (a) or (b) above are met, the entry application of a non-champion team shall be considered as having been received from the champion of the tournament or league the team represents.
- 2.05 Independent 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 in the High School Varsity Men's Division must be established squads which have represented a Lutheran congregation and played a minimum of seven official league and/or tournament games during the current basketball season in order to be eligible for the state tournament. This means that the champion of a tournament or league in which the entering team has played less than the minimum required number of games must also have played a sufficient number of other official league and/or tournament games. Certification and approval of the entry application by the chairperson of the tournament or league represented and, if necessary to meet the minimum seven game requirement, also by the chairperson(s) of such other established league(s) and/or tournament(s) in which such minimum number of games are played may be required as provided in Rule 5.03.
- 3.02 Teams in the High School Freshman-Sophomore Men's Division, Senior Men's Division and the Women's Division are not required to be an established squad. However, they must comply with all player eligibility rules, as applicable, in Rule 4.01, Rule 4.02, and Rules 4.04 through 4.08. Established squads which participate in an existing league will be given priority over non-established squads in the selection process.
- 3.03 Each team is allowed a maximum of three persons 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. *

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.01 Players must be members, or non-member players as defined in Rule 4.02, of the sponsoring congregation and have complied with the eligibility rules of their league(s) and/or tournament(s). A member is defined as a confirmed (communicant) member of the participating congregation. To participate in the state tournament, players must have been confirmed (communicant) members before January 1st of the given tournament year. Exception for the Freshman/Sophomore Men's division and Women's division: If a player is not of the age or class customary in the player's congregation for confirmation, participation in the tournament will be allowed if the player is actively participating in the congregation's confirmation classes. (However, also see Rule 9.04)
- 4.02 A non-member must be identified as such on the official roster and provision for the player's eligibility must be indicated in the league and/or tournament rules. If the non-member is a Lutheran, the player's congregation must not have had an established team in the applicable division of entry during the current season. The Board of Directors reserve the right to invalidate such provision if deemed unreasonable or in the best interests of the state tournament. A team is not limited on the number of non-member players on its roster.
- 4.03 All players must have participated in at least fifty percent (50%) of the entering team's total scheduled games. Evidence of such participation must be available in the form of scorebooks, sign-in sheets, etc., if requested by the Board of Directors. Exceptions may be permitted in case of injury, illness, military service or similar circumstances, providing that advance approval is obtained from the Board of Directors prior to the entry deadline date.

- 4.04 Players who have been regular members of an interscholastic grade school, junior high school, or high school, intercollegiate or professional basketball team after that team's third game during the current season are ineligible for the state tournament.
- 4.05 Age restrictions:
- (a) There shall be no age restriction in the Senior Men's and Women's Divisions.
 - (b) A High School Varsity Men's division player must not have reached the player's nineteenth birthday prior to the first day of September preceding the state tournament. A High School Varsity Men's division player who will be 19 years of age on the first day of March preceding the state tournament must submit with the team entry application an affidavit from the player's high school principal certifying the player's enrollment for the entire current academic year. A High School Varsity Men's division player who is not presently enrolled in high school will be eligible if: (1) the player meets the necessary age requirements; and (2) the player's high school academic class has not graduated. Individuals will be ineligible to participate once their high school academic class has graduated.
 - (c) A High School Freshman-Sophomore Men's division player must not have reached the player's seventeenth birthday prior to the first day of September preceding the state tournament. A Freshman-Sophomore Men's division player who will be 17 years of age on the first day of March preceding the state tournament must submit with the team entry application an affidavit from the player's high school principal certifying the player's enrollment for the entire current academic year.
- 4.06 Each player, coach, manager and statistician must be able to prove his/her identity by written signature and a currently valid drivers's license, school identification card or other acceptable proof of identity.
- 4.07 Each High School Varsity Men's division or High School Freshman-Sophomore Men's division player, and coach or manager of any division must also be able to prove his/her birthdate by a currently valid driver's license or school identification card, either of which must cite both the individual's signature and birthdate. In the event that an individual is unable to obtain one of the two aforementioned identification documents, such fact must be communicated to the Board of Directors prior to the entry deadline date in order that the directors might be able to determine what alternative form of identification document or documents, if any, will be acceptable as proof of the individual's age.
- 4.08 Identification and birthdates as needed must be proven at least sixty minutes prior to an individual's first tournament game.
- 4.09 Any individual unable to comply with Rules 4.01 through 4.08, as applicable, will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament.

TEAM ENTRY APPLICATION

- 5.01 Each team is required to submit by the entry deadline date, which shall be four weeks prior to the first playing date of the tournament, an entry application and the tournament entry fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the "Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois, Inc."
- 5.02 All entry applications must be approved by the pastor of the sponsoring congregation and must bear the official church seal.
- 5.03 Applications of all entering teams must also be approved by applicable tournament or league chairpersons, if required by the Board of Directors. Rosters may be required to be supplemented by complete tournament and/or league schedules, score results of all games played by the applying team, copies of league and/or tournament rosters on file with tournament and/or league chairpersons and complete tournament and/or league rules, regulations, constitutions, and by-laws. All of the foregoing documents, if required by the Board of Directors, must each be certified as true copies thereof by the appropriate chairperson(s).
- 5.04 The official roster must contain the following information for each player: Signature, full name, birthdate, position (guard, forward or center only), height, uniform numbers and certification by the team's pastor.
- 5.05 Any application received or not completed until after the entry deadline date will be considered as having been received from an independent team (see Rule 2.03), unless all of the following conditions prevail:
- (a) The league, league section or tournament will not be concluded until after or less than five days prior to the entry deadline date; and
 - (b) An entry reservation request, the proper entry fee and certified copies of the league or tournament schedule, rules and regulations are received by the entry deadline date from the league or tournament chairperson; and
 - (c) All other application requirements are completed within five days following the conclusion of the league or tournament

schedule or two weeks prior to the first playing date of the state tournament, whichever is earlier.

- 5.06 Any other application received or not completed until after the entry deadline date will be considered as having been received from an independent team and will be accepted only if a state tournament berth is available.
- 5.07 Acceptance of entry applications shall be final and entry fees accompanying approved applications shall not be refundable.

EQUIPMENT

- 6.01 Each team is required to supply its own practice basketballs and other game and locker equipment.
- 6.02 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 which is not participating in the state tournament in order to fulfill this requirement.
- 6.03 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. Sweatshirts, sweatpants, cut-offs or similar attire are prohibited.

PLAYING RULES

- 7.01 Illinois High School Association basketball rules shall govern play, except where specifically superseded by these rules.
- 7.02 In the High School Freshman-Sophomore Men's Division, four seven minute quarters will be played.
- 7.03 All games shall have a minimum of two referees, one timekeeper and one scorekeeper. Each team may be required to furnish a spotter to assist the scorekeeper and statisticians during its games. Referees shall be members of state basketball officials' associations selected by the Board of Directors or tournament committee.
- 7.04 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.
- 7.05 Any protest must be submitted to the Board of Directors in accordance with Illinois High School Association basketball rules immediately following the incident being protested. Play shall be suspended while the directors adjudicate the protest, and the judgement rendered may not be appealed once play resumes.

AWARDS

- 8.01 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.
- 8.02 In each division of competition, one individual award shall be presented to each player, coach, manager, and statistician on the Championship and second place teams (the first and second place teams in the championship bracket), and to each player selected as a member of the all-tournament team.

GENERAL

- 9.01 The Pastor, and the Pastor's designees, shall be responsible to the LSA and STATE hosts for matters pertaining to all athletic and non-athletic activities of their congregation at the STATE tournament. In addition, they shall be responsible to insure that their congregation is properly represented at all STATE events and shall be responsible for the conduct of their participants and other persons from their congregation, including spectators. Coaches, managers and team captains shall also be responsible for team conduct both on and off the playing court.
- 9.02 It is the clear obligation of participants, congregation staff, congregation councils and boards and all other official representatives of participating congregations 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 congregation representatives, including spectators. The Board of Directors shall have full authority over all congregations, their representatives and spectators and shall have full authority, at its sole discretion, to penalize any congregation, any of whose representatives or spectators may be adjudged upon competent evidence to have violated these obligations.
- 9.03 Housing accommodations, transportation, and meals 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. Schedules will be mailed approximately ten days prior to the first playing date.
- 9.04 Players and teams must comply with the eligibility rules of their own league and/or tournament and the state tournament.
- 9.05 These 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 a team's regular 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.
- 9.06 Requests for granting of exceptions to published rules must be submitted in writing to all directors of the state tournament no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date by which a ruling on such request is required.