

2026 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals

March 10-14 State Tournament Information

1. No more than 14 players from any school may participate in the state tournament or be in uniform. The roster used in the 1st round of state is the roster that must be used for the rest of the state tournament. (If a verified medical problem exists, a player may be substituted for the remainder of the tournament with approval from the tournament/site director.)
2. During the contest, no more than 20 members of a qualifying team will be permitted free entry and may sit on the bench, behind the bench, or at the scorer's table. This includes players, coaches, managers, JV players, administrators, etc. This rule will be strictly enforced! Please do not attempt to get more than 20 members in the gym, on the court, or in the locker rooms. The athletic trainer will not count toward your 20 team members.
3. Bus drivers will be admitted free of charge through the Comp Door at all three sites.
4. The Comp Door at The Pit is located on the Southeast corner of the building; at Rio Rancho Event Center it is located to the left of the ticket booth, east side, lower level; and at Bernalillo, the comp door will be at the main entrance on the south side of the gymnasium.
5. Beginning with the 1st round, when not participating, players involved in the tournament will be admitted free of charge at the comp door by producing an ID and being listed on the team's roster. Coaches will enter by using the complimentary GoFan pass as designated by their Superintendent.
6. Players and coaches participating in the quarterfinal round will receive a souvenir bag tag. Bag tags will be handed to the coaches prior to their quarterfinal game. Bag tags do not give players free entry into tournament venues. They are merely a souvenir for the players.
7. If participating in a game at The Pit, team personnel will gain entry through the comp door on the east side of the Pit. One hour before game time, a locker room will be assigned to the team. Each team will be given "coach-player" passes for coaches, managers, and trainers to gain access to the ramp. Security will not allow anyone to go up and down the ramp unless this pass is visible (including coaches). Athletes must be in uniform to gain access to the ramp.
8. If participating in a game at the Rio Rancho Event Center, team personnel will gain entry through the Northwest Corner of the building at Gate 3. One hour prior to game time a locker room will be assigned to the team. Each team will be given passes for team personnel to gain access to the locker room and court areas. These passes must be visible and must be turned in to designated personnel at the completion of the game. If not participating in a game within one hour, team personnel may enter the facility through the comp door located on the left side of the main ticket office.
9. Officials for state quarterfinal, semifinal and final basketball contests may be assigned in one of two ways: split crews (one official from each of the regions participating schools, plus one "neutral" official) or neutral crews (officials from any of the three regions not represented in that game). Officials may not work for the same school in back-to-back games. The NMAA Commissioner of Officials and Regional Assigning Coordinators, with approval from the Director of Officiating Services will make the game assignments throughout the tournament.

10. The home team is defined as the higher seed. The home team will be in white uniforms and will occupy the bench to the left of the scorer's area, as he/she normally faces the playing floor. The visiting team will be in dark school colored or black uniforms and will occupy the bench to the right of the official scorer. During the 1st round, the home team will decide which bench they will be occupying.
11. Please be courteous and pick up all cups, trash, and water bottles around the bench area immediately after each contest. **PLEASE ensure locker rooms are left cleaner than you found them for the next team. This includes no celebrating with water or "Gatorade cooler dumping."** This has been an increasing practice that delays the next team accessing the locker room.
12. All teams are guaranteed a minimum of 15 minutes of warm-up time prior to each contest.
13. Halftime will be 10 minutes in length at The Pit unless communication from the NMAA staff indicates that it will be longer due to halftime festivities.
14. The Wilson NCAA EVO NXT basketball will be used in all boys' and girls' state tournament games in the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals.
15. An Athletic Trainer will be available at all three sites beginning with the quarterfinals.
16. Videotaping and/or filming are permissible if it does not interfere with spectators' view. Tripods and electrical cords are not allowed in the stands. Parents, fans, and school personnel may not live stream the game on any social media platform.
17. The cutting down of nets is prohibited by Board policy. This policy has been established for the safety of players and fans.
18. Coaches must be listed on your team's MaxPrep roster and have a GoFan comp pass ticket to access the hospitality room. The hospitality room will be in the suite level on the north side of the Pit. To access the suite level, individuals will need to use the stairs in the southeast corner of the arena near the McDavid Lounge.
19. At The Pit, buses should drop athletes off in the horseshoe on the East side and then park on the east side of the baseball field. UNM Police will be monitoring bus parking. Buses will not be able to park in the horseshoe.
20. At the Rio Rancho Event Center, the team drop off will be on Circle Dr. and Event Way. Parking Lot Attendants will be there to direct buses. The teams will enter on the Northwest Corner of the Building at Gate 3. Bus Drivers may enter the facility through the comp door entrance upon parking (east side, lower level).
21. UNM is charging \$7 for parking at the Pit for all vehicles. All other venues are free. Players and coaches who are not in a bus or school vehicle must adhere to UNM's parking procedures.
22. Athletic Directors, coaches and administrators in cars or vehicles with a government license plate will be able to park at the Pit free of charge. Make sure you mention your license plate to the parking attendant.
23. Cheerleaders in full uniform and two sponsors are admitted free of charge. They must enter the facility as a group to receive free admission. If entering The Pit, cheerleaders and their sponsor must enter through the comp door located on the southwest corner. If entering the Rio Rancho Event Center, cheerleaders and their sponsors must enter through the comp door that is located on the left side of the main ticket office. No more than twelve (12) cheerleaders may cheer on the floor at any one time, except for one-minute time outs and/or halftime performances.

24. Cheerleaders may not use, or bring, megaphones to any State Basketball Tournament games.
25. Dance Teams in uniform and two sponsors must enter the facility as a group through the comp door to gain free admission. Dance Teams will be seated in the stands and not on the floor if there is a cheer team available.
26. Band policies:
 - A. The band must enter the facility through the comp door as a group to be admitted free of charge.
 - B. The band must perform as a group.
 - C. The band may only play during pre-game, timeouts, intermission, and post-game.
 - D. The band must sit in a designated area.
 - E. Music is not permitted while certain entertainment is occurring on the floor.
27. Doors will open for spectators one half hour before the first game. Please make sure your parents are aware of this policy.
28. Signs may not be larger than 12" x 12", as they may obstruct the view of the game for fans. The language on the signs must "cheer on" a particular team, and not "cheer against" the opposing team. Tournament officials have the right to confiscate signs if they are too large or if they are offensive in nature. This includes the "face posters" of student-athletes.
29. **Noisemakers that simulate a whistle or horn are *NOT permitted*.** Tournament officials and security have the right to confiscate any noisemaker that is a hindrance to the game or officials. Confetti is not permitted.
30. Every quarterfinal, semifinal, and championship game, both boys and girls, will be streamed live on at www.NFHSnetwork.com.
31. Rio Rancho Event Center utilizes metal detectors at all entrances.
32. UNM, RREC and Bernalillo HS all have a clear bag policy. Please visit the UNM website for more information: <https://golobos.com/clear-bag-policy> and RREC website for more information: <https://www.rioranchoeventscenter.com/plan-your-visit/arena-policies/>
33. Northwest Designs will sell Championship souvenirs at each site and via their website at <https://online-apparel.com/s/nmaa-store/>. All online orders will be shipped directly to the customers' homes. Note that Northwest Designs is the ONLY vendor that can create/sell state championship merchandise (this includes pre-orders). Other clothing, t-shirts, etc. cannot be sold/distributed any other vendor/individual.