

# Frequently Asked Questions 2011

Jeff McCarron. Pacesetter Director

## *Frequently Asked questions*

### **What is the Pacesetter State Tournament?**

The Pacesetter Minnesota Youth Basketball State Tournament has been conducted since 1993 as the only 8-region play-off system with 600-900 teams in grades 5-9 participating annually throughout the state. This tournament has provided thousands of teams with opportunities to play competitive games in a real 8-region Minnesota Youth Basketball State Tournament.

### **Do all players have to be from the same school?**

All youth teams in Minnesota in grades 5-9 are invited to participate. All players must either attend the same school or live in the same school district. Smaller schools may combine players onto one team as long as the total enrollment of their high schools (listed in the MSHSL handbook) does not exceed 400 students (grades 9-12). Some exceptions include private schools whose “feeder” schools are located in another school district, schools or programs consolidating for the following year and transfer students who have officially enrolled. In these circumstances, players are allowed to play together with their future teammates if the connection is official. The philosophy behind this decision is that the whole system is designed to help teams improve for their future, and these players are a part of that future. A player who is “thinking” about transferring to another school would not be allowed to play for that school.

### **May players play at an older or younger grade level?**

Players may play at an older grade level, but older players may not play at a younger level.

### **May players play on more than one team?**

Players may play at more than one grade level and may even play at two grade levels on the same day if that is the decision of their coaches and parents.

### **Who advances to Pacesetter “Post season” tournaments?**

Teams from each regional tournament are invited to advance to “post-season” tournaments in the summer. The region champion is invited to play in the Minnesota state championship (June 12 – girls and June 19 – boys), all teams with only one loss are invited to play in the MIT (Minnesota Invitational Tournament) on the Saturday before the state championship (June 11 – girls and June 18 – boys). Both tournaments will be played at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, just 4 miles west of St. Cloud. All teams who win two or more games in the Pacesetter regionals are invited to play in the Pacesetter Open (site and date to be announced).

The top two teams in the Minnesota State Tournament will advance to play the top two teams from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa in the 8-team Great Four-State Championships at the Target Center in Minneapolis in either July or August.

## **Frequently Asked Questions - continued**

### **Can teams play in more than one region?**

Teams are welcome to play in any region. There are several reasons for this provision: 1) The first goal is to provide teams with opportunities to play and to improve through competition. If teams are motivated to play in several regions, this system provides them with multiple opportunities. 2) Teams often have conflicts for the tournaments closer to their geographical area, so in this case they need to travel farther in order to enter the play-off system. 3) Some tournaments do not have enough teams (min. of 4) from the local region to conduct a full tournament, so the tournament then actually depends on teams from other regions to reach the minimum and avoid cancellation. 4) Teams enjoy playing opponents they have not faced during the season, so allowing teams to travel to other regions provides the local area teams with competitive variety. 5) Allowing teams to play in other regions also strengthens the field for the state championship, providing the strongest teams with more opportunities to join the state championship field.

### **Why not keep it simple and allow teams to play in only one region?**

If all regions provided enough teams (4-16) well in advance to conduct a full tournament for every age/gender group, it would be feasible to adopt this policy, but any advantages may still not outweigh the elimination of the opportunities and benefits outlined above. Even if all regions fielded enough teams, would the benefits of simpler advancement truer to geographical region outweigh the benefits of greater opportunities for teams? That's a tough call. If that circumstance arises in the future, this policy could be re-evaluated at that time.

### **What happens if a team wins more than one region?**

If a team wins a championship in a region other than their own, they may still play in their own region, but if they then win in their own region, too, the runner-up from the first region will be invited to the state championship.

Once a team wins a region, however, they can play in another regional, BUT they will not be allowed to eliminate a team in the first round of a region other than their own. They would have to forfeit the first-round game, but they may then play for the consolation championship. This guideline allows teams to enter more than one region knowing they will not have to cancel their plans.

### **Who should I contact with a question?**

Please feel free to email me at [jmccarron@psmbbn.com](mailto:jmccarron@psmbbn.com) or call me at 320-243-7460 with any thoughts or questions. There will always be some differences of opinion on policies, but having the best interest of the kids in mind is something we all share. Thank you for your understanding, your cooperation, and your efforts in making this tournament system the best possible opportunity for our young players.

-Jeff McCarron  
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