



MEDIA AVAILABILITY & ACCESS POLICIES

2025-26 SEASON

Summarized below are the Media Availability and Access Policies for the 2025-26 NBA season.

MEDIA CREDENTIALING

Media will be credentialed for games under the following policy. A Tier 1 level has been created for qualifying outlets. Media are required to meet "Tier 1" qualifications in order to have such access.

CRITERIA FOR TIER 1 ACCESS

A media outlet qualifies for Tier 1 under the following criteria:

- a) Local media outlets that regularly cover the team either by traveling consistently (at least 50 percent of road games) and/or attending the majority of team games and practices in the home market (at least 50 percent of each).
- b) National media outlets that cover the league on a consistent basis by traveling to a minimum of 25 games.
- c) Select international media outlets and broadcast partners designated by the league office for each game.
- d) Outlets that are working on a specific project in which the team or league determines that qualifying as Tier 1 is necessary to the success of the project.
- e) To qualify as Tier 1, an outlet must create original content and have a standard editorial process in which the credentialed reporters are governed.

For clarity, even if a media member's outlet qualifies for Tier 1, please note that an individual media member must have prior experience covering NBA practices or games, sufficient as determined by the NBA, in order to receive Tier 1 access.

MEDIA ACCESS

Teams shall provide media access and facilitate media availability in accordance with the following guidelines.

DAY OF GAME

Shootarounds: Following or prior to shoot-around, all teams will hold a 15-minute interview session in a designated interview area.

Pregame:

- Head coaches will meet with the media pregame in the home team interview room. Home team coaches will be available 105 minutes prior to the game and visiting coaches will be available 90 minutes prior to the game.
- Locker rooms will be open to Tier 1 media for a minimum of a 30-minute period ending 45 minutes before the game (e.g., media access from 6:15-6:45 p.m. for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off).
- The court will be available to Tier 1 media until 30 minutes before the game. Media should not congregate on the court and must be aware of its surroundings so as not to interfere with players' pre-game workouts.

Postgame:

- All head coaches will make themselves available to the media in the team's interview room.
- At least two players will be available in the team's interview room for most games. Visiting teams have discretion to execute all media availability in the locker room if media attendance is limited to Tier 1 media.
- No later than 20 minutes following the game, both locker rooms will be opened to Tier 1 media.

NON-GAME DAY

- **Open/Closed Practice Guidelines:** All practices must be open to the media for 15 minutes, either at the beginning or end of each practice. Immediately prior to practice or upon the conclusion of practice, the head coach and all players will remain on the floor for media interviews. The media availability and open practice will be conducted in a contiguous manner (e.g., if the team conducts media availability prior to practice, then the first 15 minutes of practice must be open).
- **Available Players:** Teams must make players available based on media requests and may not simply assume two available players at each practice is sufficient. Teams must be flexible to increase the number of available players if a situation dictates.
- **Media Availability Times:** When teams are practicing in the same market, competing team PR Directors are expected to coordinate their team availability times to ensure that teams are available to the media at different times on practice days. The home team has first preference in determining media availability schedules.

INJURED PLAYER POLICY

- If a player is injured and will miss a significant amount of time, the following rules will apply as to when he must speak to the media. (1) If a player is expected to miss the remainder of the regular season the player must be available to the Media within one month of the injury. (2) If a player is injured but expected to return during the regular season, the player must be available to the Media once he has missed two weeks of game action. In the latter case, after that mandatory media session, the player is not required to hold a Media availability session until he returns to team practice. Once the player returns to practice, he is required to be available to the media within two days of his return and then a minimum of once per week until he returns to game action. Once he returns to games, normal access rules apply.