Harrison Youth Basketball Association

2026-27 HYBA Rules

The following HYBA rules (the "Rules) shall apply to all age group leagues, unless otherwise noted under a separate and distinct heading. Rules cannot be changed, altered and/or amended unilaterally by any coach, fan, referee or league coordinator. Interpretation of the Rules during game play shall be left to the discretion of the officiating crew responsible for refereeing the game. Any and all Rules disputes, challenges and recommendations should be directed to the HYBA Rules Committee (the "HRC"). The HRC will be responsible for reviewing disputes, challenges and/or recommendations that relate to the Rules. The findings and/or decisions made by the HRC will remain confidential and will only be communicated to the parties involved unless a rule change is enacted, at which time the HRC will make a formal Rules Statement to the HYBA Management Team, coaches and referee organization.

I. PURPOSE: The purpose of the HYBA is to provide all of its participants with an athletic activity with emphasis on personal enjoyment, sportsmanship and a positive learning experience in the "Hoya Tradition." The purpose of these Rules is to provide a structure to the athletic activity that promotes fair play and an enjoyable experience for all participants.

II. MANAGEMENT TEAM: The HYBA Management Team (the "Board") shall consist of a President and League Coordinators for each designated league. The Board shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the HYBA as set forth in these Rules and in the HYBA Bylaws.

III. LEAGUE COMMITTEE: The Board shall assist in the creation and oversight of a Conduct and Compliance Committee.

A. Conduct and Compliance Committee (the "HCC"): The HCC shall be an action committee only, meaning that the HCC shall convene only in the event of an alleged incident involving a player, parent, coach, fan or referee has taken place. (1) Makeup – The HCC shall consist of all League coordinators including the league coordinator in which the alleged incident occurred. (2) Purpose: The HCC will investigate all incidents made to the Board with regard to player, coach, fan, parent and/or referee conduct during any and all HYBA sanctioned events including, but not limited to, practices, games and team meetings. Any and all incidents must be reported to the League Coordinator in writing. Upon receipt, the League Coordinator will convene the HCC and will exclude any member allegedly involved in the incident. The HCC will review and investigate the incident and render a decision based upon a majority vote. Decisions will be communicated only to those involved.

IV. LEAGUES: The HYBA shall be comprised of the following leagues
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Boys	Girls
Grades 1–2	Grades 1-2
Grades 3-4	Grades 3-5
Grades 5-6	Grades 6-8
Grades 7-8	
Grades 9-10	
Grades 11-12	

A. Participation: No players listed on any High School Varsity, JV, Freshman or Jr. League roster public or private will be allowed to participate in the HYBA. Exceptions to this rule must be appealed to the President and relevant League Coordinator.

B. Movement: Generally, players will be placed within the league that matches the player's grade level. A parent may request a player to "play up" into the next oldest grade level league. Such request must be reviewed and approved by the player's coach, the league coordinators from the league in which the player is assigned and the league in which the player is proposed to move, and the HYBA President. Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to "play down" to a younger grade level league.

V. HYBA-ADAPTED PLAYING RULES:

A. GENERAL

1. All games shall be played in accordance with the Georgia High School Athletic Association (GHSA) rules unless stated otherwise herein.

2. Referees shall judge the degree of strictness of rules interpretation as requested by the HRC.

3. Any challenges associated with the result of a game, whatever the reason, must be forwarded in writing via email to the HYBA President within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game in question. The HYBA President will refer the matter to a special meeting of the HRC so a review of the data behind the challenge can be made. A decision as to whether the results of the game will stand or be reversed will be made and communicated within five (5) days of receipt of the dispute.

4. Each game will begin at the time scheduled unless the previous game overlaps. If this occurs, the game will begin five (5) minutes after completion of previous game.

5. A Ten (10) minute grace period **from the scheduled start time** will be granted to allow for the arrival of each team's players, however, if a team has the required number of players available, the game will start at the scheduled time or as soon as the required numbers of players arrive. After a 10 minute grace period, the team failing to place five (5)

players on the court shall forfeit the game. The OFFICIAL time will be provided by the referee. All teams MUST have 5 players to start the game (4 players for the 1-2 Grade League) and all 5 must be registered as HYBA players assigned to that specific roster. (A team can play with less than the required number of players after the start of the game). The Grace period is based on the scheduled start time of the game.

6. Each head coach shall provide one ADULT to keep score or operate the clock. The scorebook is the official record of participant playing time, score and fouls. It is important that the scorekeeper maintain accurate information on player participation. The scorebook will be signed by both head coaches and the referee at the end of the game to verify results. Each team will provide to the score book keeper a written roster inclusive of the names of all of the team members, whether present or not, and each team member's jersey number. This information will be recorded into the official scorer's book by the score book keeper. Scratches must be disclosed to the score bookkeeper prior to the start of each game. Also, referee names should be entered into the scorebook for record keeping purposes. No children under the age of 18 shall occupy the role of score bookkeeper or clock operator.

7. Teams designated as the "home" team will wear the white side of the HYBA jersey while teams designated as the "visitor" team will wear the blue side of the HYBA jersey. Teams designated as home team will provide the score bookkeeper and visitor team will provide the clock operator.

8. HYBA will not use a shot clock and uses rules in place prior to the institution of the shot clock by the GHSA.

9. No HYBA game can start unless there is an adult (18+) on the bench for each team that has passed the HYBA background check. If a team cannot provide this, the game is forfeited.

B. GAME LENGTH AND TIMING

1. All games will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute periods.

2. Each team is allowed a total of four (4) time-outs per game consisting of two (2) full and two (2) 30 second.

3. One (1) minute breaks between periods and a three (3) minute half time break will be provided.

4. A running clock will be used but will be stopped for all free throws. In addition, the clock will be stopped any time the whistle is blown in the last two (2) minutes of the second and fourth periods. In the event a team leads by 20 points or more entering the final four (4) minutes of the fourth period, the clock will continue to run except for all free throws.

C. PLAYER PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Each player is required to play a minimum of two uninterrupted periods in each game, except as otherwise specified herein. The two periods do not have to be consecutive. THE EQUIVALENT OF TWO PERIODS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. If a player becomes ill, injured, or cannot continue to play for any reason, then the participation requirement is waived for that player.
2. If seven (7) or more players are present at a game for both teams, (six (6) players for 1st-2nd grade) every player must sit out one (1) complete, uninterrupted period.
    i. If a team STARTS the game with 6 or fewer players (5 or fewer for 1st-2nd grade), the player participation rule that requires every player to sit one uninterrupted quarter is no longer in effect for EITHER team. The two-quarter minimum rule is still in effect for both teams. This only applies when teams START the game with 6 or fewer players (5 or fewer for 1st-2nd grade).

3. Required player participation is reduced to one period should a player arrive for the game after the beginning of the second period. A coach of the player must notify the referee, the scorekeeper and the opposing team's coach the player will play only one period. There is no minimum playing time if the player arrives after the end of the first half.

4. In the event play is stopped due to suspicion of a player injury, the player must be removed from play unless the player's head coach and referee determine that the player in question is able to continue to play.

5. The Scorekeeper and Coaches will check the official score book at the beginning of the fourth period for compliance with the playing time requirements outlined herein. Players who have not played the minimum number of uninterrupted periods will be inserted at this time. The penalty for violating the minimum player participation rule will be a team technical foul. Repeat violation of this rule will be brought to the attention of the HRC and could result in game forfeiture.

6. It is the head coach's responsibility to ensure that each player checks into the scorer's table prior to entering the game. This is required both at the beginning of each period, as well as, for substitutions during the period, if necessary. Substitutions are only allowed for injured players, for a player that has fouled out, or when the players being substituted in and out have both met playing requirements (and sat out if required) in PREVIOUS quarters.

7. Goal height is regulation ten (10) feet.

D. Defense

1. "Man to Man" defense only is allowed for grades co-ed 1-2, Girls 3-5, Boys 3-4 , once the ball has crossed the half-court line. No zone

defense is allowed unless a team is forced to play with less than five players due to foul-outs, ejections, absences, injuries or sicknesses. No double teams. **Age group modifications to this rule are noted in Section VI.**

2. For grades 1-8, the ONLY time "trapping" and "helping out" is allowed in the front court is when the offensive player is driving to the lane. For ages that allow full court press, trapping is allowed in the back court. It should be noted that trapping and helping out will be limited to the offensive player handling the ball. At no time shall any offensive player not handling the ball be trapped or double-teamed, no double picks. The first violation will result in a warning. All subsequent violations will result in a Technical foul. **Age group modifications to this rule are noted in Section VI.**

3. Full court pressing is allowed either via zone press or man-to-man press. Boys 3-4 and Girls 3-5 must revert back to man to man once ball crosses half court

4. In the 2nd and 4th quarter, if one team is leading by 20 points or more, that team will be required to suspend the full court press and play man to man AFTER the ball crosses the half court line. In this case, if the 4th Quarter score is cut to 10 points or less, the leading team can re-implement their full court press. **Age group modifications to this rule are noted in Section VI.**

5. Any offensive ball handler advancing the ball via a fast break may be covered by the nearest defender. Defenders must revert back to man-to-man if the fast break is terminated.

6. While defending the man with the ball, it is legal to plant in front of the offensive player and turn the upper body away from the player to protect themselves at the point of contact. It will be considered an offensive foul. If the set defensive player leans into the offensive player in order to create contact, the foul will be called on the defensive player.

F. Offense

When advancing the ball toward the basket, (exception is fast break) there must be at least one offensive player on the same courtside as the advancing offensive ball handler. This rule is intended to prevent "one on one" play where all other offensive players line up on one side of the court. First and second violations will result in a warning. Subsequent violations will result in a technical foul.

G. Overtime

1. In the event of a tie score at the end of four (4) periods of play, a three (3) minute overtime period will be played. Each team will receive one (1) full timeout per overtime period. A running clock will be used, but will stop for free throws and all whistles blown within the **final minute**

of the overtime period. For regular season games, only one overtime period will be played and if the score is still tied, the game will be recorded as a tie.

2. For playoff games, additional three-minute overtime periods will be played until the game has been decided.
3. There is no minimum playing time or substitution rule in effect during any overtime period. However, it is strongly encouraged that all players participate evenly during the overtime.

VI. LEAGUE / AGE GROUP RULES MODIFICATIONS

A. 1st -2nd Grade Boys and Girls

1. 28.5" basketballs will be used for all practices and games.

2. Goal height will be set at 8 feet.

3. A four on four format will be utilized.

4. Games will consist of four (4) 8-minute periods. A running clock will be used except for the last two minutes of the second and fourth periods. The clock may be stopped, upon request by a referee, during an "instruction" time out called by the officiating crew.

5. There is an Eight (8) Second rule in effect (in lieu of the normal 5 second rule used in all other divisions). This rule applies to any player who holds onto the ball without passing or dribbling for 8 seconds. After 8 seconds, a violation will be called and possession will go to the other team.

6. Free throws will be awarded on shooting fouls and when teams reach the bonus and double bonus levels. Free throws will be setup six feet inside the regulation free throw line.

7. Referees may consist of one professional referee

8. Defenders are not allowed to play defense until the ball crosses the three-point arc. If the offense is determined to be "stalling," at the sole discretion of the referee(s), possession will be awarded to the defense.

9. On loose ball calls, referee discretion will be used to determine clear advantage, rough play, intentional fouls, or flagrant fouls.

10. Unless a team has only five (5) players available, all players must sit out at least one uninterrupted period.

11. Players receiving their fifth (5th) foul will foul out. This rule is generally enforced during the second-half of the regular season and into the tournament.

12. No three point shots allowed. All baskets will be worth two points.

13. **No pressing is allowed at any time in the game or overtime.**

14. No lane violations will be called.

15. Prior to the start of each period, the starting four from each team will line-up across from one another at mid-court. Players will be lined-up according to skill level with the most skilled player from each team being closest to the scorer's table. This system will ensure appropriate coverage responsibilities during game play. Both coaches are expected to adhere to this rule to avoid potential mismatches in skill level.

16. At no time may two offensive players both set a pick on the same defensive player. No double picks.

A. 3rd-5th Grade Girls League

1. 28.5" basketballs will be used for all practices and games.

2. No full court press or backcourt defense is allowed except during the final **TWO MINUTES** of the second and fourth periods and all overtime periods. Defenders must revert to covering their assigned players once the ball crosses the half court line.

3. Lane violations will be whistled when an offensive player remains in the lane for **five** or more seconds.

4. Free throws will be setup two feet inside the regulation free throw line.

5. Players can guard any offensive player however they may not guard multiple players. For example: if the person they are guarding passes the ball they cannot start guarding the player that just received the pass, unless it is on a fast break

6. Players may switch the person they are defending when screens are set or when there is an unguarded player. For example on a rebound if the offensive player rebounds the ball the nearest defender doesn't have to run away from the offensive player to find their man.

7. Defenders must have at least one foot out of the paint when defending and must be on the side nearest their defender. For example if the ball is on the right side of the court and the person they are guarding is on the left side, the defender must have one foot out of the lane on the left side of the court.

8. Defenders may help out as long as long as the offensive player is driving to or is in the lane

B. 3rd-4th Grade Boys League

1. 28.5" basketballs will be used for all practices and games.

2. No full court press or backcourt defense is allowed except during the final **FOUR MINUTES** of the second and fourth periods and all overtime

periods. Defenders must revert to covering their assigned players once the ball crosses the half court line.

3. Lane violations will be whistled when an offensive player remains in the lane for **five** or more seconds.

4. Free throws will be setup two feet inside the regulation free throw line.

5. Man-to-man defensive assignments are left entirely up to the coaching staffs of each team. At the beginning of each quarter, it is up to the coaches on how they want to determine defensive assignments, and the coaches can communicate changes to these assignments mid-quarter if desired. It is not required for players on opposing teams to guard each other; assignments do not have to be reciprocal. However, defensive assignments should not switch in the middle of a play, except for switching on picks. Switching on picks is allowed. Double-teams after switching (except when "helping out" in the paint) will still be subject to warnings and technical fouls per the general rules.

C. 5-6th, 7-8th Grade Boys, and 6-8th Grade Girls

1. 5th and 6th grade league and all girls leagues will use 28.5" basketballs for all practices and games.

2. 7th and 8th grade league will use men's regulation basketballs for all practices and games.

3. No full court press or backcourt defense is allowed except during the final **Four minutes** of the second and fourth periods and all overtime periods. Man to Man and Zone defenses will be allowed.

4. Lane violations will be whistled when an offensive player remains in the lane for **three** seconds.

D. 9-10th and 11-12th Grade Boys League

1. Regulation basketballs will be used for all practices and games.
2. 9th – 12th grade boys will play under GHSA rules.
3. HYBA Player Participation rule is still in effect.
4. Full court and half court press and trapping will be allowed the entire game.

VII. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

A. HYBA will provide game jerseys that must be worn during all league contests. Alterations of jerseys are not allowed (e.g. cutting off sleeves, cutting length of shirt or shorts, etc). Players will not be permitted to play in a jersey that has been modified in any way.

B. No jewelry (watches, rings, bracelets, chains, etc.) may be worn during league practices or games. Hair clips or bands will be allowed, if made of

rubber or fabric.

C. Only those players and coaches with tennis or basketball shoes will be permitted on the playing court.

VIII. GENERAL GAME CONDUCT CONSIDERATIONS (these considerations are in addition to and not in lieu of the HYBA Code of Conduct Guidelines published separately by the HYBA).

A. Only the Head Coach of each team may address the Referees on any rule interpretation. Referees are under no obligation to address Rules-related issues except during a time out, period break or half time break.

B. No persons other than scheduled teams, coaches, referees, school or league officials are allowed on gym floors during practice or games. Coaches and referees have the responsibility to enforce this rule. Only members of the team, the head coach and up to two assistant coaches will be allowed on the bench during games.

C. Rowdy behavior, profane language, use of alcoholic beverages, intoxication or display of un-sportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated by the HYBA from coaches, players, parents, referees or fans. Violation of this rule will be subject to review by the HCC and could result in action being taken by the league, including without limitation, expulsion from the HYBA basketball program. Referees will ask coaches for help in dealing with parents.

D. All flagrant technical fouls, as determined at the sole discretion of the game referee(s), on players and/or coaches will be reported by the referees to the HCC within 48 hours following the conclusion of the game in which the fouls occurred. The HCC will determine what action should be taken.

E. Any coach or player receiving two (2) technical fouls, during one game will be ejected from the game and suspended for one game. A second violation will result in dismissal from the league.

IX. POST-SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

A. Upon completion of the HYBA regular season, an HYBA Championship Tournament will be conducted in each league.

B. The format of the tournament will be single-elimination. The bracket format and structure is up to the director and each league's coordinator

C. All teams in all leagues will qualify for participation in the tournament. Tournament brackets for each league will be prepared by the league Director verified by each leagues Coordinator and posted to the league's website.

D. Teams will be seeded based upon the league standings published following the conclusion of the final regular-season game. Under no circumstances will teams be seeded based simply on the "team number." The team seeding process will be based on the following tie breaking criteria performed in the following order:

1) Overall Record
2) Head to Head Result
    *Head to Head for more than 2 teams is only considered if one team has beaten all other tied teams or lost to all other tied teams. Only in those cases will a team be moved to the “top” or “bottom” of the head to head group and tie breakers will begin again after breaking ties in that manner.
3) Results against common opponents
4) Strength of Schedule (winning percentage of the entire schedule for a team)
5) League Director or Co-Director will perform a drawing

The overall record is the first determination of how high or low a team will be seeded. If 2 (or more) teams at the end the season has the same overall record, the second tie breaking criteria (Head to Head Result) will be used. If a tie still exists, you proceed to #3 and so on. Scoring margin should not be considered when breaking ties.

E. Teams advancing to the Championship game in each league will play in Harrison High School’s Presidential Gym.

F. Each player participating in each league’s Championship game will receive a Trophy or T-Shirt.

G. An awards ceremony will be held following the conclusion Championship Game.