



MIDDLE SCHOOL 6-8

Basketball – Boys & Girls

2026-2027 Sport Handbook

Section 1: RULES

A. GENERAL

All contests under the jurisdiction of the RIIL Middle School 6-8 shall be played according to the National Federation of State High School Association Basketball Rules, except for any special rulings adopted by the Committee.

1. All Eligibility Lists must be received by the RIIL Office, and all Assumption of Risk forms must be on file with the school, prior to any competition.
2. Definition of a Game/Scrimmage: Article 7, Section 2
3. Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches, Student-Athletes, & Spectators: Article 12, Section 3
4. Loyalty to Home School: Article 7, Section 5
5. Penalties for Ejections: Article 6, Section 7
6. Protest Procedure: Article 5

B. SPORT SPECIFIC

Boys and Girls:

1. Mercy Rule-A mercy rule will be in effect for all divisions. Running time will go into effect when a lead of 30 points in the 4th quarter, and stop for free throws and time-outs. Upon reaching the 30-point differential, the clock will remain running for the duration of the quarter and only stop for time-outs and free throws. Should the point differential drop below 30 points during running time, the clock will continue to run for the remainder of the game.
2. "Fifth Quarter"-Schools may play a "fifth quarter" if there is agreement between both teams ahead of time. The score at the end of the game (4th quarter) is the official score, and the officials will then have completed their obligations. If schools elect to play a "fifth quarter" coaches and administrators will be responsible for overseeing the play on the court.
3. Shot Clock-There is no shot clock in RIIL Middle School 6-8 Basketball.

Section 2: MANDATORY COACHES CERTIFICATION & CONTINUING EDUCATION

- A. ALL Coaches must be appointed by their School Administration. A coach is any adult with access to student-athletes through an education-based athletic program.
 - a. Including, but not limited to: Volunteer Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Head Coaches.
- B. Coaching Requirements: Article 13

Section 3. SCHEDULE/GAMES

The RIIL shall make up the schedules and order of games.

- A. Regular RIIL Middle School 6-8 basketball games shall be four equal quarters of eight (8) minutes. The score at the completion of four quarters of play shall stand as official with the following exception:
 - 1. A five-minute overtime period shall be used to in the event of a tie. After the conclusion of the overtime period, if the game is still tied, another five-minute overtime period will be played until a winner has been decided.
- B. The home school is responsible for providing adequate crowd control measures. There is a need for increasing vigilance in this matter. Schools must make every effort to ensure that players, officials, and spectators are protected. Schools should take the following measures to secure a safe environment by:
 - 1. utilizing bleachers for fans to sit and watch the game(s) where space permits.
 - 2. providing an easily identifiable school supervisor **who is preferably an administrator or athletic director**. The school supervisor will introduce him/herself to the visiting coach and the referees and will assist in the supervision of the game both on and off the court before, during, and after the game.
 - ~~3.~~ providing a clock operator and an official scorekeeper.
 - 4. holding mandatory meetings before the first game of the season for all coaches, athletes and their parents/guardians to review the RIIL Middle School 6-8's policy on sportsmanship and fan behavior during RIIL Middle School 6-8 sanctioned events.
- C. Important Dates:
 - A. Preseason:
 - A. First Day of Practice: Monday, November 30, 2026
 - B. First Day to schedule a Scrimmage: Saturday, December 5, 2026
 - B. Regular Season:
 - 1. Week #1: begins on Monday, December 14th (2 games)
 - 2. Week #2: begins on Monday, December 21st (1 game)
 - 3. Week #3: begins on Monday, January 4th (2 games)
 - 4. Week #4: begins on Monday, January 11th (2 games)
 - 5. Week #5: begins on Tuesday, January 18th (2 games)

6. Week #6: begins on Tuesday, January 25th (1 game)
 7. Last Day of the Regular Season: Friday, January 29, 2027
- C. Postseason:
1. Preliminary Games: Tuesday, February 2
 2. Quarterfinals: Thursday, February 8
 3. Semifinals: Tuesday, February 9
 4. Championships: Thursday, February 11th
- D. Game Cap: 14 Regular Season Games prior to the start of the playoffs
- E. Home teams shall set a date/time for all contests.
1. If there is a conflict in the date/time of the contest with the visiting team(s) and mutual agreement cannot be reached, the visiting school Principal/Athletic Director shall submit ***a written request*** to the RIIL to review the circumstances of the disagreement and render a decision. **This must be done prior to the submission of the Home Confirmation Schedule.**
 2. Once the Home Confirmation Schedule is submitted, *changes will not be allowed unless there are extenuating circumstances.*
- F. Postponement of Regular Season Games after the confirmation deadline:
1. League Games must be rescheduled for the next day unless mutually agreed upon by both schools and within all other guidelines contained in this handbook. League games must take precedent over non-league games or lesser events
 - a. Additional Officials Fees for Games Changed within Two Weeks of original date/time
- G. Practice Limitations:
- a. Scrimmages allowed after 5 days of practice
 - b. Games allowed after 10 days of practice, not including Sundays
- H. Rosters shall be completed via the RIIL website and made available to the public no later than 10 days after the start of practice. Rosters must be updated when students are added/removed from the team.
1. Rosters must include: name, grade, and jersey number.
- I. 2026-2027 Divisions - There will be 5 Divisions with the top three teams from each division qualifying for the playoffs. The determination of the 16th seed will be decided before the coaches interpretation meeting.

Section 4. POSTPONEMENTS

The postponement rules contained in Article 4, unless otherwise stated, shall govern all postponed basketball matches.

- A. In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue to play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game will be restarted from the suspension of play.
- B. Basketball games postponed because of weather conditions should be played on the following school day, or on the next fair-weather school day.
- C. If a game is postponed for any reason other than inclement weather, it must be rescheduled, as soon as possible, to a definite date by mutual agreement of the opposing school's Principals and with the consent of the Director of Basketball. If a mutual agreement cannot be reached, the representatives of the schools involved must meet with the Director of Basketball to reschedule the contest(s).

Section 5. OFFICIALS

RIIL assigned official's authority extends to pre-and post-game oversight. Fighting and unsportsmanlike penalties will always be within the authority of the officials at the contest site. Two officials will be assigned for most games by the RIIL Office, based on availability.

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the officials to see that benches are cleared of everyone except coaches, assistant coaches, managers, scorers, players, and a representative of the school and press.
- B. Officials must enforce the coaches' box. If a coach does not comply, he/she will first receive a warning. If he/she still does not comply, he/she will then be issued a technical foul.

Section 6. PLAYOFFS

The Playoffs will be conducted under the direction of the Sport Director using a format determined by the RIIL Executive Director and the Middle School Sports Coordinator and published with the RIIL Middle School 6-8 Basketball Schedule.

- A. Playoff games and all other games will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters.
 - 1. Overtime – Extra Periods (Boys and Girls)
 - a. Teams that are tied at the end of regulation time will play a **5-minute** overtime period.
 - b. In the event the game is still tied, another **5-minute** period will be played. The teams will continue until a winner has been decided.

B. Basketball Tie Breaker for Playoff Seeding: A tie-breaker will be used to seed teams with identical W-L records for the regular season:

1. Head-to-Head

a. Three or More Teams: *Pool Play head-to-head – most wins in games played among those ties teams*

2. Power Ranking/Strength of Victories: *(starting with 1st place team in the division and moving down)*

3. Coin Toss/Draw

Section 7: Medical Coverage/Emergency Action Plans

A. Home team medical coverage shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting school provides its own medical coverage.

B. The judgment of the medical person will be final with regard to the medical condition of a player. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice under any circumstance.

C. An Emergency Action Plan with clearly defined written and practice protocols should be developed and in place at every school. When possible, an athletic trainer should be present at all practices and games.

a. *Rationale:* An effective emergency action plan (EAP) should be in place as a prompt and appropriate response to any emergency situation that can save a life. The EAP should be designed and practiced to address all teams (freshman, junior varsity, and varsity) and all practice and game sites. An athletic trainer is a key component in any strategy to minimize injury risk and optimize safety for all participants.

D. Levels of Medical Coverage:

<u>Medical Professional:</u>	<i>A. Education/Schooling/Training & Licensure</i> <i>B. Scope of Practice</i> <i>C. Able to Return to Play</i>
Medical Doctors-MD/DO Advanced Practice Provider-NP/PA	A. Advanced degree (Medical School/Successfully passed the licensing board, and RI Licensed) B. Preventative Care, On field Evaluation, Immediate Care, Diagnosis C. Can they Return to Play – Yes
Athletic Trainer RI Licensed	A. Minimum Bachelor's Degree (Successfully pass the BOC exam, and RI licensed) B. Preventative Care, On field Evaluation, Immediate Care, Assessment of injury, referral for further diagnosis

	C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – YES
Physical Therapist RI Licensed	A. Degree varies from BS, MS to DPT (Successfully pass the board exam, and RI licensed.) B. Preventative Care, Rehabilitation, Orthopedic exam evaluation C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – NO
Physical Therapist w/ Orthopedic Clinical Specialist (OCS) credential & RI Licensed	A. Advanced Certification (Successfully pass the board exam, successfully complete requirements for and pass the OCS exam, and RI licensed) B. Rehabilitation, Orthopedic exam evaluation. On the field coverage - not qualified, no emergency training incorporated into initial certification or required to be annually updated. C. Can they Return to Play – NO (During a Game/Contest), Yes (In Clinical Setting)
Physical Therapists w/ Sports Certified Specialist (SCS) credential & RI Licensed	A. Advanced Certification (Successfully pass the board exam, successfully complete requirements for and pass the SCS exam, and RI licensed) B. Rehabilitation, Orthopedic exam evaluation. On-the-field coverage – Qualified C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – YES
EMT - Basic, Intermediate & Paramedic	A. Successfully complete the EMT program, pass the board exam, and RI licensed) B. Emergency care C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – NO, per RI EMS laws/regulations/protocols
School Nurse (RN)	A. Successful completion of a nursing program (Successfully pass the board exam, and RI licensed) B. Emergency care, referral for further treatment/diagnosis C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – NO