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**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth SWISH Basketball Tournament**  
**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Brought to you by the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce**

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Basketball Rules for the tournament are found in the NFHS 2025 – 2026 basketball rule book available at the MHSA office located at 1 So Dakota St in Helena for a nominal fee, with the exception of the following:

1. Games will consist of two 20-minute halves with a running clock. The clock will be stopped only for:  
A. Time Outs B. When a player is injured C. Referees' Judgement D. Technical Fouls  
E. All Dead Balls and Free Throws during the last 1 minute of the half and game.  
F. Mercy Rule – The clock will not stop during the last 1 minute when a team has a 20-point lead or more.
2. Jump Ball – A jump ball will be used to start the game and any overtime periods.
3. Overtime periods will be two minutes, with the clock stopping on all dead balls. **The 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent overtime periods will be Sudden Death with the team scoring the first point being declared the winner.**  
Teams will be allowed one time-out per overtime period.
4. Teams are allowed 3 one-minute time-outs per game and one per overtime.
5. Half time will last 3-5 minutes - depending on time availability. There will be a 5 - minute break between games for warm-ups. Teams will supply their own basketballs for warm-up.
6. The 3-point shot will be used for all divisions where the gym floor is properly marked.
7. All Boys & Mixed-Gender Teams will automatically be bracketed & compete in the Boys/Co-Ed Division.
8. **Each Participant may only play on one team during the SWISH Tournament. Participants must be registered on the registration form and have parent's signatures prior to playing in the tournament.**
9. For all 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th grade divisions **NO FULL COURT PRESS WILL BE ALLOWED** except for the last 2 minutes of the game if the score is within 10 points. (Both Teams) A warning will be issued for the offending team and is noted in the score book. The second infraction is a technical, 2 shot foul, with the offensive team retaining possession. **NO ZONE DEFENSE WILL BE ALLOWED** for these divisions.
10. Zone defense and full court press is allowed for boys and girls 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. A team with a 20-point lead is not allowed to press, however the losing team is still allowed to press.
11. The following size balls will be used: 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 5th & 6th grade boys and girl's divisions - women's ball; 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girl's divisions - women's ball; 7th and 8th grade boy's divisions - men's ball.
12. Players are allowed five fouls. Teams will shoot the bonus on the fifth team foul in each half.  
At ten minutes in each half, the team fouls at the bench will be reset.  
NOTE: We cannot guarantee MOA officials at every game.
13. Substitutions are allowed on dead ball situations only and must be signaled in by the referee.
14. Court Supervisors and Officials will have the right to eject coaches, players, and spectators for poor sportsmanship.
15. **Each team is guaranteed four games. In most cases, there will be two games of pool play on Saturday and then teams will be cross bracketed for 2 games on Sunday. Teams will be seeded in the following manner: 1) Win – Loss Record 2) Head-to-Head Play 3) Point Differential (15 points max) & if there is still a tie 4) A Coin Toss. (Once the ONE SEED is determined, the tie breaker rules will start over)**

## **2026 SWISH Disciplinary Policy**

Warnings can be issued by any SWISH Official, including referees, volunteers or Court Supervisors.

Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined by and at the discretion of the referee or Court Supervisor.

Spectators can and will be issued unsportsmanlike conduct warnings. Spectator behavior can and will influence the outcomes of games based on the following policies.

Coaches, players and spectators will be held to the behavior standard of the SWISH Basketball tournament.

### **1) 1st Warning – Bench Warning**

- a. Coaches and bench will be warned for unsportsmanlike conduct by either Court Supervisor or Referee.
- b. If spectators are involved, the coach should make every effort to control unsportsmanlike conduct from members of their team or spectators associated with their program.

### **2) 2nd Warning – Unsportsmanlike Technical Foul Awarded to Offending Team, Removal from Venue**

- a. Coaches and bench receiving a 2nd warning for unsportsmanlike conduct. If spectators are involved, those spectators will be removed from the gym.
- b. The opposing team is awarded two points and the ball for continued play.

### **3) 3rd Warning - Team Disqualification and removal from competition venue**

- a. Team and team spectators will be asked to leave the venue.
- b. The offending team will be disqualified from the remainder of the tournament with no refund.