

2026-2027 OBL Schedule FAQ

OBA Statement regarding the changes to the high school age group OBL dates:

For the 2026-27 season, the Ontario Basketball League has adjusted the U15 and U16 Boys competition calendar, moving the start of league play from late February to November.

This change was made following a review of previous seasons and with the goal of creating a more balanced and sustainable schedule for athletes, teams, and clubs. Under the previous format, league play was concentrated into a relatively short period between late February and early May, resulting in multiple back-to-back playing weekends and limited flexibility throughout the season.

By beginning competition in November, the OBL is able to distribute games more evenly across the calendar while maintaining significant breaks between playing weekends. Teams will participate in a single OBL weekend in November before returning to league play in late January and mid-February, helping to reduce the feeling of a compressed season while still allowing athletes to balance other commitments.

The revised schedule also addresses several challenges associated with the previous calendar. A more condensed season created difficulties in managing scheduling adjustments, accommodating unforeseen changes, and completing ranking and re-ranking processes efficiently. From a player perspective, injuries or roster availability issues often had a greater impact due to the limited time between competition weekends.

In addition, March presents several scheduling challenges across the basketball landscape, including high school championships, OFSAA competition, March Break, and holiday weekends. These factors significantly reduce the number of available playing dates and make it increasingly difficult to complete league schedules while ensuring adequate time for rankings and Ontario Cup preparation. To support a fair and effective competition structure, OBL league play must conclude in April in order to finalize Ontario Cup schedules and competition planning.

We recognize that many teams have traditionally anticipated a late-February start to the high school boys season and understand that this adjustment represents a departure from previous years. However, as the OBL continues to grow across all age groups from U9 through U19, it is important that the league continues to evaluate its scheduling model and make decisions that best support long-term sustainability, competitive integrity, and the overall experience of participants.