

WISCONSIN STATE LUTHERAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

GRADE SCHOOL RULES

***ANY AND ALL EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULES, MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO
LUTHERANSportsAssociationWI@gmail.com PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION DEADLINE***

2026 Tournament: March 6-8, 2026

1. FORMAT

- 1.1 There shall be one competition for boys and one for girls as further defined herein.
- 1.2 Each division shall consist of up to sixteen teams, depending upon the number of qualified entries received.
- 1.3 The Tournament of Champions shall be conducted on a double elimination basis with a consolation bracket, in which a team will continue to play after a loss in the first round game.
- 1.4 Each team shall be guaranteed to play a minimum of two games; the final round shall be played on Sunday.
- 1.5 The Tournament of Champions shall be conducted annually during the month of March.

2. TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

- 2.1 Entry deadline for invitation to the Tournament of Champions will be **February 1**.
- 2.2 The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Sports Association of Wisconsin, Inc. ("LSAW") 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 for participation in each division
- 2.3 This selection will be completed prior to **February 22** and communicated to all applicants on or before **February 25**.
- 2.4 The LSAW Board of Directors reserves the right to accept late applications as an independent team, if teams are required to fill the tournament. Late applications will not be considered if enough applicants have submitted by February 1.
- 2.5 Team selection preference will generally be given in the following order in determining which entry applications are to be accepted (also see Rule 2.1):

LEAGUE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS
INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS
OTHER CHAMPIONS
INDEPENDENT TEAMS

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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.

3. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Teams must be established squads, which have represented a Lutheran grade school in an established league or tournament during the current basketball season.
- 3.2 Each team is allowed a maximum of three (3) staff persons, such as coaches, managers, statisticians, plus athletic director and principal. At least one (1) staff person must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and must be responsible for team conduct both on and off the court. Only persons listed on the team roster are permitted to be on the bench.
- 3.3 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 Tournament of Champions. 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 6.3 through 6.5.
- 3.4 Teams found to have played a non-rostered player shall forfeit all games the said person participated in.
- 3.5 Teams must submit an accurate season summary with the team they are applying to State. The game season summary should not include the games played by teams that do not represent the state team roster that is applying.

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4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1** Players must be students of the sponsoring grade school and have complied with the eligibility rules of their league(s) and/or tournament. A student is defined as a full-time student of the participating school. To participate in the Tournament of Champions, players must have been full-time students at the start of their school's basketball season. *Any other student must be approved by the LSA Wisconsin Basketball Committee prior to the application deadline.* 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. In order to qualify under this rule, a player will be considered to have played in a game if he/she dressed for the game. Exceptions may be permitted in case of injury, illness, or late entry into the sponsoring school or similar circumstances, providing that advance approval is obtained from the Board of Directors prior to the entry deadline date. *All combined teams (teams of more than one Lutheran School) will need to be approved by the LSA Wisconsin Basketball Committee prior to the application deadline.*
- 4.2** Each player, coach, manager, and statistician must be listed on the official roster certified by the principal of the sponsoring school and submitted no later than the entry deadline date.
- 4.3** A player must not have reached the age of 15 prior to the first day of September **2025**. If a player turns 15 years old prior to the first day of September, the principal must send a letter using the school letterhead that verifies the player has been a student for the entire school year. The letter should be sent to the event chairperson for board of directors approval prior to the application deadline.
- 4.4** Identification, if needed, must be proven at least sixty minutes prior to an individual's first Tournament of Champions game.
- 4.5** Any individual unable to comply with Rules 4.1 through 4.4, as applicable, will not be permitted to participate in the Tournament of Champions.

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5. CHEERLEADER ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1** Cheerleaders must be students of the sponsoring school and have complied with the eligibility rules, if any, of their league(s) and/or tournaments.
- 5.2** Each team is allowed a maximum of three (3) staff persons, such as coaches, managers, statisticians, athletic trainers, athletic directors, chaperones, etc. 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.
- 5.3** 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.
- 5.4** All cheerleaders must be in uniform to participate in cheerleading activities at any Tournament of Champions game.
- 5.5** Cheerleaders participating in a Tournament of Champions game will not be provided dressing rooms prior to participation.
- 5.6** All cheerleaders and their coach or manager must be able to prove his/her identity by written signature and a currently valid school identification card or other acceptable proof of identity. All cheerleaders and coaching staff will be required to wear participant passes at any Tournament of Champions site when not participating in a game or competition
- 5.7** Any individual unable to comply with Rules 5.01 through 5.06, as applicable, will not be permitted to participate in the Tournament of Champions.

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6. TEAM ENTRY APPLICATION

- 6.1 Each team is required to submit by the entry deadline date, which shall be **February 1** an entry application and \$200 entry fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the *Lutheran Sports Association of Wisconsin*. Entry fees will not be processed until the participating school accepts the invitation.
IMPORTANT: ALL applications must be in by the deadline even if your season is not completed.
- 6.2 Mail receipt of application (sent to your Principal via email) along with entry fee to: Lutheran Sports Association, % Dwayne Rose, W170 N8736 Edgewood Pl., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
- 6.3 All entry applications must be approved by the principal or pastor of the sponsoring school. Entries must include a school principal/pastor confirmation email along with the mailed entry fee.
- 6.4 In the case of all applications (League/Tournament Champions or Independent teams), the Board of Directors *may* require the approval of the league or tournament chairperson and/or additional information in the form of certified copies of the complete league schedule, score results of all games played by the applying team, the league roster, complete league rules, constitution, by-laws, and any other information that the Board of Directors deems appropriate.
- 6.5 The official application and roster must contain the following information for each player:
- a) Player's full name
 - b) Age as of the beginning of the tournament
 - c) Parent/Guardian email (optional)
 - d) Birthdate
 - e) Grade
 - f) Position (guard, forward, or center only)
 - g) Height
 - h) Uniform numbers (home and away uniform numbers)
 - i) Certification by the team's principal
 - j) T-Shirt Size
- 6.6 *Any application received or not completed until after the entry deadline date MAY be considered as having been received from an independent team (see Rule 2.3) and MAY be accepted only if a Tournament of Champions berth is available.*
- IMPORTANT...ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN BY THE DEADLINE EVEN IF YOUR SEASON IS NOT COMPLETED**
- 6.7 Acceptance of invitation shall be final and entry fees accompanying approved applications shall not be refundable. If application is denied, entry fees will be mailed back to the school.

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7. Equipment

- 7.1 Practice basketballs will be provided. All other game and locker equipment must be supplied by the participating school team.
- 7.2 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 Tournament of Champions in order to fulfill this requirement.
- 7.3 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.

8. Playing Rules

- 8.1 Rules as they apply to Lutheran grade schools and middle schools shall govern play with the following exceptions; 6-minute quarters, and no pressing defenses will be allowed after a 25 point lead has been built. (This rule applies to full and half-court presses.) Changes to these rules can be superseded by direction of the Tournament Director and the LSAW Board of Directors. *Other time restrictions (between quarters and games) will be communicated to the schools.*
- 8.2 All games shall have two referees, one timekeeper, and one scorekeeper. Referees shall be members of basketball officials' associations selected by the Board of Directors.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 Any protest must be submitted to the Board of Directors in accordance with WIAA for grade schools and middle schools rules immediately following the incident being protested. Play will be suspended while the Directors adjudicate the protest, and the judgment rendered shall be final and may not be appealed once play resumes.

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9. Awards

- 9.1 In each division of competition, one team award shall be awarded to all participating teams. Awards are also presented to all placing finishers (first, second, and third place). One Tournament of Champions banner will be presented to the champion in each division.
- 9.2 In each tournament, 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.
- 9.3 In each division of competition, one individual medal shall be presented to the principal, athletic director, each player, coach, manager, and statistician on the Championship, second and third place teams.

10. General

- 10.1 The Principal, and the Principal's designees, shall be responsible to the LSAW and STATE hosts for matters pertaining to all athletic and non-athletic activities of their school at the state tournament. In addition, they shall be responsible to ensure that their school is properly represented at all tournament events and shall be responsible for the conduct of their participants and other persons from their school, including spectators. Coaches, managers, and team captains shall also be responsible for team conduct both on and off the playing court.
- 10.2 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 tournament activities. The LSAW, 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.

As this experience unfolds each year, many wonderful memories are made. The kids share their many talents with God as they follow His word from I Corinthians 10:31 *"Whatever you do...do it all for the glory of God."* This is truly evident by the way they play and conduct themselves throughout the weekend. In an effort to incorporate this philosophy into all aspects of the weekend's activities, we ask that all parents, friends, family members, school personnel, coaches and student athletes be true models of Christian sportsmanship on and off the court. You can do this by:

- ☐ Cheering positively for your team and not against the other team.
- ☐ Not yelling at referees or opposing team members/coaches.
- ☐ Applauding good play, regardless of who made it.
- ☐ Being respectful of fans around you.
- ☐ Letting the love of Jesus shine in your words and actions
- ☐ Acting as if HE was sitting right next to you in the stands

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If there happens to be a situation that requires attention, associated team(s) will be subject to warnings and subsequent technical fouls. In addition, a member of the LSAW staff will approach the individual or group that is causing the disturbance. This communication may result in the party being asked to leave the game or possibly the entire tournament weekend, depending upon the severity of the actions. Together, we can make this an unforgettable experience for our teams that will honor God. It will take all participants and every fan to do this but with His help, it can be a truly special weekend. Thanks for your help and let's do it all for Him.

- 10.3** Housing accommodations, transportation, meals, and incidental expenses shall be the responsibility of the participating team. If a team does not decide to commute from their hometown, we encourage them to stay in an LSAW approved lodging facility.
- 10.4** Game schedules for the Tournament of Champions will be sent to participating teams approximately ten (10) days prior to the first playing date.
- 10.5** Players and teams must comply with the eligibility rules of their own league(s) and/or tournament(s) and the Tournament of Champions.
- 10.6** All players and coaching staff will be required to wear participant passes at any Tournament of Champions site when not participating in a game.
- 10.7** Requests for granting of exceptions to published rules must be submitted in writing to the Tournament of Champions Tournament Director no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date by which a ruling on such a request is required. Rulings by the Tournament Director and his/her committee are final.
- 10.8** These rules and all other information can be found on the official website of the Lutheran Sports Association of WI at www.lsawi.org