

2026 Iowa Youth Basketball State Championship

General Information

The Pacesetter Iowa State Tournament will be held at Mason City High School – SUNDAY, February 22.

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://pacesettersports.redpodium.com/ia-youth-basketball-state-tournament-registration-2026>

Invitations to Post-season Play

The champions and other top teams at the Iowa State "Target Center" Playoffs in Mason City, Sunday, Feb. 22, will be invited to play in the Pacesetter Great Five-State championship at the Target Center in Minneapolis. The five states involved include MN-IA-WI-ND-SD. "Great State" games are played in conjunction with Minnesota Lynx home games in the summer. Dates and location will be posted on www.pacesettersports.net as soon as they are finalized.

MINNESOTA: Qualification through the Pacesetter State Championships, starting with a 5-region playoff.

NORTH DAKOTA: Qualification through the Jr. Grand Am in Grand Forks.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Qualification through the Willie Mac state tournament in Brookings.

WISCONSIN: Qualification through the Badgerland state tournament at several sites.

IOWA: Qualification through the Pacesetter Playoffs in Mason City.

State and Great-State Tournament Formats

MN and IA state playoffs and the Great Five-State Championship are "single elimination" from the championship, but teams will play 3-4 full games. Most Pacesetter tournaments are 1-day tournaments. The Great State Championships may be 1-2 days.

Process When a Team Registers

Check-in: Individual Player Waivers and Team Roster

Individual players MUST have an individual player waiver form submitted online by a parent/guardian.

The online link is: <https://pacesettersports.redpodium.com/ia-youth-basketball-state-tournament-registration-2026>

Teams may not play until all player waiver forms and a roster are filled out online. Teams that advance to "post-season" play are not required to fill out additional waivers or rosters but are required to turn in a paper copy of their roster at each tournament.

Special Roster Requirement

Online roster must be filled out prior to the tournament. The online roster link is:

<https://pacesettersports.redpodium.com/roster-ia-youth-basketball-tournaments-2026>

Teams that have players from a city that has more than one school district OR teams that have players from more than one school MUST submit their team roster two weeks prior to the tournament. Players on these teams must indicate their school, so enrollment can be verified in advance. This policy will help prevent eligibility questions at the tournament.

REMINDER: Please print off the online roster, bring it to each tournament and turn it in at team check-in. (We suggest making copies of the online roster, so you have them ready for every Pacesetter tournament you enter.)

Eligibility

All players on a Pacesetter team must either be enrolled in the same school, live, or attend school in the same city, the same school system, or the same tribal community. Two or three schools may combine, however, to form one team if the combined enrollment of the schools for grades 9-12 is 400 or fewer. If combining schools are not adjacent to the other school or schools, Pacesetter must approve the combination.

All tribal communities with a high school in their tribal community must abide by the school enrollment guidelines. Only tribes without a high school in the tribal community may play as one tribal community. Multiple tribal communities without a high school may not combine to play as one team. SOME EXCEPTIONS: 1) private schools whose "feeder" schools are located in another school district, 2) schools or programs consolidating for the following year and 3) transfer students who have officially enrolled. In these circumstances, players are allowed to play together with their future teammates if the connection is official. The philosophy behind this decision is that the whole system is designed to help

“hometown teams”, or area community-based teams, improve with their future teammates, and these players are part of that future. A player who is “thinking” about transferring to another school would not be allowed to play for that school. Younger players may play at a higher grade level, but older players may not play at a younger grade level.

Team Manager – scorekeeper

Each team needs to provide a "team manager" 14 years old or older to run the scoring table - either to keep the clock or to keep the scoresheet. The two team managers can decide who takes each duty. Team managers will receive a wristband for free admission for the day, which will be provided when the team managers check in at the Coaches' Sign-in table.

Admission and Concessions

An ALL-DAY pass for children K-12 is \$5.00 and for adults \$10.00. Children pre-K and younger are free. Tournaments may or may not offer a concession stand with food, snacks, and beverages. Please encourage your team to clean up their mess. When schools are providing the concession stand as a fund raiser, no other food or beverages may be brought into the building. Sports drinks and water bottles are allowed. Fans should not bring in their own chairs without prior approval. Updates with further information for each tournament will be provided the week of the event.

Tournament Brackets

Once all tournament brackets are created, team coordinators will be sent pdf copies of the bracket, and the brackets will be posted on the website.

Starting and Ending Times

Teams should always double check the main wall schedule for starting times. Teams are asked to be at their court 10 minutes prior to game time. Teams should also check the main schedule area frequently for any special announcements or adjustments. Always be certain you have completed your last possible game before leaving the tournament permanently.

Game uniforms

Numbered jerseys are required and should have numbers on the front and back to help officials since individual fouls are kept. Teams should bring two colors of numbered jerseys. Numbered reversible jerseys are ideal. As a basic guide, the top team in the bracket for each game will be light and the bottom team dark. In pool play (1 vs. 2, for example) the first team listed will be light and the second team listed will be dark.

Dressing prior to the game

Locker rooms are usually not available, so it is best for players to come dressed for the game with warm up gear.

Practice basketballs

Teams should bring their own practice balls, which are the responsibility of each team.

Valuables and equipment

Teams are responsible for their own valuables – always be careful. Carrying bags to the bench area and stowing them under the chairs may be the best idea.

Tape and first aid basics

Teams should bring some tape and basic first aid supplies: tape, band-aids, bench towels, large baggies for ice, etc. Ice should be available at the tournament.

Time between games

An effort will be made to space the time between games, but it is often impossible not to have back-to-back games or a longer break due to byes, # of teams, etc. Please be positive and use your break constructively.

Post-game contact and Team Photos

After their final game, teams should remain at the tournament until a Pacesetter staff member makes contact. Coaches should organize their team for a team photo at this time. **Parents are encouraged to join the group and take photos.** Pacesetter will take a photo of each championship and runner-up team.

Positive attitudes

Please be positive in your actions and words and encourage parents and players to be positive at all times. Attitudes are very contagious and helping a positive one to “catch on” with your group will teach a valuable lesson for life and make it a great day for everyone.

Sportsmanship

Please remind players and fans of the importance of their conduct. There will certainly be calls by the referees that seem unfair to your team---THAT'S A PART OF BASKETBALL--- but everyone is asked to accept that fact with maturity, setting a good example for the kids. If you feel it is necessary, speak politely to the officials during a break.

Have a Great Tournament!