

2026 RYB Game Rules – 3rd Grade (Jan 5, 2026)

Except as modified below, current rules of the PA Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA, piaa.gov) apply.

Rule disputes will be resolved by the Referees after consultation with the coaches. The Referees' ultimate decisions on points, fouls, and violations are final. Game protests will not be permitted.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY – ALL DIVISIONS - ALL GRADES

- All players, coaches, volunteers, referees, or spectators must abide by all policies, rules, and behavior requirements of the league.
 - Any player, coach, volunteer, referee, or spectator can be ejected by a ref or be suspended or refused further participation in league activities due to any unacceptable behavior, actions, communications, complaints, threats, reports of illegal or inappropriate activities, etc. at the sole discretion and decision of the officers of the league.
 - Adult coaches/supervisors are responsible to report unsupervised minors in/near the gym during a team's gym use. Call school security or Bonnie Cotter if no responsible adult is supervising minors - referees are not responsible for the actions of unsupervised minors.
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Game Rules - 3rd Grades

1. **Ball size** – 27" (or 27.5") – size 5 (17 oz.)
2. **Basket Height** - 8½ feet
3. **Scoreboard** – must be run at the scorer's table.
4. **Scores** - No scores are kept and no scorebooks are needed.
5. **Game Time**
 - a. **2 halves** – 20 minutes each, running clock, 3 minute halftime break.
 - b. Referee will allow a 3 to 5 minute warmup period unless games are delayed more than 10 mins.
 - c. The game clock will start no later than 1 minute after the 3-5 minute warmup period.
 - d. If the gym is not equipped with a scoreboard, the time shall be kept by a coach or other adult.
 - e. Coaches should start and end games on time - shorten the clock time if necessary.
 - f. Each team should have 5 players begin play – can start with 4 players per team on the court.
 - g. **Time-outs** – 3 time-outs per game - 30 secs each.
 - h. **Overtime** – No overtime periods.
6. **Substitutions** (Refs may remind coaches of guidelines; report violations to Division Commissioner.)
 - a. Substitutions only occur at each 5 minute passage of game time.
 - b. Use RYB's player rotation grid or equivalent to plan and track player rotations (see RYB website)
 - c. Substitutions should be ready prior to the 5 minute marks.
 - d. Substitutions for an injured player at any time - injured player can re-enter after is attended to.
 - e. Running Clock does not stop for subs to come in. Clock runs unless a time-out is called.
 - f. If Subs are taking too long, the ref may charge a team for a time-out for delay of game.
 - g. During substitutions, coaches are permitted **15 seconds** to match up players. The referee will put the ball in play 15 seconds after substitutions. Matchups are **ONLY** allowed at start of a game, the 2nd half or during a time-out.
 - h. *<common courtesy>* The same players should not start and/or finish every game.
 - i. *<common courtesy>* Coaches should divide up playing time as evenly as possible. No players should repeatedly play more time than other players who regularly attend games and practices.

7. **Referees** – One paid referee will be provided. If a ref is not available, coaches/parents will be needed.
 8. **No Lane Violation** – for offensive players
 9. **Foul Shots - 12'10" Foul Line** (approx. distance, no foul line shot violation)
 - a. Foul shots (free throws) taken only for shooting fouls – 2 shots.
 - b. **No bonus free throws** on team fouls.
 - c. **Clock does not stop** for free throws.
 - d. **No foul limit per player**, but a player who repeatedly commits fouls should be cautioned.
 10. **Free Zone** – no defense in the free zone
 - a. Free zone is from half court to the top of the key.
 - b. Use the top of key (top point of 3 point arc) as the reference point for a straight free zone line parallel to foul line and half court line, extending across the court - the free zone will exist behind this reference line, only until the ball crosses this free zone line.
 - c. Once the ball leaves the free zone, the free zone no longer exists until a change in possession.
 - d. **Back Court/Free Zone Time Limit** – 5 second combined limit to advance ball out of both the Back Court and Free Zone (ref warns while play continues; ref may stop play) – no turnover - offense inbounds ball in front court – no new free zone until change in possession.
 - e. No defensive player may press, interfere, steal the ball or obstruct an offensive player in the free zone (nor in the back court) until the ball advances out of the free zone.
 - f. Passes totally within the free zone may not be intercepted.
 - g. When the ball is not in the free zone it may be intercepted.
 - h. The free zone may not be used as a stalling technique.
 - i. 5 secs to advance the ball out of the back court & free zone – refs/coaches can give reminders.
 - j. Once the ball advances past the free zone and an offensive player retreats back to the zone, the defensive player may follow and defend in the free zone.
 - k. The free zone also applies for offensive throw-ins.
 11. **Defense**
 - a. 1-on-1 (man to man) only – please follow this rule, but do not interrupt the game
 - b. Refs will not enforce the 1-on-1 defense or govern use of any particular style of defense.
 - c. No double teaming or trapping the ball handler
 - d. No Full Court Press (no back court press) at any time.
 - e. Refs will call an illegal defense violation if a team violates the No Press rule.
 - f. A team who violates (c), (d) or (e) should be warned by the ref and lose possession if such defense resulted in a turnover (referee's judgment)
 12. **Ejections / Suspensions**
 - a. Anyone may be ejected from a game for any inappropriate behavior or other violation of RYB's **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**. A ref may stop the game. No technical foul for spectator actions.
 - b. An adult coach or adult spectator who is ejected must leave the gym. Someone under 18 who is ejected must remain in the gym supervised by an adult coach/manager/supervisor. Anyone ejected under 18 may leave the gym with a parent, guardian, or adult responsible for them.
 - c. Anyone ejected from a game, or who has behaved inappropriately at RYB events, or via social media, or other means, are subject to further action or discipline by RYB if warranted.
 - d. Repeated inappropriate behavior must be reported to RYB officers and may result in temporary suspension or permanent expulsion of any person from the league.
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