

Scottish Schools Cup 2026-2027

Rules and Regulations

Finals Qualification Criteria and Format

Teams will compete in their regions (North, East, Central and West) at all age groups (S1, U15 and Open). The format then continues as follows:

- A regional final will take place **before the christmas holidays**.
- A quarter final will then take place between the winner of the region vs the runner up of another region. This will be drawn at random. These fixtures will take place at the top seed's venue by **31th of January**.
- A Semi final will then be drawn at random and played by **28th of February**.
- The finalist will be invited to a one-day Scottish Schools Cup Final event at the beginning of March.

Eligibility

1. Only schools that have affiliated to Basketball Scotland will be eligible to compete.
2. All players must be on the competing schools roll, on a full-time basis as a pupil.
3. All players must be registered with Basketball Scotland prior to participation in competition.
 - a. Registration is currently free for schools' players.
 - b. School registration covers players to compete in the school's competition only. Any player competing for a club team must be registered with the club as detailed in the Basketball Scotland Rules and Regulations.

Basketball Scotland will be responsible for:

1. The organisation of a National School Cup Finals event for all competitions.
2. Basketball Scotland and the Officials Commission will appoint officials for The National Schools Cup Finals.
3. Presenting the Trophy specific to the various School Age Groups to the winners of each of the National Schools Cup Finals.
4. Presenting Medals to the winners and runners up of each National Schools Cup.

The Dress Code for All School Cup Matches:

1. Teams must wear matching uniform. Uniforms must consist of Vest and shorts.
2. Uniform numbers which are permitted are as follows: 0 or 00 and 1-99 inclusive.
3. Tracksuit Bottoms may only be worn with express permission from Basketball Scotland. Permission will only be granted when a request is made in writing on the grounds of either medical requirements or religious beliefs.
4. If permission is granted for a non-regulation piece of clothing to be worn it must be the same dominant colour as the playing kit.

S1 Competitions

All players must be on the school roll, on a full-time basis as a pupil with the competing school. Pupils can only play in the S1 Competition in their first year at High School. There is no date of birth guidance if the pupil is in First Year at High School; pupils that are held back at the end of 1st year are not eligible to compete.

All matches shall be played following the under 16 National League Rules, with the following exceptions:

1. All teams must have a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 12 -there should be a 5 points deduction per player under 10 players for the S1 competition.
2. Duration - 4 Quarters of 8 minutes each.
 - a. 1st Quarter - 5 players play the first 4 minutes of the game, the game will then be stopped and the 5 replacements will then play the remaining 4 minutes of the 1st Quarter.
 - b. 2nd Quarter - 5 players that started the first Quarter will play the first 4 minutes, the game will then be stopped, and the 5 replacements will then play the remaining 4 minutes of the 2nd Quarter.
 - c. 3rd & 4th Quarter - the remaining quarters will then be played with normal basketball rules.
2. Ball Size - Boy's size 6 and Girls size 6.
3. Free Throws - Normal free throw line.
4. All teams must play man-to-man defence. NO ZONE DEFENCE (either half or full court) is permitted.
5. If a team is more than 20 points in front, they will not be permitted to press.
6. If a team is more than 20 points in front, then the possession arrow will remain in favour of the losing team.
7. If a team is 30 points in front, then the recommendation is that any national league and national squad players are rotated to the bench, player numbers permitting.

U15 Competitions

All players must be on the school roll, on a full-time basis as a pupil with the competing school and be under 15 years of age prior to the 1st January of the current school term

All matches shall be played under 16 National League Rules with the following exceptions:

1. All teams must have a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 12 - of these players, 8 should be players who are playing in this competition and not competing in S1 games.
2. Duration - 4 quarters of 10 minutes each.
3. Ball Size - Boys Size 7 and Girls Size 6.
4. All teams must play man-to-man defence. NO ZONE DEFENCE (either half or full court) is permitted.
5. If a team is more than 20 points in front, they will not be permitted to press.
6. If a team is more than 20 points in front, then the possession arrow will remain in favour of the losing team.

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7. If a team is 30 points in front, then the recommendation is that any national league and national squad players are rotated to the bench, player numbers permitting.

Open Age Competitions

All players must be on the school roll, on a full-time basis as a pupil with the competing school.

All matches shall be played under 18 National League Rules.

1. All teams must have a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 12 – of these players, 8 should be players who are playing in this competition and not competing in S1 or U15 games.
2. Duration - 4 quarters of 10 minutes each.
3. Ball Size - Boys Size 7 and Girls Size 6.
4. If a team is 30 points in front, then the recommendation is that any national league and national squad players are rotated to the bench, player numbers permitting.

Code Of Conduct

Aligned to FIBA's mission "to create one basketball community and unite the community", we promote a culture of collaboration and improved player experience. To Basketball Scotland this means encouraging a sensible and "player-first" approach to competitive basketball. Through our Regulations and Code of Conduct we aspire to improve standards, encourage collaboration and aligned to our strategic mission, enhance the experience of those participating in basketball.

Regulations are published to ensure a safe environment, promote sportsmanship, and protect the ethos, values and morals of the game. We will always attempt to resolve matters in an empathic manner, appealing to common sense and will resort to official processes as a last resort.

For those adopting a negative, obstructive or aggressive approach to other members, clubs or competition, Basketball Scotland will take a firm stance and we encourage our clubs to lead the way with how they define and embrace winning, improving and behaving graciously to one another.

There is an expectation that those participating in Basketball Scotland competition or programmes, or activity sanctioned by Basketball Scotland, share similar values to Basketball Scotland. Consequently, we expect adherence to the Code of Conduct, Regulations and relevant policies.

We value those who take responsibility for their actions. We encourage clubs to acknowledge their responsibilities to, and for, their players and we appreciate clubs taking a lead on any player indiscretion.

We value those who work positively for the sport. We encourage clubs to hold us to high standards in a positive and engaging manner, identifying potential solutions to problems and issues that arise.

We value those who do the right thing and not just the easy one. We encourage clubs to take decisions that are right for the sport of basketball in Scotland.

Taking responsibility: we are responsible for our actions	Working as a team: we work positively for the sport
• Be a positive role model and take ownership of your behaviours • Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others and accept responsibility for your actions. • Understand and adhere to the rules, regulations and policies of FIBA, the British Basketball Federation and Basketball Scotland. • Ensure wellbeing, health and safety standards are maintained and any concerns are reported • Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example. • Adhere to the Basketball Scotland Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy and related behaviours. Policy found here • It is everybody's responsibility to protect the rights of the individual. • Avoid acts of aggression, violence, harassment or abuse • Maintain high personal standards and take pride in your efforts and behaviour	• Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealing with others. • Refrain from any behaviour that may bring basketball, Basketball Scotland, a member association or an affiliated Club into disrepute. • Resolve conflicts and disputes fairly and promptly through established procedures. • Communicate effectively and positively to everyone involved in basketball activities. • Be supportive and understanding to the needs of others. • Provide opportunity for all to contribute and promote equality and inclusion. • Promote an environment free of discrimination, both direct and indirect. • Promote fair play and treat everyone with respect and dignity. • Hold others to these standards
Being brave: we do the right things even when it is difficult	Always improving: we challenge ourselves and each other to continually improve
• Abide by the rules and accept the decision, making all appeals through the formal process and respecting the final decision. • Embrace challenges and overcome setbacks. • Build the confidence of others by praising and challenging them to improve. • Encourage questions. • Put the welfare of others above winning, focusing on effort and performance. • Accept that mistakes are part of learning. • Embrace a problem-solving mindset seeking solutions and improvements.	• Be professional, courteous, respectful and commit to quality. • Provide a safe environment for the conduct of all activity. • Have humility to want to find opportunities to continually improve yourself and your skills. • Ensure your Basketball Scotland membership and any required qualifications are up to date. • Reflect on your behaviours and challenge yourself to constantly improve. • Keep up to date with the rules of the sport

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We value those who challenge and have a desire to continually improve. We encourage clubs to work with us to improve the experience of those participating in basketball in Scotland.

Breach of Code of Conduct

A breach of this code of conduct may result in a complaint being brought against you by Basketball Scotland, a member association or an affiliated club or person. In such instances the complaint will be dealt with in accordance with the Basketball Scotland complaints and dispute resolution process.