

# ARPA State Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament

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**March 13-15, 2026**

[www.arpaonline.org](http://www.arpaonline.org)



*Visit*  
**TUSCALOOSA**



Walt Maddox, Mayor

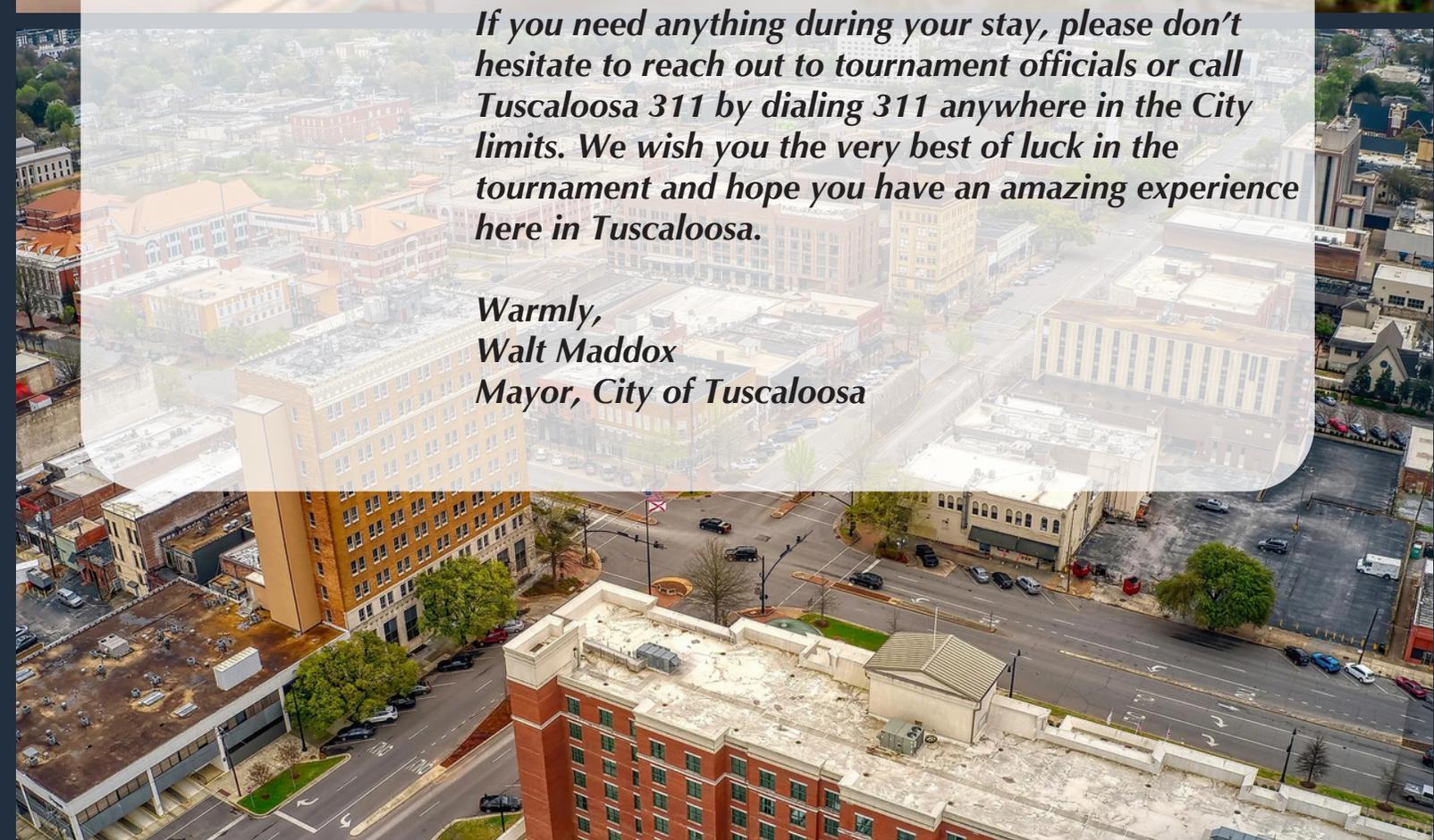
*Dear players and families,*

*Welcome to the City of Tuscaloosa! We're thrilled to have you here for the 2026 ARPA Boys and Girls State Basketball Tournament. We hope your time with us is filled with great memories, both on and off the court.*

*While you're here, take some time to explore all that Tuscaloosa has to offer! From beautiful riverfront views and local dining to unique shops and vibrant neighborhoods, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Whether it's cheering on your team or discovering a new favorite spot, we hope your visit is unforgettable.*

*If you need anything during your stay, please don't hesitate to reach out to tournament officials or call Tuscaloosa 311 by dialing 311 anywhere in the City limits. We wish you the very best of luck in the tournament and hope you have an amazing experience here in Tuscaloosa.*

*Warmly,  
Walt Maddox  
Mayor, City of Tuscaloosa*





**Welcome to Northport, Alabama!**

On behalf of the City of Northport, we are proud to welcome you to our community for the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association State Basketball Tournament. We are honored to host such talented athletes, coaches, families, and fans.

Northport has a strong tradition of sportsmanship and community spirit, and events like this bring out the very best in both. We hope you enjoy great competition, build lasting memories, and take time to experience our local restaurants, shops, and beautiful parks while you're here.

Thank you for choosing Northport. We wish you the best of luck and a successful tournament!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dale Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dale Phillips, Mayor  
City of Northport

WARD D. "ROB" ROBERTSON, III  
CHAIRMAN

BYRON D. WAID  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

APRIL HOFFMAN  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



**COUNTY COMMISSION**  
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA  
P.O. BOX 20113 · 714 GREENSBORO AVENUE  
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35402-0113  
205-349-3870

COMMISSIONERS

STAN ACKER  
DISTRICT I

JERRY TINGLE  
DISTRICT II

MARK C. NELSON  
DISTRICT III

REGINALD MURRAY  
DISTRICT IV

March 5, 2026

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Tuscaloosa County Commission, congratulations on advancing to the State Championship! Tuscaloosa County has a long and rich history of hosting premier athletic events, and your participation in the State Parks and Recreation Basketball Championship adds to that list. We are pleased to welcome you to our community and encourage you to explore all that we have to offer while you are here.

Nearly 100 teams from across the state will be competing, which underscores the significant achievement of advancing to the state championship.

Best of Luck!

Sincerely,

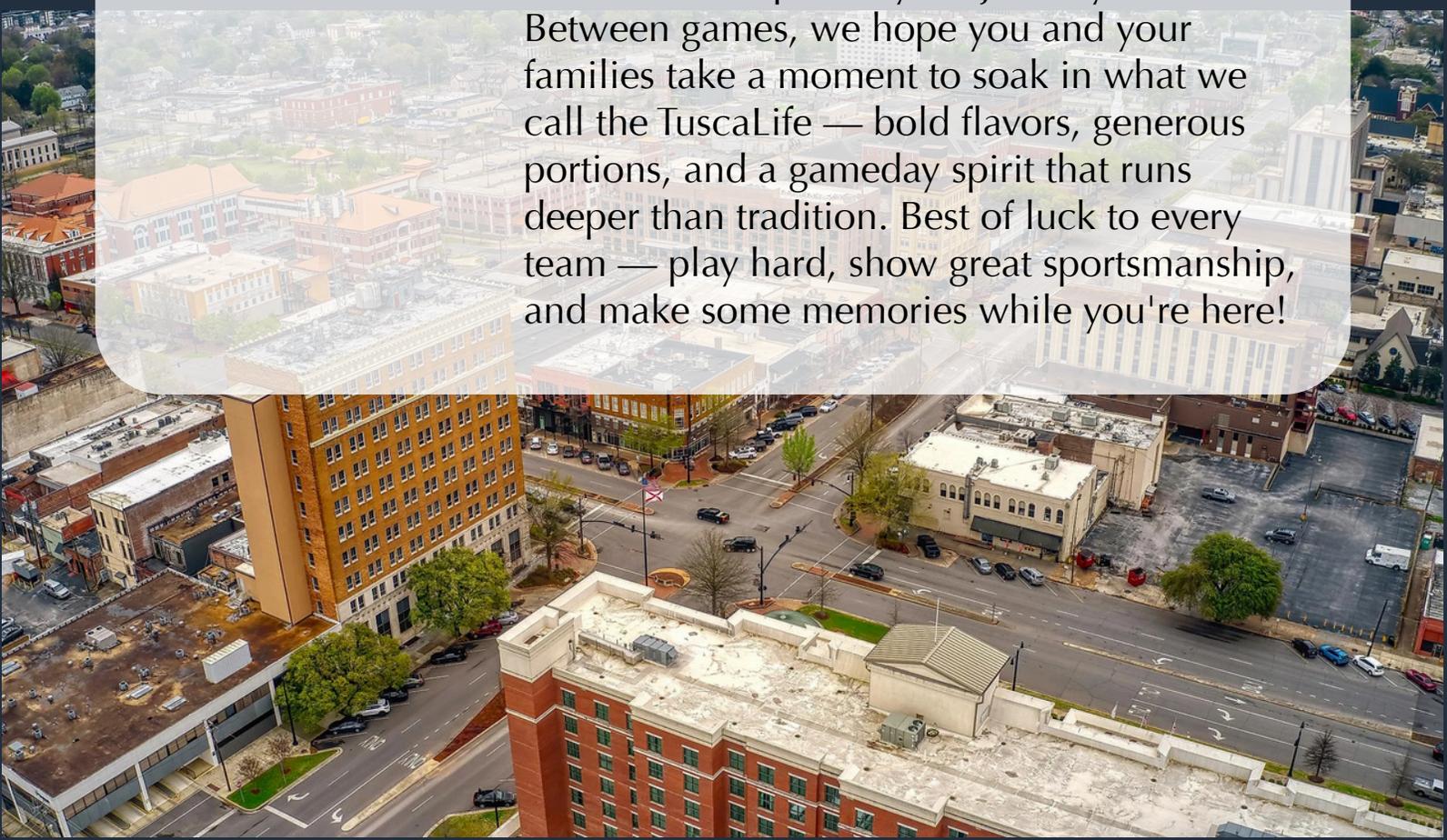
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.D. Robertson, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Ward D. "Rob" Robertson, III  
Judge of Probate  
Chairman, Tuscaloosa County Commission



Kelsey Rush, TMP

On behalf of Visit Tuscaloosa, welcome to Tuscaloosa for the ARPA Boys and Girls State Basketball Tournament. We are proud to host this outstanding championship event and to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and teamwork that brought each of you here. Reaching the state tournament is a tremendous accomplishment, and we are honored to be part of your journey. Between games, we hope you and your families take a moment to soak in what we call the TuscaLife — bold flavors, generous portions, and a gameday spirit that runs deeper than tradition. Best of luck to every team — play hard, show great sportsmanship, and make some memories while you're here!



*Dear ARPA Participants, Families, and Officials,*



Brian C. Davis, CEO

*Welcome to Tuscaloosa and the 2026 ARPA Boys & Girls State Basketball Tournament! We are thrilled to have you here and excited to celebrate the energy, talent, and passion that each of you brings to this incredible event. Reaching this tournament is no small accomplishment. It represents months of practice, teamwork, determination, and the kind of commitment that builds not only strong athletes but strong character. This weekend is your time to shine—to compete, to connect, and to showcase the very best of youth athletics in Alabama.*

*At PARA, we believe sports are about more than wins and losses—they're about friendships, confidence, and memories that last a lifetime. Whether you're stepping onto the court for the first time or playing in your final youth tournament, we hope this experience is one you'll always remember.*

*While you're here, enjoy everything our community has to offer. Tuscaloosa is proud to host you, proud to cheer you on, and proud to be part of your journey. Our staff, volunteers, and officials are here to make sure your time here is fun, competitive, and truly special.*

*Thank you for being part of this amazing event. Play hard, support one another, and soak in every moment. We're glad you're here—and we can't wait to see you compete!*

*Let the games begin, and welcome to Tuscaloosa!*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian C. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Brian C. Davis, CEO  
Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority (PARA)*



# Tournament Checklists

**Entry Fee is \$150 this is due no later than Friday, March 6, 2026**

**CHECKS should be made out to Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority, 3801 Loop Road, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404. Checks should be received by Friday, March 6, 2026.**

**Mandatory Coaches meeting & Information session will be on Friday, March 13th at the McDonald Hughes Center (3101 Martin Luther King Blvd, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401) at 2 pm**

**All teams must send credentials packets (roster, birth certificates, medical release forms) to:**

**PARA 3801 Loop Road, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404, attn: Jay Logan**

**Scan & email:**

**[jlogan@tcpara.org](mailto:jlogan@tcpara.org)**

**All credentials packets must arrive by Friday, March 6, 2026.**

**CLEAR BAG POLICY IS REQUIRED & WILL BE ENFORCED**

**Cash only at our Gates, and concessions**

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

**Jay Logan, Tournament Director 205.361.2254 [jlogan@tcpara.org](mailto:jlogan@tcpara.org)**

**Keith Jenkins Co-Director, Logistics 205.345.4542 [kjenkins@tcpara.org](mailto:kjenkins@tcpara.org)**

**Taurus Pyles & Tara Newman Co-Directors, Coach/Player Liaison 205.899-1828 [tnewman@tcpara.org](mailto:tnewman@tcpara.org)**

**Lakeisha Jones & Shanon Lyles, Administrative & Coach Safety Liaison 205.562.3220**

**Reagan Evans Marketing & Communications [marketing@tcpara.org](mailto:marketing@tcpara.org)**

# Quick Reference Guide



**Paul W. Bryant High School**  
6315 Mary Harmon Bryant Dr,  
Cottondale, AL 35453  
14U & 18U If Needed

School dismissals at 3pm will affect parking on Friday  
Cash Only No Large Bills for admission and concessions.



**Belk Activity Center**  
2101 Bowers Park Dr  
10U, 12U & 14U  
(18U, if needed)

There are two entrances for Bowers Park. Either entrance will get you to the Belk Activity Center.

**Admission is \$10** per day at both the main gym and the multipurpose gym.

205.562.3220  
Ages 6 and under free



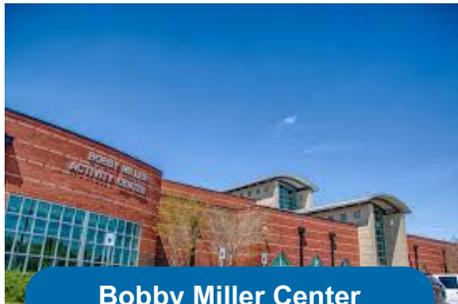
**Central High School**  
905 15th St Tuscaloosa AL  
10U, 12U (14U if needed)  
14U & 18U If Needed

Parking will be located at the north, east entrances off 10th avenue, as well as 15th St.

School dismissals at 3pm will affect parking on Friday.

**Admission is \$10** per day at both the main gym and auxiliary gym.

205.361.2254  
Ages 6 and under free



**Bobby Miller Center**  
300 Bobby Miller Pkwy,  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405  
10U & 12U (14U If Needed)

Cash Only No Large Bills for admission and concessions.



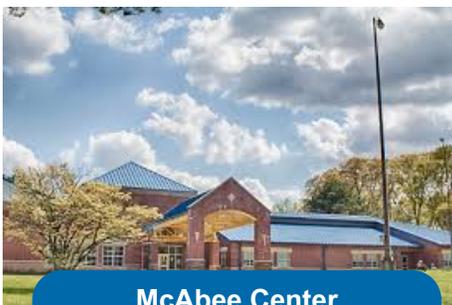
**McDonald Hughes Center Gym**  
3101 Martin Luther King Blvd,  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
8U, 18U If Needed

Cash Only No Large Bills for admission and concessions.



**Benjamin Barnes YMCA Gym**  
3011 Martin Luther King Blvd,  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
8U If Needed

Cash Only No Large Bills for admission and concessions.



**McAbee Center**  
3801 Loop Rd, Tuscaloosa,  
AL 35404  
8U

# RULE III - YOUTH BASKETBALL

## ARTICLE I - ELIGIBILITY

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### SECTION A - AGE DIVISIONS

- (1) Theage Control Date is on or before September 1st of the previous year.
- (2) There are (5) Boys and (3) Girls age divisions. The divisions are:
  - (a) Boys and girls ages 8 and under
  - (b) Boys and girls ages 10 and under
  - (c) Boys and girls ages 12 and under
  - (d) Boys and (girls) ages 14 and under
  - (e) Boys and (girls) ages 18 and under
- (3) A participant is allowed to compete in one division only in ARPA District and State. Youth participants may compete in an older youth age division provided they remain in that same older youth division for all games through ARPA District and State.
- (4) A person may compete in District and State levels of play provided he or she is not in violation of any rules or regulations in this Manual. (REF: Rule I)
- (5) **Regular season basketball team rosters due January 15 to District Recreational Sports Chair.**

### SECTION B - ENTRIES

- (1) An affiliatemayenter into District Competition as many teams as it wishes to enter in all divisions provided the District does not establish an entry limit.
- (2) A District not conducting a District level tournament or playoff may allow two Affiliate teams to represent its District at the State level of competition in each age group.
- (3) Only persons whose names are approved on their Affiliate team’s ARPA Official Roster, who meet all ARPA eligibility requirements, and who are representing an Affiliate not on current suspension for basketball may compete in ARPA games.
- (4) The ARPA Official Roster limit for players is fifteen (15) players.
- (5) State tournament shall consist of the winner and runner-up of each age group from every district and/or sub district division plus the state tournament host team. The request for additional teams shall go from the tournament host to all the district sports chairs.
- (6) When any District in the Alabama Parks and Recreation Basketball program reaches twelve (12) teams in any age group, they would be allowed to subdivide and be allowed to send a winner and runner-up from each division to the ARPA State Tournament.

## ARTICLE II - REGULATIONS

### SECTION A - GOVERNING RULES

- (1) ARPAbasketballgames atthe Statelevel of play are governed by the current rules and regulations of the Alabama High School Athletic Association Constitution and By-Laws with the exceptions found in this Manual.
- (2) The National Federation (National Alliance) Edition of Basketball Rule Book is the official guide for ARPA and AHSAA games with the exceptions as may be found in this Manual.

### SECTION B - LENGTH OF GAMES

Age Division	Length of Game
8 & Under Boys and Girls	Six (6) minute quarters
10 & Under Boys and Girls	Six (6) minute quarters
12 & Under Boys and Girls	Six (6) minute quarters
14 & Under Boys	Six (6) minute quarters
18 & Under Boys	Eight (8) minute quarters

**SECTION C - SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

- (1) A team must have five players(in any particular division) to start a game.
- (2) No form of tobacco is permitted on the playing court or in the bench area regardless of gymnasium rules.
- (3) There will be no full court press in the 10 & under Basketball age groups until the last quarter. There will be no full court press in the 8 & under for the entire game.
- (4) Teams will be given two warnings concerning backcourt pressure. After the second warning if a violation occurs, a team technical will be assessed to the coach.  
**8 & Under / 10 & Under** : 8 & Under and 10 & Under Players Positioning for Foul Shots- Foul line will be three (3) feet shorter than regulations. Players will line up at regulation positions.
- (5) **Exception** : When a hangover goal is used in the 8 & under division, foul shots will be taken from the regulation free throw line and players will line up in regulation positions.)
- (6) Teams must be present at site & ready to play at their designated game time. Game time is determined by the Tournament’s Official Bracket. Penalty: Forfeit.
- (7) The 3-point rule shall be allowed in all age divisions (boys and girls) in youth basketball.
- (8) A full court press is defined as any pressure applied on an offensive player in the backcourt, either on an inbounds or after change of possession while the ball is live.
- (9) **8 & Under:**During the last (1) one minute of the fourth quarter & overtime, the clock will stop on every made basket until the ball crosses half-court. Also, the clock will not start until the ball crosses half-court following a dead ball.
- (10) A team cannot press (apply full court pressure on defense) if ahead by 20 or more points. This rule applies to all age divisions
- (11) **Mercy Rule** : Any time a team leads by 30 or more points at any point in the second half of a game the clock will run and only stop on timeouts and end of quarter.

**ARTICLE III - EQUIPMENT**

**SECTION A - APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

- (1) Shoes are mandatory for all play in all divisions. Shoes shall be smooth and soft-soled for athletic use.
- (2) Uniforms for all players shall be defined as a team shirt or jersey with legal numbers on the front and back, identical in style and color with other players on the same team. A technical foul will be given at the beginning of each game to teams that fail to have legal numbers on the front and back of the uniforms as per federation rules.
- (3) Basketballs, Goal Height and Free Throw Line Distance (please see table below):
  - (a) All basketballs that meet the current standards of the Alabama High School Athletic Association shall be used.
  - (b) No other basketballs except those approved above shall be used for ARPA games unless approved by the Recreational Sports Committee Chairperson.

<b>Age Division</b>	<b>Ball Size</b>	<b>Goal Height</b>	<b>Free Throw Line Distance</b>
8 & Under Boys and Girls	28.5” (women’s ball)	8’ Feet	12 Feet
10 & Under Boys and Girls	28.5” (women’s ball)	10’ Feet	12 Feet
12 & Under Boys	29.5” (men’s ball)	10’ Feet	15 Feet
12 & Under Girls	28.5” (women’s ball)	10’ Feet	15 Feet
14 & Under Boys	29.5” (men’s ball)	10’ Feet	15 Feet
18 & Under Boys	29.5” (men’s ball)	10’ Feet	15 Feet

**SECTION B - PLAYING COURT REQUIREMENTS**

Court specifications and height of goal shall be in accordance with the Alabama High School Association standards found in the National Federation Basketball Rule Book.

## ARTICLE IV - GAMES AND AWARDS

### SECTION A - DISTRICT

- (1) Each District shall have the right to conduct its own basketball tournaments for each division in a manner approved by the majority vote of participating District Affiliates provided any exceptions to the rules in this manual are approved by a District's State Recreational Sports Committee member. District or Affiliate Hosts are responsible for all District awards.
- (2) It is recommended that District Level competition in Basketball be completed as follows:
  - (a) All divisions (8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under) must be complete by the last Saturday in February. All rosters must be signed off on before play begins on the last Saturday in February by a Rec Sports Committee Member. A committee member cannot sign off on rosters of the departments they are employed by.

### SECTION B - STATE

- (1) The State Tournaments in all divisions of basketball shall be:
  - a) **Two game guarantee (single pool game seeds into predetermined single elimination bracket.)**
  - b) **Champion and Runner-up only from each District, plus a host team, will be allowed in each age division.**
  - c) **Both District Champion and Runner-up will be required to advance to State** to be scheduled on the following dates: All divisions (8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under) to be played on the second Friday, Saturday and Sunday (if necessary) in March.
  - d) **If you do not show up for pool play game, in basketball, you are automatically disqualified from the tournament. Host city keeps your entry fee.**
- (2) State Tournament pairings will be determined by Blind Draw by a group of at least 3 individuals composed of the State Recreational Sports Committee Chairperson, Tournament Director and District Recreational Sports Committee Members.
- (3) Trophies will be awarded to the Affiliates that finish first and second in each division. A sportsmanship trophy will be awarded in each age division. The Recreational Sports Committee Representatives and the Game Officials will determine the recipients of this award.

## ARTICLE V - OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS

### SECTION A - HOST

- (1) The Host Affiliate shall provide a minimum number of competent adults for scorers and timers, a Tournament Director, and approved game officials in accordance with Rule II, Article IV, and Rule II, Article V, Section b, Paragraph 1 (a).
- (2) The Host Affiliate shall be responsible for proper conduct by Spectators.
- (3) The Host Affiliate shall be responsible for providing the game ball in accordance with ARPA specifications in these rules.
- (4) The Host Affiliate shall be responsible for seeing that the playing court and gymnasium meet ARPA specifications.  
**NOTE:** See Rule I, Article IV, Section B and C for tournament organizations and host responsibilities.
- (5) *The host shall be responsible for supplying warm-up balls.*

### SECTION B - GAME OFFICIALS

See Rule II, Article IV.

### SECTION C - PLAYERS AND OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

- (1) Any player, coach, manager, team scorer, or assistant disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct including abusive language is ineligible for further participation in the game in progress, the following scheduled game, and may be dismissed from ARPA competition by a State Recreational Sports Committee member, Tournament Director, or District Commissioner (at the District level only).
- (2) The use of ineligible players in accordance with the Rules in the Manual shall result in forfeiture (of game and tournament). Burden of proof rests with the protesting Affiliate's representative (See Rule II, Article I, Section A, Paragraph 2).

## ARTICLE VI - PROTESTS AND APPEALS

See Rule II, Article I, Section A.

## ARTICLE VII - FEES

- (1) Districts will establish the fee schedule for their District tournaments.
  - (a) In addition to the above fees, there will be a onetime charge of \$10.00 per team to be paid to the State Office. Host will be responsible for collecting.
- (2) Fees from the ARPA State Basketball Tournament are to be set at \$150.00 per team.
  - (a) In addition to the above fees, there will be a onetime charge of \$25.00 per team to be paid to the State Office. Tournament host will be responsible for paying this fee to the state office.



## REMINDER

The theme for the tournament's play is **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**. The bottom line is that we are here to watch our children play a game, so please enjoy the games for what they are and let the participants do the same. Good sportsmanship is expected and required from all in attendance.



# 2026 State Boys and Girls Basketball State Tournament Hotels

AC Hotel: 2585 6th St, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Avid Hotel: 3924 McFarland Blvd E, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Courtyard by Marriott – Tuscaloosa: 4115 Courtney Dr, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Courtyard by Marriott – Northport: 700 Bridge Ave, Northport, AL 35476

Homewood Suites: 2451 Jack Warner Pkwy, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Hampton Inn: 600 Harper Lee Dr, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

Holiday Inn Express Suites: 1120 Veterans Memorial Pkwy, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

Hampton Inn - University: 600 Harper Lee Dr, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

Residence Inn by Marriott: 211 Rice Mine Rd Loop, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406

Hampton Inn - East: 6400 Interstate Dr, Tuscaloosa, AL 35453

Home2 Suites: 2610 University Blvd, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

***View all:***

[visittuscaloosa.com/listing-category/stay/](https://visittuscaloosa.com/listing-category/stay/)

***Camping:***

[tcpara.org/p/van-de-graaff-arboretum](https://tcpara.org/p/van-de-graaff-arboretum)

***Play Easy Hotels:***

[playeasy.com/events/](https://playeasy.com/events/)



# 2026 State Boys and Girls Basketball State Tournament Emergency Contacts

DCH Regional Medical center  
809 University Blvd. E Tuscaloosa al 35401  
205-759-7111

Ambulance  
Dial 911

Tuscaloosa Police Department  
3801 officer Trevor s. Phillips Ave Tuscaloosa Al 35401  
205-349-2121  
Tuscaloosa.com

**Walk in clinics:**  
Crimson Care Clinic  
1718 veterans memorial parkway Tuscaloosa al 35401  
205-270-5146

Northport Police Department  
3701 26th avenue Northport Al 35473  
205-339-6600  
Cityofnorthport.org

Med center south  
5005 Oscar Baxter drive Tuscaloosa al 35405  
205-343-222

Tuscaloosa county sheriff office  
714 half Greensboro Avenue Tuscaloosa al 35401  
205-752-0616  
Tcsoal.org

**Pharmacies:**  
CVS  
808 veteran's memorial parkway Tuscaloosa aal 35404  
205-345-0531

City of Tuscaloosa 311  
205-248-5311  
Tuacloosa.com

Walgreens  
4200 McFarland Blvd E Tuscaloosa Al 35405  
205-759-1103

Tuscaloosa fire and Rescue  
2201 university Blvd. Tuscaloosa al 35401  
205-248-5420

Walmart neighborhood market  
4201 Hargrove Rd E Tuscaloosa Al 35405  
205-632-6150

15th St Pharmacy  
445 15th St E Tuscaloosa Al 35401 205-345-3180