NORTHWEST CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
BASKETBALL "A" & "AA" LEAGUE RULES

(updated 11-2026)

Current IESA/IHSA rules apply, except as noted below

All Archdiocese of Chicago and NWCC By-Laws will be observed

2026/27 ref fees: $35 per ref per game; $53 per ref if a single game, or if there is a single ref.

Conference Rules

6th grade will follow the AA rules, as applicable.

7th & 8th grade - If an "A" team is playing an "AA" team, "AA" press rules will be used.

1. Time - Quarter Length
    a. 8th grade - (4) 7-minute quarters
        i. Stop clock
        ii. 4th Quarter - 20+ point or greater lead, Running clock
    b. 7th grade - (4) 6-minute quarters
        i. Stop clock
        ii. 4th Quarter - 20+ point or greater lead, Running clock
    c. 6th grade - (4) 10-minute quarters - **Running clock**
        i. 2nd Quarter - Stop clock at 1-minute mark
        ii. 4th Quarter - Stop clock at 2-minute mark
        iii. 4th Quarter - 15+ point or greater lead, Running clock

    At all 3 levels, once the clock becomes a running clock due to point lead, it remains a running clock regardless of the score.
2. (4) Timeouts per game. Each is (1) one-minute. (1) One timeout in overtime. No carry over.
3. Overtime - (1) minute, with the clock stopping on all whistles. The game will end at the completion of the (1) minute even if it is a tie. A (2) minute overtime period will be played during the Playoffs until there is a winner.
4. (5) Five minute halftime
5. 6th grade - must play man-to-man defense all year - No Zone in front court.
6. Full Court Press
    a. A Level:
        i. 8th grade - Press entire game until a 15 point or greater lead
        ii. 7th grade - Press entire game until a 15 point or greater lead
    b. AA Level - No press in first half and then rules below are applied:
        i. 8th grade - Press 2nd half of game until a 12-point or greater lead
        ii. 7th grade - Press 2nd half of game until a 12-point or greater lead
        iii. 6th grade - Press 2nd half of game until a 10-point or greater lead; boys start press 12/15, girls start press 1/15
7. Bonus - IHAA rules apply - Two shots awarded after 5th foul per quarter.

8. IHSA rules apply - Players may enter the lane on a free throw once the ball is released by the shooter.
9. Every player dressed must play in a league game. If a team does not play all their players, they will forfeit the game **(playoff games included)**. At 6th grade all players should have equal play time. At 7th and 8th grade play time should be a reflection of ability, effort, attendance at practices, and commitment to the team.
10. **All players are limited to playing in (6) Six Quarters a day.**
11. Regulation size ball (29.5) will be used in boys games. 28.5 size ball will be used in girls games.
12. Players may enter the lane on a free throw once the ball is released by the shooter.
13. Mercy rule: **MUST** play man-to-man defense within the arc.
    a. 8th grade - reach a 20+ or greater lead
    b. 7th grade - reach a 20+ or greater lead
    c. 6th grade - reach a 20+ or greater lead

    The penalty for not following the mercy rule above is as follows:

    1st - A warning from the referee.

    2nd - The second and every time thereafter the referee will stop the clock and award a team technical foul to the defensive team. The losing team will be awarded 2 points and the ball at half court.

14. **REPORTING OF SCORES:** Home team must report scores within 48 hours of the game's completion. Failure to report scores **will result** in a forfeit for the home team.

NWCC Sportsmanship