



Player Eligibility & Protests

Effective August 1, 2023

1. **Divisions of Play** (All Grade Divisions offered for Boys Teams & 6th grade through Varsity Divisions offered for Girls Teams) Divisions are based upon Grade, with age exceptions:

- 3rd Grade/9U
- 4th Grade/10U
- 5th Grade/11U
- 6th Grade/12U
- 7th Grade/13U
- 8th Grade/14U
- 9th Grade/15U
- 10th Grade/16U
- Varsity/17U

2. Player Eligibility:

2.1. **Grade Based Eligibility.** All Bigfoot Hoops events will be organized by Year of Graduation (Grade Division). **A player is eligible to participate in the Grade Division for his/her grade for the 2023-2024 school year.** A team must participate in the division which corresponds with the highest grade of any player on the team.

2.2. **Age Exception:** For 8th Grade and younger divisions, a player is eligible to play down a grade provided they meet the requirements listed in the chart below:

Age as of August 31, 2024	Eligible to Play Grade
9	3 rd
10	4 th
11	5 th
12	6 th
13	7 th
14	8 th

2.3. **17U/Varsity Division.** The 17U/Varsity division is an “open division”..

2.3.1. Unsigned seniors with remaining high school eligibility and unsigned prep school players are eligible to participate if they have not committed in writing to play for a college at any level.

2.3.2. Players cannot turn 20 prior to 9/1/2023.

2.3.3. No player who has attended junior college or college may participate.

3. **Maximum Age.** Even if grade eligible, no player may play in a division where the player is more than one year older for the corresponding age for the grade division. For this purpose only, the corresponding ages are 3rd/9, 4th/10, 5th/11, 6th/12, 7th/13, 8th/14, 9th/15, 10th/16, 11th-12th/17-18. For example, a 13-year-old 5th grader is not eligible to participate in the 5th Grade division. **The age determination date for purposes of the Maximum Age rule is August 31, 2024.**

4. Application of Eligibility Rules:

4.1. **Playing Up.** A player may play up in a higher-grade division.

4.2. **Playing on Multiple Teams.** A player can play on two teams in the same tournament provided the following conditions are met:

4.2.1. The teams are from the same organization.

4.2.2. The teams are not in the same division.

4.2.3. The player meets the eligibility criteria for both teams.

4.2.4. A player participating in an NCAA Certified division CANNOT play on multiple teams.

4.2.5. Once bracket play begins, the player must have played in at least one pool play game in the division in order to compete in that division's bracket play. A player who has not played in a



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pool play game is not permitted to compete in bracket play.

- 4.3. **Gender Specific Divisions.** Players are only allowed to play in a division for the player's gender (for example, a girl player cannot play on a team participating in a boy's division). The *Transgender Athlete Participation Policy* for Bigfoot Hoops Events can be found at <https://bigfoothoops.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/69/2023/03/BB.PolicyTransgenderAthleteParticipation-2.pdf>
- 4.4. **Signed Waiver & Release.** In addition to the grade eligibility requirements, each player is required to have a parent/guardian signed Release/Waiver on file with Bigfoot Hoops. Bigfoot Hoops can suspend participation privileges for any player without a signed Release/Waiver.

5. Proof of Player Eligibility

- 5.1. **Team Responsibility.** Proof of player eligibility is the responsibility of the team manager or coach. Bigfoot Hoops will not check eligibility prior to events. However, a coach **must be able to document grade and age eligibility** in the event of a challenge by another team or if requested by Bigfoot Hoops prior to or any time during an event.
- 5.2. **Documentation Required for Eligibility.** As a condition of participation, **each team is required to have grade and age documentation available for each player for review at any time during an event.** Proof of grade and age must be available for review by Bigfoot Hoops representatives at all events. Failure to have such information available at the event may result in player ineligibility, game forfeiture, and/or team removal from the event.
- 5.3. **Acceptable Forms of Documentation.** Acceptable proofs of age include clean photocopies of birth certificate, adoption papers, immigration papers, school documentation which reflects DOB, current driver's license, and current passport. Acceptable proofs of grade include a clean copy of any report card of the current or immediately preceding school year, progress report for current school year, or current school ID. Digital documentation may be acceptable subject to review by Bigfoot Hoops representatives.

7. Player Eligibility Protest Procedure:

- 7.1. **Scope.** The following Player Eligibility Protest procedure applies to all Bigfoot Hoops events.
- 7.2. **Who Can Protest:** Player Eligibility Protests can be submitted only by a coach of a team participating in the same division as the team with the player(s) whose eligibility is being challenged. For a team to submit a Protest, the team must demonstrate to the Site Director that the protesting team has eligibility documentation for its players available for review by the Site Director. A team is NOT allowed to protest the eligibility of a player from another team without having the eligibility documentation for its players.
- 7.3. **What Can Be Protested:**
 - 7.3.1. Player is not grade eligible or within the Age Exception of Section 2.2
 - 7.3.2. Player is beyond age maximum
 - 7.3.3. Player is not in compliance with Multiple Team rules of Section 5.2.
- 7.4. **When Can Protest Be Made:**
 - 7.4.1. **Pre-Game Protest:** A protest of player eligibility may be made at any time **prior to a game.** Any Pre-Game Protest should be submitted as soon as possible so that it may be considered in a timely manner.
 - 7.4.2. **Post-Game Protest:** Any post-game protest of player eligibility must be made **within 15 minutes of the conclusion of a game** between the protesting team and the team with the player(s) whose eligibility is being challenged.
 - 7.4.3. **Deadline for Providing Eligibility Documentation.** Representatives of the team with a player or players being protested, must provide the



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required eligibility documentation as required in Section 6 above prior to the earlier of :

- (a) One (1) hour after the protest is communicated to a representative of the team, including, but not limited to communication by text, email, or voice mail; OR
- (b) The game time of the next scheduled game for the team with the player or players being protested.

7.4.4. **Protest Limited.** No other player eligibility protests will be considered. A team is deemed to waive any opportunity to protest any player's eligibility not within these protest periods.

7.4.5. **How to File Protest:** All protests must be in writing on an official *Protest Form* and accompanied by the Protest Fee of \$50 cash for each player challenged. The Protest Fee is refundable only if the matter is ruled in the favor of the protesting party. If the Protest is not upheld, the Protest Fee is forfeited. All forfeited protest fees will be applied to charitable activities of Bigfoot Hoops which include support of youth sports teams and activities.

7.5. **Protest Upheld:** If a player is ruled ineligible, the player will be prohibited from participating in remaining games of the event. If a Post-Game Protest is upheld, that game will be forfeited by the team with the ineligible player. No prior games will be forfeited as teams participating in prior games will have waived their protest opportunity by failing to timely submit an Eligibility Protest. The team will be allowed to continue to participate in the event without the ineligible player(s). The Protest Fee will be refunded to the protesting team for each protest upheld.

7.6. **Protest Denied:** If the Player Eligibility Protest is denied, the Protest Fee is forfeited.

7.7. **Player Reinstatement.** If a player is ruled ineligible for the sole reason that the team did not have any eligibility documentation for the player, the player can subsequently be ruled eligible if such documentation is later provided. The reinstatement is for competition subsequent to the documentation being provided and no prior action will be modified or set aside.

7.8. **Ruling Binding. Any Player Eligibility Protest ruling made by Bigfoot Hoops is binding upon all coaches, players, and attendees of the event. There is NO appeal of any upholding or denial of a Player Eligibility Protest.**

Bigfoot Hoops shall apply the Player Eligibility Rules in such manner as Bigfoot Hoops and its Site Directors deem appropriate to uphold not only the letter but the spirit of such rules. Bigfoot Hoops will impose such additional sanctions, suspensions, or other corrective action it deems appropriate under the facts and circumstances of noncompliance with the player eligibility rules. All coaches, players, and attendees shall be bound by any such application of the rules and corrective action imposed by Bigfoot Hoops.