

**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**  
**2026 Boys' State "B" Basketball Tournament**  
**Barnett Center, Northern State University, Aberdeen**  
**March 19-21, 2026**

**TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS:**

Kristina Sage, Assistant Executive Director, SDHSAA  
Dawn Seiler, Athletic Director, Aberdeen Central High School



**HOST VENUE:**

Barnett Center  
Northern State University  
1400 S. State Street  
Aberdeen, S.D. 57401  
605.626.3336

**STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:**

**1. Practice Sessions**

A practice session for your team has been scheduled at the Barnett Center, Northern State University on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The practice times are listed below. Each team has the floor for 60 minutes.

9:00 – 10:00 – Closest School	1:00 - 2:00 – Next Closest
10:00 - 11:00 – Next Closest	2:00 - 3:00 – Next Closest
11:00 - 12:00 – Next Closest	3:00 - 4:00 – Next Closest
12:00 – 1:00 – Next Closest	4:00 - 5:00 – Longest Distance

Note: Please check the SDHSAA website following the SoDak 16 for practice schedule  
<https://www.sdhsaa.com/activity/boys-basketball-championships/>

Teams may trade practice times with another team. This is to be worked out with the schools involved in the switch. Notification can then be made to Dawn Seiler, Athletic Director, Aberdeen Central High School.

**2. Basketballs**

Basketballs will be furnished for the Wednesday practice as well as for each ball game.

**3. Bus Parking and Team Entrance**

Bus parking on West side of Barnett Center. Teams/Officials are asked to enter the West door of the Barnett Center; Only passes may enter this door. Only teams, officials, press and workers are allowed in the athletic hallway.

**4. Team Lodging**

Team lodging has been arranged for participating teams at the Ramkota Hotel in Aberdeen. Each participating team has 10-12 rooms reserved for its needs for each Wednesday through Saturday night. It is your responsibility to contact the hotel and make payment arrangements for your rooms, as well as cancel any rooms that you do not need.

## 5. Coaches Meeting

There will be an important meeting for all coaches on **Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, in the Barnett Center, beginning at 5:15 p.m. prior to the FCA dinner. All head coaches must attend.** The purpose of this meeting is to provide you with your team packets that will have information and instructions along with your team passes.

## 6. OFFICIAL SQUAD

- Your roster is the **on-line form** on the SDHSAA website.
- A team's state roster is the same as the region roster.
- The roster may include as many names on it as a school wishes, but a school may only dress 15 for a contest.

**Only 15 players can sit on the team bench dressed in a school issued uniform for any one game during the tournament. These 15 players can change each game if necessary. Other non-playing team members sitting on the bench must be in street attire or non-playing outfits.**

## 7. Program and Media Guide Information

**Program Information -Info should be sent to Sara Opheim - [sara@creativeprinting.com](mailto:sara@creativeprinting.com)**

Due Wednesday March 11 at noon.

TEAM Photo – labeled (identifying team members)

COACH Photo – labeled

CHEERLEADER Photo – labeled

### **MEDIA GUIDE INFORMATION (stats)**

All qualifying teams shall submit season statistics (from any stats program) to the SDHSAA by FRIDAY, MARCH 13 at noon. Stats forms should be sent to [nicki.axtell@sdhsaa.com](mailto:nicki.axtell@sdhsaa.com).

**Any qualifying school which fails to comply will be assessed as a \$50.00 fine and may not be in the program or media guide.**

## 8. Substitutions/Scratch List

A school may include as many players on the Team Roster as he/she wishes, however, only fifteen players may suit up for a given game. Each player's name must appear on a Master Eligibility List filed with the SDHSAA office. If a school needs to draw upon a substitute during the tournament whose name was not on the original Team Roster, they may do so as long as the substitute is eligible under the Constitution and By-Laws of the SDHSAA.

The State Tournament Director must be notified of the substitution however. It is not necessary for a coach to verify each day the 15 players who will be playing in the game, unless it is necessary to draw upon a player whose name was not on the original list.

## 9. Passes/Tickets for the Competing Schools

For each school qualifying for the tournament, complimentary tickets will be provided as follows:

- **Players/Student Managers:** 20 passes will be issued for players, student managers, statisticians, etc. (given at tournament in team packet)
- **Cheerleaders:** A maximum of 8 passes (plus one Mascot if listed) will be issued to varsity cheerleaders as listed on the Team Roster and School Information Form on the SDHSAA. **Cheer coaches** will receive a maximum of two complimentary passes as listed on the same form (both cheerleader and cheer coach passes given at tournament in team packet) If number of passes is not adequate, additional tickets may be purchased by the school at the tournament venue.
- **Coaches:** 6 adult passes will be issued to be used for coaches and adult personnel assisting in bench duties -includes trainer (given at tournament in team packet)
- **Bus Driver:** One bus driver pass (labeled and given at tournament in team packet)
- **School:** Eight (8) season complimentary tickets to each school. (these were given to you following your SoDak 16 contest)

## 10. Tickets for Qualifying Schools

Tickets will be sold in Aberdeen at the Northern State University.

**Advanced Pre-Sale Ticket Sales:** Each advancing school will receive 100 adult and 100 student all tournament passes to be pre-sold prior to the tournament. Contact your qualifying school administration if you are interested in purchasing one of these passes.

<u>Ticket Prices for Tournament</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Adult</u>
Single Session	\$10.00	\$15.00
All Tournament Pass (6 sessions)	\$30.00	\$50.00

All tickets are general admission. There are no reserved seats. Proper student identification must be shown to purchase student tickets. Tickets are for High School, Jr. High and elementary students only.

## 11. SDHSAA Tournament Headquarters

The State Association Headquarters during the State "B" Boys Basketball Tournament will be at the Barnett Center Room #BC 50, directly inside the main north doors on your left. All games will be played at the Barnett Center. Phone numbers for the headquarters are: and 605-380-2678.

## **12. Tournament Referees**

The SDHSAA Basketball Officials' Selection Committee has obtained 12 competent officials and all decisions of the officials shall be final. The list of State Tournament Officials can be found on the SDHSAA Website.

<b>Spencer Aberle, Aberdeen</b>	<b>Josh Maag, Watertown</b>
<b>Kevin Ball, Mitchell</b>	<b>Jeremy Mikkelsen, Pierre</b>
<b>Jerry Beers, Brookings</b>	<b>Jordan Opp, Redfield</b>
<b>Brent Dirks, Shadehill</b>	<b>Scott Sonne, Plankinton</b>
<b>Lee Johnson, Wessington Springs</b>	<b>Andrew Wanner, Groton</b>
<b>Josh Kemp, Stickney</b>	<b>Scott Witlock, Aberdeen</b>

## **13. Tournament Pairing/Schedule/Starting Times**

The pairings are as follows:

Thursday, March 19	11:00 a.m.	Seed 1 vs Seed 8
Thursday, March 19	12:45 p.m.	Seed 4 vs Seed 5
Thursday, March 19	5:00 p.m.	Seed 2 vs Seed 7
Thursday, March 19	6:45 p.m.	Seed 3 vs Seed 6

### **Starting Times for Each Session.**

All morning sessions begin at 11:00 a.m.

All evening sessions begin at 5:00 p.m.

There will be 15 minutes between games. The 15 minutes will begin once the floor is cleared from the previous game.

Doors are open one hour prior to each session starting.

## **14. No Opening Ceremony Saturday Evening**

## **15. Towels**

No towel service, please bring your own towels.

## **16. Video Taping Policy**

The following is taken from the SDHSAA videotaping policy as printed in the General section of the Handbook. For the complete policy, refer to the Handbook.

### **Video Taping Policy - At State Events**

- A. Provided that videotaping is not intended for broadcast, participating schools may videotape the game or event that involves their team or athletes.
- B. Upon advising the SDHSAA and the team(s) and/or individuals involved in a specific state event, schools may videotape other teams and/or individuals for scouting purposes at said state event.

C. Parents or guardians may videotape the game or event that involves their own son or daughter.

### 17. Presentation of Awards

All awards will be presented at the conclusion of each game on Saturday. Teams will line up on the end line and be presented medals and plaque/trophy immediately following each game. Details will be provided to each team during the coaches meeting.

The South Dakota Peace Officer's Auxiliary will present the "Spirit of Six" award to a selected squad of cheerleaders. The family of Suanne Big Crow will present the "Spirit of Su" award to an outstanding senior basketball player.

The SDHSAA will award four team trophies and four plaques.

- Trophies will go to the following:
  - championship team
  - runner-up team
  - third place team
  - consolation championship team
- The other four teams will receive plaques to show participation in the tournament.
- Twenty individual medals will be given to each team.

The maximum number of student names to be read at the State Basketball Awards ceremony is at the discretion of the participating schools.

2nd Game Half Time: "Spirit of Six" Award  
"Spirit of Su" Award

After Championship game: Awards to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Award Protocol.** All fans will be expected to remain off the playing floor. Failure to remain off the playing floor will result in the offending team not being recognized by the public address announcer. Medals and trophy will be awarded to school personnel following the awards ceremony. Fans will not be allowed on to the playing floor following the presentation of all awards.

### 18. State Tournament Regulations for Fans

Sportsmanship/Conduct - Administrators responsibility. No signs, pom-poms, banners or mechanical noisemakers allowed, no jumping on bleachers, other rules & regulations. **Review regulations published in the general section of handbook** for both adult fans and student body.

### 19. Tournament Expenses

Each team entered in the State Tournament shall pay all its own expenses.

### 20. Cheerleaders' Rules

- a. A maximum of 8 varsity basketball cheerleaders and plus one Mascot if listed will be permitted on the playing floor at the State Tournament. This means no lower level cheerleaders will be allowed to assist in leading cheers at any game.
- b. Only cheerleaders listed on the SDHSAA web site will be allowed to cheer at the state tournament.
- c. In many cases, cheerleaders remain too close to the playing floor. For the protection of

- all, they should take a position that will not interfere with the game as played.
- d. Spirit or Yell Leaders will be allowed provided they are so designated by their school and appear in school approved uniform. All other impromptu groups are prohibited from leading yells.
  - e. All cheerleaders are expected to adhere to the NFHS Spirit Rules and the Sideline Cheer section of the SDHSAA Athletic Handbook.
    - 1) Schools with stunting squads must have a cheer coach satisfying the SDHSAA Cheer Safety Education Guidelines.
    - 2) During the National Anthem, cheerleaders should stand at attention with their right hand over their heart and their left hand either behind their back or straight down to their side. No pom pom's shall be in the hands during the National Anthem.
    - 3) All cheerleaders will be introduced prior to the start of the ball game on THURSDAY ONLY.

**22. High School Student and Adult Press Pass Request**

To request a High School Press Pass or Adult Press Pass, log into your school dashboard, click on the SD Icon on the left side bar, and on the forms page, under Journalism click on the link that says Student Press and Adult Press Pass Request. **These are due by 1:00 p.m. on the Monday Prior to the state event.** Students' names must be listed on the school's journalism roster on the SDHSAA website. If school journalism roster has not been submitted on the SDHSAA website, press passes will NOT be issued to that school.

**Media Entrance:** Located at the West side of the Barnett Center. Same as the Team Entrance.

**23. Hospitality Room**

There will not be a hospitality room at any state events. Concession stand will be available.

**24. Door Openings: Ticket Sales and Pass Gate**

Thursday, March 19	Session 1	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 19	Session 2	4:00 p.m.
Friday, March 20	Session 3	10:00 a.m.
Friday, March 20	Session 4	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 21	Session 5	10:00 a.m.
Saturday, March 21	Session 6	4:00 p.m.

**25. Fellowship of Christian Athletes**

SD FCA Office will be hosting an FCA dinner which will be held on Wednesday evening following the coaches meeting. **The location will be the Library Auditorium room which is located on the 2nd Floor at the Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center (ARCC) at 225 3rd Ave SE.** All coaches, players and cheerleaders are urged to attend. This function is not sponsored by the South Dakota High School Activities Association.