

## MCS HALF COURT BASKETBALL

All games will be played on a one-half basketball court utilizing (or improvising) the appropriate floor markings. In half-court games, only one basket is used, with the requirement that the ball be "cleared" whenever possession of the ball changes. A clearance is always required after a defensive rebound, but it is not required in turnover situations such as a steal, blocked shot, or air-ball (a shot that doesn't touch the rim); this simulates, to an extent, the fast break that might take place after a turnover. Once the rim is hit by an offensive teams' shot the ball must always be "cleared" in turnover situations. To clear the ball (or in more common usage to "backcourt" it), the team acquiring possession must pass or dribble the ball across the 3-point line, before attempting a shot. This simulates the time that would be required for the offensive team to advance the ball into the frontcourt, gives the defense a chance to take position, and provides all players with a visual and mental cue that their roles have reversed, making the half court game an excellent simulation of the full court game.

All losses of possession i.e., out-of-bounds, fouls, infractions will result in a check and restart of play from the top of the key.

A team failing to "clear" the ball before shooting will lose possession of the ball.

A team regaining possession of a ball that is not "cleared" properly may immediately shoot without having to "clear" the ball.

Three-point play will be in effect.

First team to score wins a game ending in a tie.

New team to the court is given first possession.

Length of games and size of teams: Varies with each class.

NYSPHSAA Basketball Rules will apply to all situations not covered.

One variation commonly seen in the half-court game is the "make-it-take-it" convention (also called "buckets," "keeps," "possession," or "winners-out"), followed in some regions, whereby the scoring team retains possession of the ball. This variation is discouraged by Mr. Owdienko but it will be allowed when plausible arguments are made in its defense.