

**IMPORTANT! Please note IMPORTANT RULES for 2023 – 2024 Season**

- 1. In the event of uneven regional representation, to determine a playoff format, preference for “byes” will be given to teams who have submitted their entry forms and fees to the board prior to the deadline, as well as those teams who have entered the tournament in prior consecutive years. These factors will be considered by the board to determine the playoff pairings, as well as geographic locations, and which teams drew byes the previous year. The board also reserves the right to reduce the size of a region that happens to produce more teams than other regions, and place extra teams into regions with less representation.**
  
- 2. The returning “A” division champion will be restricted from picking up or adding any new former college players under the age of 35 to their championship roster for the period of one tournament year. Beginning in 2024, no “A” team may have more than 9 players listed on their roster.**
  
- 3. “Any class “B” or “C” champion who does not enter their team in the next division up the following year, will be limited to a maximum of three of their championship roster players on a returning team in the same division. This team may not draft any former member of their team from the previous 2 years. The remainder of their players will be limited to a total of two players on any one team maximum who can play in the existing or lower division. Any aforementioned players will be banned from being drafted by any version of their former team, and may not be legal players on any ‘buy-in’ team. Any team opting to ‘sit out’ a year to avoid these restrictions will be subject to the same restrictions for up to an additional two years.**
  - 3.1. Any “B” team that has moved up a division, by rules of championship teams being required to play one division “up”, and has won the division above their original division, will be required to stay in the higher division for the following year. Any team winning the “A” division championship will be required to play in the “A” division the following year, or the first year they return from any years they do not enter.**
  
- 4. “BUY IN” Teams: If a “B” or “C” team wishes to enter a “buy-in” team, the cost of that team to enter will be \$75 before the deadline and \$100 after. The definition of a “buy-in” team or “farm club” team is to give a “B” or “C” division team the opportunity to add a player, through the legal draft, who would not otherwise be a legal player on the original team, but would be available for future drafting by a legal winning team, even though the buy in team is not eligible for playoff competition. Players on the “buy in” team are eligible to be drafted by ANY LEGAL TEAM who has won their district, region, or qualified eligible for a state-wide draft. For a team to draft a player off a “buy in” team, the team must win their district and/or regional competition. Players on the “buy in” teams are eligible to be drafted by other winning teams who were not necessarily affiliated with the buy in team. Any player on a “buy in” team who refuses to be drafted will not be eligible to play on any other team, and, depending on circumstances deemed by the board, may be ineligible to play the following season.**
  
- 5. Beginning in the 2023-23 season, the mileage limit in the Sioux Falls, Brookings, and Watertown areas to 40 miles for class “B” and “C”, 50 miles for class “A”, and decreasing the mileage west of James River but east of the Missouri River to 50 miles for all classes, and increase the mileage west river to 100 miles for all classes.**

## **ATTENTION! THREE DIVISION FORMAT for 2024 SEASON**

### **TWO GAME GAURANTEE for ALL TEAMS, Please note NEW RULES for 2024**

The 2024 season will utilize a three division format: “A”, “B”, and “C” division. All teams qualifying will be guaranteed two games during the tournament. The “C” division was created to encourage new teams to join the Association and have a division to enter without having to compete against much more experienced teams with former college players. The Association is looking for new younger teams to fill this division. The lower divisions are seeking younger, less experienced teams to help fill our brackets for years to come, or for over-40 teams clearly “past their prime”. Don’t try to “disguise” or “sandbag” your stronger experienced teams for the sake of easy competition and a trophy, this is not the purpose of our Association. The board will continue to identify these teams and require them to play in their proper division. The purpose of our three division format is to be new-team friendly, and for those teams to improve over the years and move up, not vice versa. Please contact your commissioner if you have a team looking to enter tournament play, we need your team!

**The returning “A” division champion will be restricted from picking up or adding any new former college players under the age of 35 to their championship roster for the period of one tournament year. Beginning in 2024, no “A” team from Sioux Falls or its metro area may have more than 9 players listed on their roster.**

No former NCAA Division I college players under 35 years old will be allowed in the “B” or “C” divisions. No former college players from any NCAA or NAIA school, under 40 years old, will be allowed in the “C” division.

The class “B” champion from the previous year’s tournament will be required to play in the “A” division the following season if 4 or more players from their championship roster are on their current team. If 3 or less players from their championship team roster are on the current roster, the team may continue to play in the “B” division. The same rule applies to “C” champions being required to play the following year in the “B” division. Should the “B” champion entrant in the “A” division win the “A” division championship, they will be required to play in the “A” division until the year following a non-championship tournament.

**Any class “B” or “C” champion who does not enter their team in the next division up the following year, will be limited to a maximum of three of their championship rostered players on a returning team in the same division. This team may not draft any former member of their team from the previous 2 years. The remainder of their players will be limited to a total of two players maximum on any one team who can play in the existing or lower division. Any aforementioned players will be banned from being drafted by any version of their former team, and may not be legal players on any ‘buy-in’ team. Any team opting to ‘sit out’ a year to avoid these restrictions will be subject to the same restrictions for the following season for up to two years.**

In the interest of promoting fair play, and encouraging “B” and “C” division teams to maintain local ties to their community, and to promote new teams to join the organization and enter the tournament with the opportunity to compete, the board of directors reserves the right to evaluate any team that may be deemed “overqualified” for the “B” or “C” division, or has achieved a “super team” status, and may, at their discretion, move that team up a division for that year in the interest of fair play. Any team with substantial roster advantages over the “B”

or “C” division field will be encouraged, and possibly required, to participate in the next higher division.

**THE SDABA RESERVES THE RIGHT, IN THE INTEREST OF FAIR PLAY AND FILLING THE TOURNAMENT BRACKETS, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD, TO GRANT AN EXEMPTION TO A TEAM PETITIONING UP OR DOWN TO A DIFFERENT CLASS.**

For any “B” teams playing in the “A” division, the rosters will be governed by the same drafting rules and college player limits as an “A” team competing in the “A” division. The same rules and limits apply to “C” teams playing in the “B” division.

The “A”, “B”, and “C” formats will be limited to six teams, with each team guaranteed a minimum of two games in the tournament via pool play. The previous “B” champion will be guaranteed a position in the “A” tournament, and the previous “C” champion will be guaranteed a position in the “B” division, while the remaining four to five positions will be filled by qualifying teams and a host team where applicable. If necessary, a playoff to be completed no later than two weeks prior to the tournament will be used to determine the teams who qualify for the available positions.

Beginning in 2023, the entry fee will be \$150 for “B” and “C” teams, and \$200 for “A” teams. **For “A” teams who enter but are disqualified via the playoff system prior to the tournament, \$50 of the entry fee will be refunded to that team.** For teams who enter after the posted deadline, the cost will be \$175 for “B” and “C” teams and \$225 for “A” teams.

#### **IMPORTANT FOR ALL TEAMS BEGINNING 2024 SEASON**

**In the event of non-uniform regional representation, to determine a playoff format, preference for “byes” will be given to teams who have submitted their entry forms and fees to the board prior to the deadline, as well as those teams who have entered the tournament in prior consecutive years. These factors, as well as geographic locations and which teams drew the byes the previous year, will be considered by the board to determine the playoff pairings. The board also reserves the right to reduce the size of a region that happens to produce more teams than other regions and assign extra teams to regions with less representation.**

#### **RULES REGARDING LIMITS ON COLLEGE PLAYERS**

A class "B" team is limited to a maximum of 2 college players total on their original roster.

**COLLEGE PLAYER DEFINITION: A college player is defined as any former NAIA, NCAA Division I, II, or III college player who played meaningful minutes for the majority of a season, and that is under 38 years old as of January 1 of the current tournament year.**

Class "B" teams may have one college varsity player on their roster from a Class "A" or Class “B” town that has played college ball in the last two years, and one other former college player who is under 38 years old.

Class “B” towns may add more than two total college players, but at that point will be considered a Class “A” team.

The only way a Class “B” team may have more than two college players total on their roster is through a regional or statewide draft.

**No former college players under 40 years old may play on any class “C” teams.**

**No former NCAA DI players under 35 years old may play on any class “B” or “C” teams.**

**Any former college players over 38 years old will not count against the limit of college players for class “B” teams.**

**There is no limit for the number of college players on Class “A” teams, regardless of age, except Class “A” teams from the Sioux Falls metro area, which are limited to the 9 total players on their roster.**

#### **UNIFORM BY-LAWS POINT OF EMPHASIS FOR 2024 SEASON**

The Uniform code of requiring all teams qualifying for the state tournament to wear matching jerseys with **numbers front and back**, as well as matching shorts. Shorts may be any color, but do need to match among all team members. This includes stripes and other decorative markings. **A PENALTY OF 1 POINT WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSING TEAM PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME FOR EACH PLAYER WITH A UNIFORM VIOLATION.** Managers of all state tournament qualifying teams are asked to remind all team members to be in compliance of the uniform code prior to the state tournament. **BESIDES THE POINT PENALTY, TEAMS IN VIOLATION OF UNIFORM CODE WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR GENERIC UNIFORMS PROVIDED BY THE ASSOCIATION.**

### Article I – How to Join

1. All teams shall prepare and submit a player contract and application to their commissioner.
2. Any team desiring membership in the Association shall prepare and submit an application to the commissioner by the entry deadline, containing the following information:
  - A. Name of team
  - B. Name, address and phone number of the team manager
  - C. **Complete team roster, including all addresses, signed by manager.**
3. Teams must enter under one of the names included on the “Regional and District Set-Up Page” in this booklet. Exceptions must be approved by your commissioner.
4. **Make-up of teams = 51% of the players on a team’s roster must be from the town they represent. Players may declare the town or city in which they live, which they are employed full time, as of January 1, or the high school they graduated from as their home town to be included in the 51%.**

### Article II – Dues

**The annual Association membership dues shall be \$150.00 per team for “B” and “C” division teams with 10 players or less, or \$15.00 per player for teams with over 10 players. “A” division dues shall be \$200.00 per team for teams with 10 players or less, or \$20.00 per player for teams with over 10 players.** Dues must be transmitted by cashier’s check, personal check or cash to your commissioner, postmarked or receipted no later than January 15, 2024. The cost per team for entries postmarked after January 16, 2024, is \$175.00 for “B” teams and \$225.00 for “A” teams.

### Article III – Disqualification

Any team failing to comply with any of these Articles shall subject itself to disqualification by the State Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall reserve the right to disqualify any player(s) from completing in SDABA tournaments for conduct detrimental to the play and sportsmanship of amateur basketball. The time and length of such disqualification shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

### Article IV – Eligibility of Players

1. No player shall receive any compensation for his services.
2. **No “A” team shall be allowed to contract any player who resides beyond the legal mileage limit miles from such town, except those qualifying under the hometown rule or by virtue of having played for that team previously.** No “A” or “B” team shall be allowed to contract any player who resides beyond the legal mileage limit miles from such town, except those qualifying under the hometown rules or by virtue of having played for that team previously. The said mile radius rules shall be interpreted to apply to college students who shall be restricted to playing for one of the following: for their home town; for a “B” town within the above rules from their hometown; for an “A” town within the above rules from their hometown or their college town. An exception to the legal mileage limit is for players qualifying under the hometown rule.

#### **NEW RULE FOR 2024:**

**The legal mileage limit beginning in the 2033-2024 season is 40 miles for “B” and “C” teams in the Sioux Falls, Brookings, and Watertown areas and 50 miles for Class “A” in the Sioux Falls, Brookings, and Watertown areas, and 50 miles between the James River and Missouri River for all classes, and 100 miles west of the Missouri River for all classes. In the event of uneven regional representation, to determine a playoff format, preference for “byes” will be given to teams who have submitted their entry forms and fees to the board prior to the deadline, as well as those teams who have entered the**

**tournament in prior consecutive years. These factors, as well as the geographic locations and which teams received byes the previous year, will be considered by the board to determine the playoff pairings. The board also reserves the right to reduce the size of a region that happens to produce more teams than other regions and move extra teams to regions with less representation.**

3. In case of dispute, the radius shall mean a straight line and the distance shall be measured on a Sectional Aeronautical Chart of the nearest full mile from city limits to city limits.
4. Active Duty military members who are stationed in South Dakota are encouraged to play in the tournament. Servicemen on pass or leave from another state are not eligible for tournament play. A military discharge may play with the hometown team or any team within his local radius provided tournament playoffs have not started.
5. The burden of proof of residence shall rest with the team concerned and they shall, at their expense, investigate and secure evidence determining residence and transmit same to the Regional Commissioner for consideration by the Board of Directors. Failure to secure and transmit such evidence to the Board may, at the discretion of the Board, result in their declaring the athlete ineligible until such time as the athlete is approved by the Board.
6. High School Student: A high school student shall not be eligible to participate in the tournament elimination except any boy who has attained his twentieth birthday or who has completed eight semesters of high school on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>. He shall then be eligible by virtue of his inability to compete further in high school athletics.
7. Professional: Any player that has played with a professional team for a period of two or more weeks during the period between November 1 and March 1 of the current basketball year shall be ineligible for the current tournament. Participation in preseason try-out camps does not constitute playing for a professional team.
8. College Varsity Players: **A college player will be defined as any player who has played regular meaningful minutes during a season as a member of a 4 year college or university. Class "A" teams are not limited in the number of college players they may have on their team. The distance a player may live from the town he is playing for is a maximum of 50 miles for Class "A" and 40 miles for class "B" and "C" for Sioux Falls, Brookings, and Watertown, 100 miles for any city west of the Missouri River for all classes, and 50 miles for all other cities for all classes. A "Home Town Rule" is in effect that allows a player from either an "A", "B", or "C" town to play for his previous team or his new home city. This includes players who have moved to another city or town and who live out of the state, but wish to play for a team that is from either the town they graduated high school from, or attended college for a minimum of one semester at. A player that returns to his previous team would not be considered as part of the 51% rule. Another "Home Town Rule" is also in effect for class "B" and "C" towns that allows all players that currently live in that town, work full-time in that town, or graduated from that town's high school or college to be allowed to play for that town during the current year only without counting against the 51% rule. ONLY PLAYERS WHO ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE FROM THAT TOWN ARE ALLOWED TO BE GRANDFATHERED IN FOR "FORMER" TEAMS, AND THE GRANDFATHER CLAUSE DOES NOT APPLY TO FORMER DRAFTED PLAYERS. A class "B" or "C" team from their town is limited to a maximum of 2 college players total on their roster. Class "B" teams from a class "A" town are limited to a total of 2 college players total on their roster. A class "B" team may add more college players to the roster, but at that time they will be considered an "A" team and must compete in that division in the Region that they are closest to geographically. Any player who has attained the age of 39 or over by January 1 of that tournament year will no longer be**

**considered a college player. As always, 51% or more of a team must come from that town with a limit of 12 players total on any one roster. Sioux Falls area "A" teams are limited to 9 players total on their roster. Players that qualify under the "B" hometown rule will be considered as part of the 51% rule. Class "B" teams may have one college varsity player on their roster from a Class "A" or "B" town that have played college ball in the last two years, and one more former college player age 38 or younger, or two total players under age 39 if neither has played college ball in the previous two seasons. College players who have just finished their varsity careers in the same year of the tournament will not be eligible until the following year.**

9. Drafting Players: Only players who are on a qualified team roster can be drafted. Class "B" and "C" teams may draft one player from their Region. Should a team advance to State Tournament play by virtue of no competition in their District or Region, said team will be allowed two statewide drafts upon winning the Region. Drafts may not otherwise be accumulated. Class "A" teams may draft one from their Regional tourney provided there are 3 or more teams in the Region. The #1 seed will draft 1<sup>st</sup> and the #2 seed will draft 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Statewide Drafting between classes is now allowed provided that all "In-Class" drafting rules printed above have taken place. All draft choices must be made within 24 hours of tournament play.**
10. Teams may pick additional players for advanced tournament competition by drafting without having to drop their original 12 players.
11. Any player who refuses a draft shall be ineligible for further draft selection.
12. Host team draft: "B" or "C" host – two statewide, "A" host – one statewide, following other "B" and "A" teams draft.
13. Once a team is eliminated from competition, a player shall not be eligible for further play except as provided by the draft rule in Section 9.
14. Class "B" teams that play in Class "A" cities to gain advantage of more competition must compete in their home town district to be eligible for tournament play. A Class "B" team shall not in any case qualify as a District winner by virtue of some championship within the Class "A" city, and the players of such a team shall not be drafted by a Class "A" city champion.
15. The class "B" champion from previous year's tournament will be required to play in the "A" division the following season if 4 or more of the players on their original roster are the same as those listed on their roster the previous season. If the "B" champion's roster consists 3 or less of the same players as the previous season, the team may continue to play in the "B" division. For any "B" teams playing in the "A" division, the rosters will be governed by the same drafting rules and college player limits as an "A" team competing in the "A" division. The same rules apply to class "C" champions.
16. In the interest of promoting fair play, and encouraging "B" and "C" division teams to maintain local ties to their community, and to promote new teams to join the organization and enter the tournament with the opportunity to compete, the board of directors reserves the right to evaluate any team that may be deemed "overqualified" for the "B" or "C" divisions, or has achieved a "super team" status, and may, at their discretion, move that team up to the next higher division for that year. Any team with substantial roster advantages over their division field will be encouraged, and possibly required, to participate in the next higher division.

#### Article V – Contracts

The Commissioner shall supply each team with a Player Contract which shall list the players of each team and shall be signed by the Manager. The Manager of an individual team shall forward this form, with the dues, to his Commissioner by the entry deadline January 17, 2023. **In an attempt to curb the number of last minute changes, and at the same time allow teams an option when emergencies arise, up to three roster changes may be made after they**

**have been turned in to the commissioner. However, each change/addition will be levied a \$15.00 charge. These players must still meet the criteria spelled out in Article IV – Eligibility of Players, in this regulation.**

#### Article VI – Arbitration Boards and Duties

1. All Tournament Play: The Arbitration Board shall consist of the State Board of Directors.
2. It shall be the duty of the Board to interpret by-laws, rules and regulations, and to settle all disputes which are brought to this attention.
3. All team managers shall have the right to protest any player provided he does so to the Commissioner, and to the Manager of the team of the player(s) concerned, before tournament game(s), in accordance with the following:
  - A. Team Managers shall inspect “Player Contract” forms with the Regional Commissioner prior to Tournament time and make protests concerning any player on any team prior to the start of the Tournament.
  - B. It prevails upon Team Managers, therefore, to do their “housekeeping” beforehand. If you are uncertain regarding eligibility of a player, do not construe your own definition of the intent of a regulation – write or call and find out.
4. The protesting manager must submit his protest in writing giving the facts of the protest. This statement will be given to the Regional Commissioner. The protesting party shall deposit a \$25 protest fee with the Commissioner to defray any possible costs of proving the allegation.
5. The Commissioner shall retain the deposit until the protest is settled. He shall return the \$25 fee if the protest is sustained.
6. A protest on the score of a game shall be made within ten (10) minutes of the conclusion of the game.

#### Article VII – Appeal Cases

1. Protests on District, Regional, and Sectional play shall be made to the appropriate Commissioners.
2. If any team is not satisfied with a protest decision of the Commissioner, the Managers shall have the right to appeal the decision to the state Board of Directors, provided he deposits \$25 within 24 hours after the Commissioner announces his decision.

#### Protests

In the past, Commissioners and State Board of Directors have tried to identify and eliminate ineligible players prior to tournament play. However, it is apparent that they have not been completely successful in this endeavor. This and the fact that teams seem to be reluctant to file formal protests leaves open the possibility that ineligible players may ride through a tournament without being eliminated. Therefore, team managers are highly encouraged to do a more thorough job of housekeeping prior to the State Tournament and to file protests on issues that cannot be verbally resolved. Additionally, any team proven to be intentionally trying to circumvent rules faces the possibility of being eliminated from further tournament play.

#### Article VIII – Injuries

**Neither the Association nor its members shall be responsible or liable for any accident or injury sustained by any player, official, manager, spectator, or any person, or for any destruction of property, whatsoever.**

### **Tournament Regulations**

#### **I. District Tournaments**



1. The District Committee shall be composed of a Chairman appointed by the Regional Commissioner. All other team managers shall be committee members and have the right to vote.
2. The expenses, selection of the site, and supervision of the tournament shall be handled by the District Committee.
3. Entry fees for the District Tournament, if any, shall be decided at a meeting of the representative members of the District to be held prior to the Tournament.
4. All District tournament expenses shall be shared by member teams of the District.
5. Each team may enter twelve (12) men under contract as players for the District Tournament.

## II. Region Tournaments

1. The expenses, selection of the site, and supervision of the tournament shall be handled by the Regional Commissioner.
2. Entry fees, if any, shall be decided at a committee meeting to be held prior to the Tournament.
3. All Regional tournament expenses shall be shared by Tournament Reps of the Region.
4. **Winning teams in the Region are to phone their complete rosters, including draft choices and uniform numbers, to their commissioner by 9AM the day after their tournament has been played.**

## III. State Tournament

1. The State Tournament shall be held in a city designated by the State Association Board of Directors on a date designated by the Board.
2. Members of the State Association Board of Directors shall act as the Tournament Committee and shall handle all matters covering and pertaining to the event.
3. All teams entering the Tournament must have complied with all the Uniform By-Law Rules and Regulations of the Association.
4. Each team entering the tournament shall be entitled to twelve (12) players whose contracts are filed with their Regional Commissioner, plus drafts, except Sioux Falls "A" teams who are limited to nine (9) players.
5. **All players on each team shall be dressed in matching uniforms. Tops must be the matching and be the same color and have legible numbers front and back. Trunks must also be the same color but do not have to match the tops. The only allowable uniform differences shall be that of a small logo and/or a thin strip on the trunks. Each uniform violation will result in the opposing team being awarded 1 point prior to tip-off.**
6. If the Region fails to enter, or should the champion or runner-up of a Region choose not to enter the State Tournament in accordance with the plan above, the State Board has authorized that their place in the draw shall be filled by the runner-up of the host Region; and further vacancies are to be filled in order by the runner-up of the Regions having submitted the greatest amount in entry fees. In case of ties, the team shall be determined by drawing lots before a notary public.

## IV. Drawings

1. No team shall transfer its place in the draw to another. The draw shall be conducted in the presence of a notary public.
2. In accordance with the revised Tournament Elimination Plan adopted in 1959, the champion of the home section shall be "seeded" in the number four (4) spot on the first round; and the host team shall be "seeded" in the number eight (8) spot of the first round.

# TOURNAMENT RULES

- The games will be officiated under NFHS rules with the following exceptions:
- All games will be played with two twenty minute halves
- Five minutes between halves
- Four full time outs per game
- Player is disqualified on his sixth personal foul in the game
- 35 second shot clock will be used
- All overtime periods will be three minutes in duration
- Ten minutes between games
- Basket counts on offensive foul if shot has been released prior to the foul
- No bonus – two shots on the tenth foul in each half
- Technical fouls count as personal and team fouls, players must sit 5 minutes on the bench following an unsportsmanlike technical foul. Time away from the bench does not count towards the 5 minute penalty.
- Swearing will result in an automatic technical foul
- Two technical fouls on a player is automatic disqualification from game
- If a team has a twenty point or more lead with ten minutes or less in a game, the clock will continue to run, except during a called time out
- All other rules will be according to NFHS regulations
- These rules will apply for the State Tournament and all qualifying tournaments

## ATTENTION --- **HIRING OFFICIALS** --- ATTENTION

It is important that qualified officials are hired to officiate tournament play at the District and Region level. The Board recommends that the Managers get together and hire qualified officials that are registered or certified by the state of South Dakota.

## **NOTICE TO ALL TEAMS**

For over seventy-five years, this has been one of the major sporting events in South Dakota. Please take pride in your team by following the rules and uniform codes. This is basketball, the tournament is played in the winter, it is probably going to snow, and the wind is going to blow. The tournament will not be postponed at the first sign of a snowflake. Please plan ahead for inclement weather, arrive early and stay an extra night if necessary. The cities who host these events are making a large investment for their communities, and the Association asks our teams to show their appreciation by making their best effort to patronize these sponsors. There are reasonable priced hotel rooms available, as well as excellent restaurants serving meals throughout the weekend. Spend a little extra time, get to know the other teams, and thank the businesses for helping keep this tournament something special for over seven decades. The camaraderie and new friends made will far outlast the memory of the final numbers on the scoreboard.