

# **Basketball of the Carolinas 2026 Eligibility Information**

Basketball of the Carolinas has adopted the following eligibility rules regarding age and grade-based divisions. These rules are evaluated periodically, and any changes/updates will be posted immediately to our website. Make sure you continue to check the website to make sure you are up to date with the latest eligibility rules and ALL your players are currently playing with the correct age/grade divisions.

Players must show proof of age (copy of birth certificate or another state issued form such as a driver's license or identification card from the DMV) and proof of current grade (copy of school issued report card or progress report from the current school year). Players in 9u/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade-14u/8<sup>th</sup> Grade age divisions are still required to provide proof of grade even though those divisions may be based on age also.

Players in 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade divisions will have to show proof of age and grade no matter what.

Basketball of the Carolinas HIGHLY recommends that ALL players get a state issued photo ID from the DMV. For 2026 BOC will not require this, but it will be required for ALL players soon. Basketball of the Carolinas suggests that teams go ahead and have all players get these to be prepared for this requirement and to more accurately prove who each player truly is.

Homeschool players must have all proper proof with updated/current STATE DOCUMENTS showing they are allowed by the state to be homeschooled. Homeschool players eligibility is based upon age ONLY.

**Note: Boys and Girls eligibility is slightly different.**

**If you are not sure what division a player belongs in, contact us BEFORE the tournament deadline and we will be glad to help you.**

# **Basketball of the Carolinas**

## **Boys Basketball**

Basketball of the Carolinas is using an Age/Grade based system currently for most tournaments. Once players are in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, BOC uses a GRADE based system exclusively.

**9 & Under (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade):** All players must be 9 years old or younger on June 30, 2026

**10 & Under (4<sup>th</sup> Grade):** All players must be 10 years old or younger on June 30, 2026

**11 & Under (5<sup>th</sup> Grade):** All players must be 11 years old or younger on June 30, 2026

**12 & Under (6<sup>th</sup> Grade):** All players must be 12 years old or younger on June 30, 2026

**13 & Under (7<sup>th</sup> Grade):** All boys must be 13 years old or younger on June 30, 2026

**14 & Under (8<sup>th</sup> Grade):** All boys must be 14 years old or younger on June 30, 2026

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade** – All boys must be in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade as of October 1, 2025 & must be 16 years old or younger on August 31, 2026 *or a boy in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade that does not turn 16 prior to September 1, 2026*

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade** – All boys must be in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade as of October 1, 2025 & must be 17 years old or younger on August 31, 2026 *or a boy in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade that does not turn 17 prior to September 1, 2026*

**11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Grade** – All boys must be in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade as of October 1, 2025 & must be 19 years old or younger on August 31, 2026

**Note: Players may play up in older divisions but cannot play down. They must fit the age and/or grade requirements to play in a division or be younger and playing up. Meaning a 13-year-old can play up in the 14u age division, but that same 13-year-old cannot play down in the 12u age division or a 10<sup>th</sup> grader can play up in the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade division, but that same 10<sup>th</sup> grader cannot play down in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade division.**

# Basketball of the Carolinas

## Girls Basketball

For 2026, BOC will use a GRADE based system for Girls basketball. Only girls may participate on girls' teams.

**3rd Grade** – a girl must be in the 3rd grade as of October 1, 2025 & she cannot turn 11 before September 1, 2026 *or a girl in the 4th grade that does not turn 10 prior to September 1, 2026*

**4th Grade** – a girl must be in the 4th grade as of October 1, 2025 & she cannot turn 12 before September 1, 2026 *or a girl in the 5th grade that does not turn 11 prior to September 1, 2026*

**5th Grade** – a girl must be in the 5th grade as of October 1, 2025 & she cannot turn 13 before September 1, 2026 *or a girl in the 6th grade that does not turn 12 prior to September 1, 2026*

**6th Grade** – a girl must be in the 6th grade as of October 1, 2025 & she cannot turn 14 before September 1, 2026 *or a girl in the 7th grade that does not turn 13 prior to September 1, 2026*

**7th Grade** – a girl must be in the 7th grade as of October 1, 2025 & she cannot turn 15 before September 1, 2026 *or a girl in the 8th grade that does not turn 14 prior to September 1, 2026*

**8th Grade** – a girl must be in the 8th grade as of October 1, 2025 & she cannot turn 16 before September 1, 2026 *or a girl in the 9th grade that does not turn 15 prior to September 1, 2026*

**9th Grade** – a girl must be in the 9th grade as of October 1, 2025 & she cannot turn 17 before September 1, 2026 *or a girl in the 10th grade that does not turn 16 prior to September 1, 2026*

**10th Grade** – a girl must be in the 10th grade as of October 1, 2025 & she cannot turn 18 before September 1, 2026 *or a girl in the 11th grade that does not turn 17 prior to September 1, 2026*

**11th/12th Grade** – a girl must be in the 11th or 12th grade as of October 1, 2025 & she cannot turn 20 before September 1, 2026

**Note:** Girls may play up in older grade divisions but cannot play down. They must fit the grade/age requirements to play in a division or be younger and playing up. Meaning a 7th grader can play up in the 8th grade division or higher, but that same 7th grader cannot play down in the 6th grade division.