



2026 SW Salsa Slam Invitational – Player Eligibility Rules

All Non-athletes/coaches are responsible to see that their team meets all eligibility requirements

Current seniors may participate in the tournament in the Varsity Division as long as they have not signed a letter of intent to play at the college level.

An athlete may participate in a maximum of two (2) grade divisions of the AAU Basketball program for which he or she can qualify.

An athlete may play in any grade division above his or hers current grade as long as he or she meets the requirements.

All athletes must meet the eligibility for the division they are playing in. We do not have an exception of eligibility that allows Girls to play down a division.

The Southwest Salsa Slam Invitational is grade based tournaments. Each grade division consists of a 24 month age window which determines an athlete's participation in that division. If an athlete's age is outside the 24 month window for their grade, the athlete must play up to the grade division that is normal and customary for their age. If an athlete is in any grade above what is normal and customary for their age, an athlete may play down provided they meet the established criteria listed in the information below.

2026 TOURNAMENT AGE/GRADE DIVISION RULES:

Ages are based on the grade players are in during the 2025-2026 school year. Age determining date is 9/1/2026

2nd Grade Division:

Players in the 2nd grade can be 8 or 9 years old, but cannot turn 10 before 9/1/2026.

Players in the 3rd grade who want to play down into the 2nd grade division cannot turn 9 before 9/1/2026.

3rd Grade Division:

Players in the 3rd grade can be 9 or 10 years old, but cannot turn 11 before 9/1/2026.

Players in the 4th grade who want to play down into the 3rd grade division cannot turn 10 before 9/1/2026.

4th Grade Division:

Players in the 4th grade can be 10 or 11 years old, but cannot turn 12 before 9/1/2026.

Players in the 5th grade who want to play down into the 4th grade divisions cannot turn 11 before 9/1/2026.

5th Grade Division:

Players in the 5th grade can be 11 or 12 years old, but cannot turn 13 before 9/1/2026.

Players in the 6th grade who want to play down into the 5th grade division cannot turn 12 before 9/1/2026

6th Grade Division:

Players in the 6th grade can be 12 or 13 years old, but cannot turn 14 before 9/1/2026.

Players in the 7th grade who want to play down into the 6th grade division cannot turn 13 before 9/1/2026.

7th Grade Division:

Players in the 7th grade can be 13 or 14 years old, but cannot turn 15 before 9/1/2026.

Players in the 8th grade who want to play down into the 7th grade division cannot turn 14 before 9/1/2026.

8th Grade Division:

Players in the 8th grade can be 14 or 15 years old, but cannot turn 16 before 9/1/2026.

Players in the 9th grade who want to play down into the 8th grade division cannot turn 15 before 9/1/2026.

Freshman Division:

Players who are currently in the 9th grade can play in the Freshman division.

JV Division:

Players who are currently in 11th grade can play in the JV division.

Varsity Divisions:

The boys' & girls' Varsity divisions are actually "open divisions," where unsigned seniors with remaining high school eligibility can play. However, players cannot turn 20 before 9/1/2026. Unsigned seniors can play as long as they have not committed in writing to play for a college at any level. Unsigned prep school players are also eligible to play in our tournaments. If a player has signed a letter of intent and you think they won't qualify because of grades, they still cannot play. The tournament management has the right to exclude any senior from playing. No player who has attended junior college or college may play in this event.

Proof of grade and age must be available for review, by an SSS designee, if requested. If said information is not available the team is subject to removal from the competition.