



Basketball (B&G) Sport Handbook

Winter of 2025-26

Section 1: Rules

- A. All contests under the jurisdiction of the RIIL shall be played according to the National Federation of State High School Association Rules, except for any special rulings adopted by the RIIL and listed in this handbook below.
- B. The RIIL strongly recommends head coaches/officials obtain a copy of the most recent NFHS Rulebook.

Section 2: Mandatory Coaches Certification & Continuing Education

- A. ALL Coaches must be appointed by their School Administration and upload their valid certificates to the Coaches' Certification website below. 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
- C. Coaching Out of Season Rules: Article 7, Section 8
- D. Rules on Recruitment: Article 3, Section 11
- E. Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches: Article 12, Section 3

Section 3: Medical Coverage/Emergency Action Plans

- A. Medical Coverage should be provided by the host school, be in attendance and on duty for the duration of all interscholastic scrimmages and games during the regular season and all tournament round games. The medical personnel must introduce themselves to both coaches and referee prior to the start of the game.
 - a. Pre-Game Safety Checklist
- B. Schools are responsible for providing Medical Coverage for their team throughout the playoffs, including the Semis and Finals/Championships.
- C. Home team medical coverage shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting school provides its own medical coverage.

D. Levels of Medical Coverage:

<i>Medical Professional Legal Limitations</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. <i>Education/Schooling/Training & Licensure</i> B. <i>Scope of Practice</i> C. <i>Able to Return to Play</i>
Medical Doctors-MD/DO or Advanced Practice Provider-NP/PA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

- E. 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.
- F. An Emergency Action Plan with clearly defined written and practice protocols as required by RI General Laws must be developed and in place at every high school.
 - a. When possible, an athletic trainer should be present at all practices and games. An athletic trainer is a key component in any strategy to minimize injury risk and optimize safety for all participants.
 - b. *Rationale:* An effective emergency action plan (EAP) must 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.

Section 4: General Regulations for all Sports

- A. Heat Acclimatization: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 3
- B. Definition of a Game/Scrimmage: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 2
- C. Coaching Out of Season Rules: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 8
- D. Use of Equipment During the Summer: RIIL R&R Article 6, Section 13
- E. Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches, Student-Athletes, & Spectators: RIIL R&R Art. 12, Sect. 3
- F. Loyalty to Home School: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 7
- G. National Events: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 11
- H. Penalties for Ejections: RIIL R&R Article 6, Section 7
- I. Protest Procedure: RIIL R&R Article 5

Section 5: Sport Advisory Committee

- A. Each Sport Advisory Committee is comprised of Member School Administrators, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Officials, and other relevant individuals who work with and report to the RIIL on all matters concerning their sport.
- B. Girls Basketball Sport Advisory Committee Membership:

Committee Role	Member	School
Sport Director	TBD	
Co-Director (RIIAAA)	Marty Crowley	Cumberland
Athletic Director	Cindy Blodgett	Lincoln School
Athletic Director	Mike Traficante	Cranston
Coach	Gary Martinelli	Ponaganset
Coach	Zach Pinto	Mt. Pleasant
Coach	Tammy Drape	East Providence
Official	Mike Stevens	
Official	Robbie Franklin	

- C. Boys Basketball Sport Advisory Committee Membership:

Committee Role	Member	School
Sport Director	Joe Goho	North Providence
Sport Director	Mike Sollitto	Burrillville
Co-Director (RIIAAA)	Alex Butler	East Providence
Athletic Director	Greg O'Connor	Lincoln
Athletic Director	Jamal Gomes	Bishop Hendricken
Athletic Director	Vin McGinn	LaSalle
Coach	John Kavanagh	Classical
Coach	Kevin Payette	Blackstone Valley Prep
Coach	Mike Newsome	Rogers
Coach	Richard Grenier	West Warwick
Official	Mike Stevens	
Official	Robbie Franklin	

D. The 2024-25 and 2025-26 Alignment received the following endorsements & approvals:

- a. Sport Committee Approval: 04/19/24
- b. Survey of all Member Schools: 04/30/24
- c. RIIAAA E-Board Approval: 05/17/24
- d. PCOA Approval: 06/17/24

Section 6: Season Dates (All dates are subject to change):

A. Important Dates:

School Year	2025-26
Sport	Basketball
Gender	Boys & Girls
Start Date	Monday, December 1, 2025
Days in the Preseason	10
Games Can Begin	Thursday, December 11, 2025
Week #1 Begins On	Monday, December 15, 2025
Week #2 Begins On	Monday, December 22, 2025
Week #3 Begins On	Monday, December 29, 2025
Week #4 Begins On	Monday, January 5, 2026
Week #5 Begins On	Monday, January 12, 2026
Week #6 Begins On	Monday, January 19, 2026
Week #7 Begins On	Monday, January 26, 2026
Week #8 Begins On	Monday, February 2, 2026
Week #9 Begins On	Monday, February 9, 2026
Last Day of the Regular Season	Friday, February 13, 2026
Division Championships Concluded By	Wednesday, March 4, 2026
State Championships Concluded By	Sunday, March 15, 2026

A. Postseason:

- a. Divisional Championship:
 - i. Division Tournament Qualification detailed in each Division below.
 - ii. Division Championship Games begin on Monday, March 2, 2026
 - 1. Location: The AMP in Providence

b. State Championship:

- i. State Tournament Qualification detailed below
- ii. State Championship Game: Sunday, March 15, 2026

1. Location: The Ryan Center, University of Rhode Island

B. Divisions:

- a. Boys Basketball has Three (3) Divisions (asterisk denotes mid-alignment movement):

State Championship Division (Div. 1)	Division 2	Division 3
17 Teams	17 Teams	17 Teams
Barrington	Burrillville	Achievement First
Bishop Hendricken	Chariho	Blackstone Valley
Central	Cranston West	Block Island
Classical	Coventry	Central Falls
Cranston East	East Greenwich	Davies
Cumberland	Juanita Sanchez	Exeter-West Greenwich
East Providence	Middletown	Hope
Johnston	Moses Brown	North Smithfield
La Salle	Mt. Hope*	Ponaganset
Lincoln	Narragansett	Paul Cuffee
Mt. Pleasant	North Providence	Prout
North Kingstown	Pilgrim	Providence Country Day
Portsmouth	Rogers	Scituate
Shea	St. Raphael	St. Patrick
Smithfield	South Kingstown	Times 2
Tolman	West Warwick	Tiverton*
Westerly	Woonsocket	Toll Gate

a. Girls Basketball has Three (3) Divisions (asterisk denotes mid-alignment movement):

State Championship Division (Div. 1)	Division 2	Division 3
16 Teams	16 Teams	17 Teams
Barrington	Coventry	Achievement First
Chariho	Cumberland	Block Island
Classical	East Greenwich	Burrillville
Cranston West	East Providence	Central Falls/BVP Coop
Juanita Sanchez	Johnston	Central
La Salle	Hope*	Cranston East*
Moses Brown	Lincoln	Davies
Ponaganset	Lincoln School - PVD	Exeter/West Greenwich
Portsmouth	Mt. Hope*	Middletown*
North Kingstown	Narragansett	Mt. Pleasant
Shea/Tolman Coop	North Smithfield	North Providence
South Kingstown	Rogers	Paul Cuffee/St. Pats Coop
St. Mary – Bay View	Scituate	Pilgrim
St. Raphael	Smithfield	Prout
Westerly	Tiverton	Providence Country Day
West Warwick	Toll Gate	Times 2
		Woonsocket

C. Game Cap: 22

D. Teams must complete a minimum of 18 league games to be eligible for the divisional playoffs.

E. Score Reporting for all Regular Season and Postseason League Games: In accordance with Article 6, Section 14, all contest scores are to be reported on-line on the RIIL Website. Coaches obtain access to the system through their Athletic Director.

F. It shall be the responsibility of school officials/administrators/supervisors to provide a safe and secure environment for the teams and officials by ensuring the playing field and sidelines are continuously cleared of **everyone** except certified & appointed coaches, team managers/scorers, student-athletes, medical personnel, and school designated personnel. Media are allowed with prior permission of the host school.

G. Home teams shall set a date/time for all contests.

a. 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 RIL to review the circumstances of the disagreement and render a decision. **This must be done prior to the submission of the Home Confirmation Schedule.**

b. Once the Home Confirmation Schedule is submitted, *changes will not be allowed unless there are extenuating circumstances.*

F. Postponement of Regular Season Varsity Games after the confirmation deadline:

a. Where unusual circumstances prevail or where weather conditions are unfavorable, a game may be postponed by mutual consent of the Principals and/or Athletic Directors

b. Postponed games shall be rescheduled to the next day when the teams, facility, and officials are available.

i. Includes weekends and/or school vacations.

ii. League games must take precedent over non-league games or lesser events

iii. Rescheduled games must be within all other guidelines contained in this handbook and the RIL Rules & Regulations.

c. Additional Officials Fees for Games Changed within Two Weeks of original date/time:
Article 6, Section 5

G. Practice Limitations:

a. Preseason Practice Limitations are also located in Heat Acclimatization: Article 7, Section 3

b. Scrimmages allowed after 5 days of practice

c. Games allowed after 10 days of practice

Section 7: Postseason Qualification & Format:

A. League Games Required to Qualify for the Postseason: 18 league games

B. Division Tournament Format

a. Teams will be ranked according to their RPI in all league games

b. Division 1: 80% of the teams qualify for the playoffs (Top 14 teams by RPI)

c. Division 2 & 3: 70% of the teams qualify for the playoffs (Top 12 teams by RPI)

d. Boys Division Qualification ranked by RPI:

i. D1: 14, D2: 12, D3: 12

e. Girls: Division Qualification ranked by RPI:

i. D1: 13, D2: 11, D3: 11

f. Single Elimination throughout the playoffs:

i. Preliminaries - Quarterfinals – Semifinals – Finals

C. State Tournament Format

a. 16 Team Tournament

i. Straight Bracketing

ii. Prelims (#1 vs. #16) - Quarters - Semis - Finals

b. Qualification:

- i. Division 1, 2, & 3 Tournament Champions automatically qualify for the State Tournament.
- ii. Additionally, teams will be objectively ranked by their regular season RPI plus an additional weighted point value for progressing through the division playoff bracket.
 - 1. RPI+ = Regular Season RPI plus additional points earned per win in the Division Tournament
 - a. D1: 0.61, D2: 0.36, D3: 0.22
- iii. The field of 16 will be filled by division tournament champions and those additional teams qualifying by RPI+ up to and not exceeding 16 teams.
- c. Seeding: All 16 qualified teams will be seeded according to their RPI plus Div Tourn. Points.
- d. Tournament Progression: Straight bracket, no reseeding between rounds.

D. Postseason Tiebreaker

- a. Playoff Seeding will be determined by a team's RPI as calculated on the RIIL website.
- b. RPI Tiebreaker:
 - 1) Head-to-Head result(s) in League Games between the tied teams
 - 2) Winning Percentage in all League Games vs teams in your division
 - 3) Total Wins in all League Games vs teams in a higher division
 - 4) Highest-rated win in Division (according to the final RPI standings)
 - 5) Next-highest-rated win (exhaust all possibilities)
 - 6) Coin Toss

E. RIIL Basketball Playoff Tiebreakers

- a. **Divisional Tournament:** Established tie breaker formula for seeding.
 - i. Teams will be seeded based on their final regular season RPI ranking within their division.
 - 1. If there is a tie between two teams, head-to-head record in league games will be the tie breaker.
 - a. If there is a tie between more than two teams, pool record will be the tie breaker.
 - b. Pool records will be the win/loss record among the tied qualifying teams only (must be common opponents).
 - i. If this process leaves two (2) teams still tied, revert back to #1 (head-to-head competition).
 - 2. If H-H/Pool records do not break the tie, then matching teams' records against teams with a higher seed, starting with the #1 seed and then moving one lower seeded team at a time. If this process leaves two (2) teams still tied, revert back to #1 (head-to-head competition).

3. If #2 does not break the tie, then matching teams' records against teams with a lower seed, starting with the highest ranked team and then moving one lower team at a time. If this process leaves two (2) teams still tied, revert back to #1 (head-to-head competition).
 4. Coin toss will be used to break the tie.
- b. **State Tournament:** Established tie breaker formula for seeding.
- i. Schools will be seeded based on their final RPI+ ranking, which includes the final regular season RPI and playoff wins.
 1. If there is a tie between two teams, head-to-head record in league games will be the tie breaker including division.
 - a. If there is a tie between more than two teams, pool record will be the tie breaker (must be common opponents)
 - b. Pool records will be the win/loss record among the tied qualifying teams only. • If this process leaves two (2) teams still tied, revert back to #1 (head-to-head competition).
 2. If two or more schools are tied the school, the school in the higher Division will be awarded the higher seed.
 3. If the schools are still tied, then the established Divisional Playoff tie breakers including Divisional Playoff Wins will be used to determine the order of the seeding, beginning at Divisional Tiebreaker #2.

Section 8: RIIL Rules & Regulations Specific to Basketball – Article 15

- A. **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. Rosters must include: full name, grade, and jersey number.
- B. **Uniforms:**
- c. Schools shall consult the NFHS Rulebook for specific regulations pertaining to uniforms
 - d. In basketball, the home team shall wear “white” uniforms, while the away team shall wear “dark” uniforms.
- C. **RI Interscholastic Injury Fund:**
- a. The Injury Fund is a non-profit organization separate from the RIIL.
 - i. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.injuryfund.org/>
 - b. The purpose of the nonprofit Injury Fund is to establish, raise, maintain and distribute funds to the athletic departments of high schools participating in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Distributions will be made to assist athletes, coaches or officials injured in sanctioned interscholastic competitions and practices with their medical expenses that exceed the amount paid by the injured party’s primary, required medical insurance. Any and all financial assistance rendered by the RI Injury Fund to RIIL Member Schools shall be given

purely on a voluntary basis and in such amounts and in such manner as the Board of Directors in its sole discretion shall determine.

- c. Non-League competitions scheduled to spread awareness of and benefit the Injury Fund are allowed by RIIL Rules in addition to any stated game caps contained herein.
- d. Students, Coaches, and Officials whose teams participate in an Injury Fund event in a given sport are covered by the Injury Fund
- e. **Injury Fund Format:** TBD

D. **Game Ball:** The official game ball shall be Wilson through the 2027-28 school year.

E. In the event a “playoff game” must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue to play, the game will be rescheduled and restarted from the exact point of the suspension of play.

F. **Playoff Warmup:** Teams must be allowed no less than 20 minutes to warm up on the field prior to the start of any playoff game unless specific warmup procedures are contained elsewhere in this handbook.

G. **Sub-Varsity**

- a. Sub-Varsity shall be scheduled at the discretion of each Athletic Director/Head Coach.
- b. Sub-varsity games will not be allowed after the final day of the varsity regular season.

Section 9: Officials

A. 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.

B. Police protection, when necessary, must be provided by the home school. The home school is responsible for all crowd control measures. There is an urgent need for increasing vigilance in this matter. Schools must make every effort to ensure that players, officials, and spectators are protected. The duties of the police will be determined and outlined by the home school.

C. The home team should provide an adult game supervisor at all home events. An adult game supervisor must be present at ice hockey, basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, baseball, softball, football, soccer, volleyball and wrestling contests. The supervisor shall not be a student, nor a coach involved with the game. The supervisor shall identify themselves to the game officials thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the game. The supervisor shall be responsible for game administration and crowd control. They should notify the police, and event staff to seek appropriate assistance when applicable. In the event of a problem, the Principal/Athletic Director must notify the RIIL office the next day and submit a written report detailing the incident(s).