

# AMSAC BASKETBALL BY-LAWS

Updated May 12, 2020 (changes are in bold)



## PARTICIPATION

1. The AMSAC Basketball Program is restricted to students who are in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels. Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) graders are not allowed to play on any 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams. If a school is found to be potentially short of players for an upcoming regular conference game do to temporary / unforeseen circumstances, every attempt should be made to play the game. The first option is to move players up from the lower grade for that game. The second option would be to move players from another team in the same grade. As a courtesy, the athletic director of the school initiating a roster change should contact the other school involved in the game about the situation. If other participation / game playing solutions are required, AD's should be informed ahead of time to render a decision.
2. If a school desires to enter multiple teams at any grade levels the following league policy is in effect. At the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade levels it is expected that schools will split teams as evenly as possible. There are no A-Teams or B-Teams at the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade levels. At the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level the league will provide an A-Team schedule and a B-Team schedule. It is recommended that if a school is entering two or more 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams that the split should be on an A-Team and B-Team basis.
3. If a school has more than 1 team in a sport at the same grade level for a gender, they are allowed to conduct a skills assessment for forming teams prior to the official start date of the season. The skills assessment period is for a maximum of 2 days and must be overseen by the school's athletic director. The school must establish the assessment period and communicate it to the member schools' athletic directors.
4. Schools are permitted to schedule non-conference games within the regularly scheduled length of the AMSAC season.
5. Intramural activities are approved prior to the start of the season. These activities are not to be team practices. Schools should not be playing organized games, scrimmages, or practices with other schools, leagues, or teams.

## OFFICIALS

6. The Conference will contract with the Lake Country Officials Association to have two (2) WIAA certified officials scheduled for all games.
7. **Officials will be paid by the host school. Pay for regular season and conference tournament games will be \$30.00 per game.**

## GAME MANAGEMENT and GOVERNING RULES

8. All teams will follow the National Federation Rules.
9. Home teams will be responsible for all game equipment. The home team will provide an equal number of practice balls for the visiting team.
10. **All games will consist of two (2), eighteen (18) minute halves played with a running clock. The clock will stop on all whistles the LAST TWO MINUTES OF EACH HALF.**
11. It is expected that all teams will have a minimum of ten (10) minutes for warm-up, regardless of whether or not the game schedule is running behind scheduled start times.
12. Half-time will be five (5) minutes.
13. **Each team will be granted four (4) full timeouts per regulation game that may be used at any time. Any remaining timeouts will be carried over into overtime if the score is tied at the end of the second half.**
14. **Overtimes will be two (2) minutes with the clock stopping on all whistles.**
15. Each team will be granted one additional timeout per overtime period.
16. Fifth and sixth boys/girls can attempt free throws from 13 or 15 feet. It is the coach's/player's discretion as to which line they choose. It is required that each school provide a 13' line for free throws. It is deemed a free throw line violation when the player attempting the free throw touches or goes over the 13' before the ball makes contact with the rim, regardless of whether they use the 15' or 13' line.

17. Fifth and sixth grade boys/girls and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls shall use the 28.5 size ball.
18. Fifth and sixth grade boys and girls can press in the last two minutes of the half, game, and the entire overtime.
19. Seventh and eight grade boys and girls can press anytime.
20. If a team has a lead of 10 points or greater at the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade levels, no press can be used.
21. If a team has a lead of 15 points or greater at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels, no press can be used.
22. Three (3) point baskets are in effect at all grade levels.
23. There shall be no players in the locker room, or warming up on the floor without a coach present in the same locker room or gym as the team.
24. There should not be anyone on the game floor during the halftime. Only game participants of the current game should be warming up during the halftime.
25. Undershirt rule. If you have team members choosing to wear a t-shirt under their respective official team jersey, the t-shirt can be either white or the same shaded color of the official team jersey, i.e., a navy blue jersey should have a navy blue t-shirt or a white t-shirt. A navy blue jersey should not be coupled with a Columbia blue t-shirt.
26. No half court trapping or half court Zone Defenses are allowed at the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade levels. Therefore, only man-to-man defenses are allowed. Officials will warn the offending team the first time and subsequent violations will result in a team technical foul. (In the last two minutes of each half full court zone presses are allowed as outlined in bylaws 18 and 20). It is strongly recommended that all teams play man-to-man defense at all grade levels.

### **AMSAC TOURNAMENTS**

27. A player can only play in one grade level AMSAC tournament, i.e., a player can't play at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade AMSAC tournament and then play at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level tournament. This includes all grade levels.
28. **AMSAC Basketball Tournament Seeding**  
(It is a priority of the conference that seeding is established in time to communicate to parents, coaches, players and other interested parties the game schedule.)
  - a. Records will be reported to the host school Athletic Director 1-2 weeks before the tournament begins on a date established by the conference Athletic Directors.
  - b. Teams will be seeded based on winning percentage. Ties will be resolved by the tournament host school.
  - c. If participating schools do not turn in records for seeding on the date established, the tournament host school will seed the team based on their common knowledge.
  - d. As detailed in bylaw #27, communication of concerns on tournaments regarding seeding is to be done between athletic directors. If an inquiry is received by a tournament-hosting athletic director from a parent or coach of another school, that parent is to be re-directed back to their school's athletic director.
29. The appendices to the bylaws will include standard brackets to be used for all AMSAC basketball tournaments.

### **LEAGUE EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES**

30. Parent communication with other member school's authorities (Athletic Director, Administration, Coaches) on athletic-related issues (e.g. tournament seeding) must be done through the parent's school's athletic director or administration. Athletic directors or administration receiving inquiries on athletic issues from other conference schools' parents are to refer the parent to their school's athletic director.
31. Open Gyms:  
AMSAC bylaws allow schools to conduct "open gyms" in any activity. Coaches and schools cannot be involved in out-of-season practice for athletes. However, open gyms do not violate these bylaws if they are conducted according to the following guidelines:
  - a. The open gym is open to any student in the designated population of that school that is interested in attending. Open gyms may be gender specific. It is also acceptable to include people from the community.
  - b. There is no instruction during the open gym by a coach or anyone else.
  - c. Coaches may supervise open gyms, but they may not instruct, organize drills, etc.

d. There is no organized competition, such as established teams participating in round-robin competition, etc. during open gym.

The philosophy of open gym is students from that school may attend for wholesome recreation, or for purposes of improving their skills, but it's something they do on their own. It would be a violation of AMSAC bylaws to mandate attendance at open gyms, or to provide incentives for athletes to attend open gyms, or to limit participation based on athletic status, or to allow athletes from other schools to come and work out or compete against the host school's athletes.

32. Each coach is required to attend a coaches training session once every two years. This training is organized by the AMSAC conference in coordination with AHS coaches. Only those coaches or non-rostered team personnel (i.e. coaches, managers, assistants, scorekeepers, stats takers, children, etc.) that have attended the training will be permitted to sit on the bench for games. The number of non-rostered team personnel on the bench is limited to a maximum of three (3) individuals.