

### 2024-2025 HCAL Basketball Sports Plan

Date	Event	Location-Address
3/01/25	Houston Regional Championship	St. Thomas University – 3800 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX 77006
3/01/25	Austin Regional Championship	St. Edward's University – 3001 S. Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704
3/08/25	HCAL State Championship	TBD

#### Rules/Deadlines/District Alignments/Schedules & Standings:

- Please review all of this key information directly from our [HCAL Website](#)
- The *NFHS Basketball Officials Manual* will govern all rules not stated in this sport plan.
- [NFHS Amended Changes - Fouls & Inbounds Placement](#)
  - No longer have the 1/1 free-throw systems in play (4-8-1)
  - Double bonus (2 free-throws) on the 5<sup>th</sup> common foul of every Quarter (HS), MS- on the 7<sup>th</sup> foul of every half
  - Team Fouls will reset after every Quarter/Half
  - Simplified Throw in Procedure adhering to (7-5-2) Ruling
  - Please review link for further clarity – HCAL Officials will follow these guidelines

#### Game Day Logistics:

- Game Time
  - Review Official Game Schedule published on the [HCAL Website](#)
  - Any request for game time changes must be approved by the opposing team prior to the approval of the Director
  - A 15-minute grace period will be allowed before a game is called a forfeit (if no prior communication is not received)
    - If communication is provided by the away team, then there will be no forfeit, and adjustments will be made by officials to ensure games stay on time. (warmup will be limited and no more than a 30-minute grace period will be allowed)
    - Arrival more than 30 minutes with communication will be considered a forfeit.
- Game Play
  - Timeouts
    - 60 seconds = 3 per game
    - 30 seconds = 2 per game
  - Game Times
    - Varsity Games = 8 minutes per Quarter (8 min Half Time)
    - JV Games = 7 minutes per Quarter (7 min Half Time)
    - **MS Games = (2) 20-minute halves with running clock with the clock stopping in the last 2 minutes of each half and every free throw (5 min half time)**
  - Overtime Rules
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Overtime – HS (Half of a Regular Quarter), MS (4-minute running clock, stop in the last minute)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Overtime – 3 min (HS) & 2 min (MS)- no running clock
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Overtime & Beyond – 1 minute
    - Each Team will receive 1 additional full timeout per overtime period and all fouls and timeouts carry



- over.
  - Uniforms Expectations
    - The home team shall wear light colored jerseys
    - The visitors shall wear dark colored jerseys
    - If any color switches are needed – this must be mutually agreed upon prior to the start of the game (failure to do so will require the team wearing the wrong color from the guidelines above to wear pennies)
    - [NFHS Basketball Uniforms Guidelines](#)
      - **Please reference Legal #'s in the guidelines**
  - Administrator on Duty
    - The home team must provide an administrator
    - Teachers, School Admin, Athletic Director/Coordinators, Counselors, or Coaches could all be the Administrator on Duty – Individual must not be directly involved in the game
    - Failure to do so will incur in an infraction & possible forfeiture
  - Warm-Up
    - The court must be available a minimum of 30 minutes to the official start time for both teams
    - All programs will have 10 minutes in between games to warm up (clock starts after courts are cleared)
  - Bench Expectations
    - During live play, only the 1 coach may stand on the sideline. During dead play, any coach can stand.
    - Players can stand on the sideline during play if there is not enough seating on the bench (must be behind the bench) If there is enough seating, players must always be seated.
- Officials
  - Officials will be assigned/provided by HCAL for all district & playoff games only
  - Two HCAL certified officials will be used for both HS & MS
  - HCAL is responsible for official payments for district & any playoff games
  - Each school is responsible for referee payments for any additional non-district games
- Official Ball
  - Any NFHS certified ball will be used for district play & playoffs
  - Home Team is responsible for providing the official game ball
  - Both teams are responsible for bringing their own warm-up balls
- Official Scorekeeper & Clock Operator
  - Must be trained student managers or adults – provided by the home team for all district games
  - Game Personnel should always be professional – refrain from cheering during game play
  - Game Personnel are part of the officiating crew & should act accordingly
  - Only the Official Scorekeeper & Clock Operator are allowed at the scores table – unless mutually agreed upon by both teams
  - If a suitable scorekeeper/clock operator is not provided – this could lead to a potential forfeit
  - If both teams agreed to start regardless of the official personnel at the table – then the game will not be allowed to be protested
  - HCAL will provide the official scorekeeper & clock managers for all playoff & championship games



- Game Scores and Protests
  - The home team is responsible for entering the official scores into the HCAL website by noon of the next business day
    - Failure to do so will incur in an infraction
  - Protests and/or disagreements should be brought to the attention of both the liaison and Executive Director within 24 hours of the end of the game.
  - Discrepancies with scores will also be verified through the game officials' reports
  - Only Eligibility or Compliance will be considered for protests – Officials' calls/rulings are not allowed to be protested.
  - **Game Scores** – It is the responsibility of the visiting team to review within that 24-hour period and inform the Director of any discrepancies.
- Sportsmanship Rule
  - HCAL is not here to embarrass our participants during game play – therefore, we have implemented a sportsmanship rule
  - Any Team winning by 25 points or more at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the contest should execute the following rules:
    - No Full Court Pressing or an aggressive half court man/press defense
    - A running clock will be implemented (stopped for timeouts)
    - Once lead drops back to 15 points or under – the clock will function as normal
  - Violations of the sportsmanship rule will follow the infractions listed below & a game report will be sent to the Director:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Official will issues a verbal warning
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Official will administer a delay of game to the team
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Official will issue a Technical Foul to the Head Coach
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Offense – Official will issue the Coach a 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Foul/Removed from the Game
- Players Eligibility
  - Players must be listed (First & Last Name) on the official rosters submitted via Team Sideline
    - All basketball personnel must be on the roster as well. (coaches, managers, etc.)
    - Anyone not listed is ineligible from participation or sitting on the bench.
  - HCAL Requires Two Key Dates for Roster Submission:
    - At the start of the season (12/06/2024)
    - Finalized prior to the start of the playoffs (2/07/2024)
    - Roster changes will not be allowed after the playoff cutoff date
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders are allowed to play Varsity; however, they must have a [MS Request Form for HS Eligibility](#) on file
    - Once the 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Plays on the HS Team – they must remain on the HS Team for the remainder of the season
    - Official document must be submitted to the Director.
    - 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Graders must participate in the middle school level divisions
  - K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will not be allowed to participate in the HCAL MS nor HS divisions.



- HCAL will conduct an Informal Roster Check During the Week of Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - This roster check will help Coaches/AD's/Athletic Coordinators prepare for the upcoming Playoff Games (infractions will be given and players will not be allowed to play)
  - HCAL Commissioners will provide further guidance the week prior with clear directions
- JV Players may be moved up to the Varsity Team, but players must be entered into the Team Sideline Official Rosters prior to any game they participate in at that level
  - Failure to properly manage the Team Sideline Rosters will result in a forfeiture
- Per TEA Guidelines – athletes are only allowed to play 1 game per day, with a total of 2 games per week (except for tournaments)
  - Players will not be allowed to play in both a JV and Varsity Game on the same day
  - Failure to adhere to this expectation will result in forfeitures of the varsity games
  - Any protest regarding failures to adhere to the Player Eligibility Expectations must be submitted to the Director within 24 hours

#### Game Day Operations:

- Admission Prices/Concessions
  - Host School will receive the admissions/concessions revenue for home games during district play
  - HCAL will receive the revenue from championship games
  - Concessions may be operated by the host school only
  - **Spectators are not allowed to use noisemakers during game play and only positive language should be used by all stakeholders to cheer on their team (Spectators should be in the stands and not on the sidelines)**
  - **Cheer teams/mascots should always be positioned under or on the side of the basket their team is shooting on.**
- Expenses
  - The home team is responsible for the payment of athletic trainer/facility costs/security for home games during district play – highly recommended for all league games if possible
  - HCAL will provide these vendors for all Regional Championship Games Only
  - Facilities – for teams without a home facility – games will need to be approved to be played away
    - If the opponent also does not have a home facility – it will be the responsibility of the scheduled home team to secure a facility
    - HCAL will provide the venues for all Championship Events
- Facilities
  - Any Teams without a home facility – will need to request to play their home games at the opposing teams location
    - Approval must be given by the opposing team and documentation must be sent to the Director
    - If said team is listed as the Home Team, they are required to provide an Administrator on Duty at the site being utilized, even if it is not their home facility at their campus
    - Both should solidify game management personnel and responsibilities

#### Playoff Format:

#### **Houston (MS/HS) & Austin (MS Divisions):**

- The First Round of the playoffs (Houston) & (Austin MS)
  - Will be hosted by the winner of each district
  - Host School is responsible for providing Athletic Trainers/Security



- HCAL will provide the officials & official book/clock personnel
- First Round Revenue is received by the host school (entry/concessions)
- The Second Round/Regional Championships (Houston) & (Austin MS)
  - Will be played at a Neutral Site

#### **Austin– Varsity Divisions:**

- Top 3 - Teams from each district according to the district record
- District Champs – receive 1<sup>st</sup> Round Bye of the playoffs
- Cross-District Format – Ex: (D1 vs. D2)
- Single Elimination
- The winner of the Regional Championship will represent Austin & play in the State Championship
- The First Round of the playoffs
  - District Champs receive a 1<sup>st</sup> round bye
  - The 2 vs 3 matchup will be played at a neutral site – cross districts format
  - HCAL will provide the officials & official book/clock personnel
- The Second Round
  - Will be hosted by each of the District Champs
  - Host School is responsible for providing Athletic Trainers/Security
  - HCAL will provide the officials & official book/clock personnel
  - Revenue is received by the host school (entry/concessions)
- Regional Championship Game – 3<sup>rd</sup> Round
  - Will be played at a neutral site
- Winner of the Regional Championship will move on to the HCAL State Championship Game

#### **Houston – Varsity Divisions:**

- Top 2- Teams from each district according to the district record
- Cross-District Format – Ex: (D1 vs. D3) (D2 vs. D4)
- Single Elimination
- Winner of the Regional Championship will represent Houston & play in the State Championship

#### **HS JV Division (Houston & Austin):**

- **No Playoffs**

#### **MS Divisions (Houston & Austin):**

- Top 2- Teams from each district according to the district record
- Cross-District Format – Ex: (D1 vs. D3) (D2 vs. D4)
- Single Elimination
- MS Divisions will only offer a Regional Championship Game



**Tiebreaker Policy – Playoff Qualifiers:**

- Head – to – Head Results
- Lowest # of Forfeitures
- Head – to – Head Differentials (Max Point Differential per game +/- 25 pts)
- Total Point Differential (Max Point Differential per game +/- 25 pts)
- Total Points Against
- Head – to – Group Differential (used for more than 2 Teams with a Tie)
- Head – to – Group Points Against (used for more than 2 Teams with a Tie)
- Coin Flip – Live Recording

**HCAL Honors & Awards:**

- *Team Honors*
  - District Champions (HS Varsity & JV, & MS Divisions)
  - Regional Champions (HS Varsity & MS Divisions)
  - State Champions (HS Varsity Divisions Only)
- Individual Awards Listed Below – Varsity Division Only
  - *Individual Player (All-District)*
    - District Champs – Receive 3 nominations
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Receive 2 nominations
    - All other Teams – Receive 1 nomination
  - *Individual Player (All-Region)*
    - Regional Champs – Receives 3 nominations
    - Runner – Up Team – Receives 2 nominations
    - All other Playoff Teams – Receive 1 nomination
  - *Individual Player (All-State)*
    - State Champs – Receives 3 nominations
    - Runner – Up Team – Receives 2 nominations
  - *All-Academic Team*
    - Any athlete with a 3.75 GPA or higher during the season
  - *Coach of the Year Award*
    - Awarded to the Head Coach of the State Championship Team

**Professional Dress – Coaches/Administrators:**

- Business casual – school polos and nice khakis pants
- Jeans, T-shirts, cargo pants/shorts, tights, sweatpants, joggers, or shorts of any kind are **NOT Acceptable**
- Thank you all for always representing our schools/charter school network well!

