2026 Gold Crown Winter Tournaments - Game Rules

Rules: Gold Crown Winter Tournaments will use National Federation of High School Association's (NFHS) basketball rules, except for:

Game Time: Each game consists of four 10-minute running quarters with the clock stopping on all dead balls in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter. The exception to this would be if the score differential is 15 points or more during the last two minutes of the fourth quarter (the clock will continue running unless a time-out or injury occurs).

Roster: A team must have a minimum of five players to start a game. A team may finish the game with less than five players. If needed, there will be a 5-minute 'grace period' for teams to have five players on the court ready for play. Note: At Gold Crown's discretion and if both coaches agree, a team will be allowed to start a game with four players.

Fouls/Bonus: Teams will reach the bonus when their opponent commits five fouls in each quarter. Teams will shoot two free throws for common fouls when in the bonus. Team fouls will reset at the end of each quarter.

Time-Outs: Each team will have three full time-outs. However, only two of the three time-outs carry over into the second half. All time-outs are full time-outs; there will be no 30-second time outs.

Warm-up: There will be a maximum of four minutes to warm-up before games begin, except for the first game if time allows. Halftime will consist of three minutes. Games will not start earlier than the scheduled start time unless both coaches agree to start early.

Overtime: When a game ends with a tie score, teams will play one two-minute overtime period with the clock stopping on all dead balls. Each team will have one full time-out in the overtime period. If the score is tied after one overtime period, the game will go to sudden death with the following guidelines: after a jump ball at center court, the first team to score any combination of **two** points will be the winner. There will be no time-outs in the sudden death overtime period.

Scorekeeping: Each team must provide one person to keep the clock or scorebook for their game. A minimum of two people are required for each game. The clock operator and scorekeeper must be age 16 or older.

Uniforms: If two teams have similar colored uniforms, the officials will determine which team will switch to a different color or who will wear pullover jerseys to differentiate teams. There is no designation of home and away teams/colors.

Specific Division Rules

Boys 5th - 8th Grade Divisions; Girls 6th - 8th Grade Divisions

Game Ball: All girls divisions and boys 5th grade; size 6 ball (28.5"). Boys 6th-8th grade; size 7 ball (29.5")

Pressing Defense: Pressing allowed throughout the competition; however, the leading team may not press in the backcourt when leading by 15 points or more. **Note:** There are no pressing restrictions in the Elite and Open Divisions only.

Boys 4th Grade; Girls 4th/5th Grade Divisions

Game Ball: Size 6 ball (28.5")

Set Defense/Double Teaming: There are no restrictions, all allowed throughout the competition at coaches discretion.

Pressing Defense: Teams are not allowed to press in the backcourt, except in the fourth quarter and overtime(s). However, if a team is leading by 15 or more points they are not allowed to press in the fourth quarter and overtime(s).

Free Throw Rule: No violation will be called if the player releases the shot behind the free throw line and crosses the line after the shot is released.

Unsportsmanlike Behavior/Zero Tolerance Policy

Gold Crown has a **ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY** regarding unsportsmanlike behavior during Gold Crown Winter Tournaments. Any spectator, coach, or player who is ejected from a game is automatically disqualified from attending any games for the remainder of the tournament. Once the person has been ejected from a game, he/she must leave the facility immediately. If the person does not leave the facility in a timely manner, the local authorities will be contacted. **Note:** If the person who was ejected attempts to attend any subsequent games during the tournament, the team that he/she is associated with will automatically forfeit their remaining game(s) and no refund will be given.