



# Volleyball

2025-26 MANUAL



## Important Dates To Remember [\(TOC\)](#)

GIRLS		BOYS
	Preseason Jamboree May Be Conducted After Your Team Has Completed 9 Days of Conditioning Practices	
August 28	First Allowable Contest (By-Law 3.9.1 Conditioning Requirements Must Be Met)	March 19
August 29	Class/District Assignments Released	March 20
August 29	Post Season Entries Opened	March 20
September 12	Officials' Post Season Application Deadline	April 3
September 13	Coaches' Online Officials Recommendations Open	April 4
September 26	Official Declarations Must Be Up-To-Date	April 17
September 29	Coaches' Online Officials Recommendations Due	April 20
5 Days Prior to Seed Meeting	Season Records Must Be Up-To-Date	5 Days Prior to Seed Meeting
October 1	Volleyball Officials Draft	April 22
October 4 - 11	District Seed Meetings Conducted	April 25 – May 2
October 13	Finalized Districts Brackets Postings Due	May 4
October 15	District Eligibility Rosters Due	May 4
October 15	Final Date for Pass List to Be Submitted	May 4
October 21-28	District Tournament	May 8 -15
October 30	Sectional Contest	
November 1	Quarterfinal Contests	May 21
November 5-8	State Championships	May 26 - 27
November 18	Volleyball Advisory Committee Mtg	November 18
January 5 – February 20	Open Facility Period (By-Law 3.14.7 & Open Facility Board Policy)	September 8 – October 24
March 30 – May 15	Out of Season Practice Period (By-Law 3.14.7)	January 5 – February 20

# MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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## EXECUTIVE STAFF

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Dr. Jennifer Rukstad, Executive Director  
Craig Long, Chief Operations/Financial Officer  
**Toni Hill, Associate Executive Director**  
James Melton, Associate Executive Director  
Daryl Bradley, Assistant Executive Director  
Doug Fessler, Assistant Executive Director  
Alex Huck, Assistant Executive Director  
Lou Mazzocco, Assistant Executive Director  
Stephanie Turner, Assistant Executive Director  
Andrew Kauffman, Communications Director

**\*MSHSAA contact person for Volleyball**

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**Revised  
07/22/2025**

District Assignments & State Tournament Brackets  
May Be Found on MSHSAA Website ([www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org))



## VOLLEYBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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The advisory committee members are appointed by the Board of Director member from their respective board district. Each individual is appointed to a four (4) year term. If an appointee is unable to fulfill their term, a replacement will be appointed to complete the remainder of the term. The purpose of the committee is to represent the schools and coaches/directors within their board district on matters concerning the administration of the sport. Their role is a key component is bringing sport/activity-specific needs, concerns, and recommendations to the Board of Directors. Please make sure to use them as your voice to the MSHSAA Staff and Board of Directors.

<b><u>Northwest (2028)</u></b> Miranda Mizera* <b>Savannah</b> <a href="mailto:mirandamizera@gmail.com">mirandamizera@gmail.com</a>	<b><u>Northeast (2028)</u></b> Rachel Leu * Montgomery County <a href="mailto:rleu@mc-wildcats.org">rleu@mc-wildcats.org</a>	<b><u>Central (2029)</u></b> Ashton Sander <b>Santa Fe</b> <a href="mailto:asander@santafechiefs.k12.mo.us">asander@santafechiefs.k12.mo.us</a>
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<b><u>Southwest (2027)</u></b> Marci Adams Kickapoo <a href="mailto:mnadams@spsmail.org">mnadams@spsmail.org</a>	<b><u>At Large Region 1 (2027)</u></b> Tom Schaefer Parkway Central <a href="mailto:tschaefer@parkwayschools.net">tschaefer@parkwayschools.net</a>	<b><u>Southeast (2027)</u></b> Tara Lamb Arcadia Valley <a href="mailto:tlamb@avr2.org">tlamb@avr2.org</a>
<b><u>Ex-Officio Member</u></b> State Tournament Officials Coordinator Andy Williams Sedalia, MO	<b><u>At Large Region 2 (2029)</u></b> Annie Zimmerman Nixa <a href="mailto:anniezimmerman@nixaschools.net">anniezimmerman@nixaschools.net</a>	<b><u>Ex-Officio Member</u></b> President MHSVCA Cheyanne Lyons Harrisonville

( ) Terms expire July 1 of the year noted

\*Eligible for reappointment due to serving partial term

## VOLLEYBALL RULES INTERPRETERS

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The interpreters have been selected for their knowledge of the rules and willingness to provide their advice to officials, adjudicators and coaches/directors with regards to the interpretation of rules. The executive in charge of each sport/activity is the chief rules interpreter for the state but relies heavily on the advice and counsel of these individuals. Please feel free to contact them if you have a question regarding the application of sport/activity-specific rules. These individuals do not interpret any MSHSAA By-Laws or Board Policies nor do they review video of calls.

<b><u>St. Louis District/Northeast</u></b> Susan Harvey <a href="mailto:sueh@globalpyro.com">sueh@globalpyro.com</a>	<b><u>Kansas City/Northeast</u></b> Dixie Wescott <a href="mailto:d.wescott@sbcglobal.net">d.wescott@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b><u>Central</u></b> Cathy Viets <a href="mailto:cdh5446@hotmail.com">cdh5446@hotmail.com</a>
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## PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

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- A. **MISSION STATEMENT:** The MSHSAA promotes the value of participation, sportsmanship, team play and personal excellence to develop citizens who make positive contributions to their community and support the democratic principles of our state and nation.
- B. **PURPOSE OF MANUAL:** This manual has been prepared to provide a better understanding of the administration of MSHSAA sponsored events. It will serve as a guide to the participating schools and will provide for greater consistency. All information will be included in this manual except such supplementary or incidental information as may be included in the MSHSAA Journal. The regulations in this manual shall be considered official unless the schools are notified in a Special Bulletin of any changes.
- C. **PHILOSOPHY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES:** Interscholastic activities are intended to supplement the secondary curricular program. These activities can provide the student with educational experiences and learning outcomes that contribute toward the development of good citizenship. This can be accomplished only when the emphasis is placed upon teaching "through school activities." Interscholastic activities can be justified only when this is its primary philosophy and purpose.
- D. **PURPOSE OF DISTRICT AND STATE CONTESTS:** There are two primary purposes that justify and cause district and state events to be desirable. Those purposes are to provide opportunities to demonstrate before the public the best knowledge, skills and emotional patterns taught through a particular sport, and to evaluate and compare the best knowledge, skills and emotional patterns among schools. Unless these purposes are primary, district and state athletic contests cannot be completely justified.

It is the desire of the MSHSAA Board of Directors that these events be both fun and educational. It is extremely important that competitors, coaches, and the school community make every effort to enhance, and keep in proper perspective, the educational values of these events. Competition merely for "competition's sake" cannot be sufficiently important to be included in the school program.

- E. **SUPERVISION OF COMPETITORS AND FANS:** MSHSAA By-Laws hold a school responsible, both at home and away, for the conduct of its competitors, students, coaches and fans. Coaches are required to supervise their competitors. A coach's respect for others and school property is necessary in order to instill this respect in competitors. Students staying overnight in hotels or motels in conjunction with any interscholastic athletic contest should be well chaperoned. The good conduct of students will leave a good impression on the entire school.

A school should also inform its competitors, students, coaches and fans of the role contest officials play in education through athletics. When informing these people of this, the difference in the purpose of high school and professional sports should be emphasized. Lack of respect for officials should not be tolerated. Booing of officials leads to booing of coaches and competitors. This has no place in high school athletics. Athletic administrators are urged to develop a program through any and all communication techniques available to ensure that spectators understand that high school athletics are an educational endeavor as opposed to the games being an end in themselves.

# KEY MANUAL AND BY-LAW/BOARD POLICY CHANGES [\(TOC\)](#)

This section of the manual is to provide a quick summary of by-law/board policy changes impacting Volleyball, approved advisory recommendations as well as changes to the manual. This should be utilized as a reference only and you should review the source material either in another section of this manual or the MSHSAA Handbook.

## A. BY-LAW/BOARD POLICY CHANGES

### 1. SPECIFIC TO VOLLEYBALL:

a. None

### 2. SPECIFIC TO ALL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS:

- a. SANCTIONING Requirements and Penalties - Adds new By-Laws 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 and all related amendments as indicated in Sections 3 and 4 to adjust the types of interscholastic competitive and/or evaluative events that require a sanction for participation and add penalty language when member schools fail to comply with sanction requirements.
- b. Freshmen-Only Team Age Restrictions - Amends By-Law 3.5.1 to eliminate the age restriction as it relates to freshmen-only teams.
- c. Age Restriction for Junior High School - Amends By-Laws 3.5.2 to explicitly restrict 4th and 5th grade students from competing against 6th grade and above students, except in cases where they meet the overage criteria.
- d. Girls Soccer and Fall Non-School Competition Exception - Amends By-Law 3.13.2 to adjust the Fall Non-School Competition Exception and to add the Girls Soccer Non-School Competition Exception to allow for non-school competition through the day before the first allowable contest, with prior approval by a school administrator.
- e. Review by MSHSAA Office for Specific Ejections - Amends By-Law 5.5.1 to allow for an appeal to the MSHSAA office in instances of an ejection for kicks, strikes, fights, or when a substitute leaves the bench area during an altercation event.

## B. APPROVED ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Use of Flags by Line Judges – Line judges must use flags and the host school or tournament host will provide the flags.
- 2. Warm Up Protocol - The warm-up protocol is as follows: the home team always take the first 6 minutes and the visiting team take the second 6 minutes.
- 3. Ball Change for Boys Postseason Volleyball and Allowance for Textured Ball During Regular Season – The official ball for boys postseason will be the Mikasa V200W-USA.

## C. MANUAL CHANGES

- 1. Media Information Appendix – This has some significant changes. Please read this appendix thoroughly.

## D. MSHSAA POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- 1. Keep in mind all important dates and deadlines.
- 2. Accommodation requests need to be sent by your athletic director at least one week prior to the first contest.

## SECTION 1: ESSENTIAL RESOURCES [\(TOC\)](#)

The information listed/linked in this section relates to MSHSAA By-Laws, Board Policies and information from the Sports Medicine Page as well as any state adoptions or modifications related to the applicable NFHS, USGA or USTA rules codes.

### A. MSHSAA HANDBOOK REFERENCES ([MSHSAA Handbook](#))

1. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO USAGE AROUND INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES (Board Policy)
2. CHARITY/AWARENESS EVENTS (Board Policy)
3. CONDUCT – REMOVAL OF TEAMS & EJECTIONS (By-Law 5.5)
4. GUIDELINES FOR FAN SUPPORT ITEMS (Board Policy)
5. HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION (By-Law 1.7)
6. NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION (By-Laws 3.13.2 & 3.14.2)
7. ON-SITE PROTEST PROCEDURES (BOARD POLICY)
8. SANCTIONING (By-Laws 1.1.5, 1.1.6, 3.18.1, 3.18.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.4, 4.4.4, 4.5.10, & 4.6.4)

### B. SPORTS MEDICINE REFERENCES ([Sports Medicine Page](#))

1. CONCUSSIONS EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL ([LINK](#))
2. HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS/LIGHTNING GUIDELINES ([LINK](#))
3. HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION ([LINK](#))
4. OXYGEN USE POSITION STATEMENT ([LINK](#))
5. WET BULB GLOBE THERMOMETER USE ([LINK](#))

### C. STATE ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

NFHS Possible State Association Adoption Chart – Missouri Adoptions		
NFHS Rule	Language of Rule	Missouri Adoption
1-2-1 NOTE 1, 11-5-2e	Authorizing use of best two-of-three sets. Any intermission shall occur between set Nos. 1 and 2	SUB VARSITY FORMAT: Schools will utilize the two-out-of-three set format for all sub-varsity dual matches.  VOLLEYBALL VARSITY FORMAT – Schools will utilize the three-out-of-five-set format at the high school varsity level. The three-out-of-five-set format will be used in the district and state series. Varsity Double Duals or Triple Duals may use either the 3-out-of-5-Set Match or 2-out-of-3-Set Match Format.
1-2-1 NOTE 2	Authorizing use of modified match format for series other than dual varsity matches.	The 3rd set of a Junior High/Freshmen/C Level match shall be played to 15 points and the Junior Varsity shall be played to 25 points.
1-5-2a, b and c; 1-5-4; 6-2-1	Determining protocols for match forfeits.	NFHS Rules as written
1-7	Authorizing resumption of play for a suspended match.	NFHS Rule as written
3-2-1 NOTE	Authorizing the use of a textured volleyball. (Beginning in 2026-27)	A textured ball may be used for boys volleyball. It will be used during the postseason beginning in the 2025-2026 school year
4-1 NOTE 2	Authorizing rule exceptions to provide reasonable accommodations.	Upon request from the school, the MSHSAA office will provide written authorization for medical accommodations if the accommodation does not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.
4-2-1g	Authorizing use of one commemorative/memorial patch on the uniform.	An optional designed memorial patch shall be allowed on the official's shirt to honor a deceased official under the guidelines found in the MSHSAA Officials Manual.
5-1-1 NOTE	Determining if line judges will be provided by someone other than the host school	In Missouri, each school shall be responsible for providing one-line judge to officiate all levels of volleyball matches. MSHSAA Registered Officials are to be used as line judges at sectionals and state tournament matches and at other matches when possible.
5-3-1 NOTES	Authorizing temporary adjustments to the officials uniform based on facility conditions.	No Adoption
5-9-4	Authorizing use of hand signals by line judges	Line judges will use flags provided by the host school.

5-9-2b, 9-1-2 NOTE, 9-2-2	Authorizing permission for teams to remain on the same benches throughout the match and requiring line judges to switch sides of the court between sets	Teams will remain on the same benches throughout the match. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage, teams may switch sides. Officials shall determine if a disadvantage is present.
9-2-1b NOTE	Determining additional policies as it pertains to electronic devices.	Officials are allowed to wear headsets if both officials are comfortable using.
11-2-3 NOTE	Determining the number, length and protocol of electronic media time-outs.	At the state tournament, the full length of the time-out will be used for media time-outs. Play will not resume until time has expired.



## SECTION 2: REGULAR SEASON

[\(TOC\)](#)

A. **GAME RULES:** The current National Federation Volleyball Rules Book shall govern all competition except where modified by the MSHSAA. MSHSAA By-Law 3.18 and Board policies regarding all tournaments shall be followed by volleyball tournament managers.

B. **VOLLEYBALL PRESEASON JAMBOREE:** Refer to MSHSAA By-Law 3.16.7 for general rules regarding the preseason jamboree. Volleyball teams have an opportunity to scrimmage other schools prior to their first regular season contest. Each school will be allowed to participate in only one preseason volleyball jamboree. **The jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed nine conditioning practices and before your first contest.** Team scoring and all NFHS rules shall be followed and enforced. Teams may wear practice or game uniforms.

The jamboree can be a three or four team format only. When there are three schools participating, a maximum of six sets (three against each team to 21 points) shall be allowed. When there are four schools participating, a maximum of nine sets (three against each team to 15 points) shall be allowed. Point caps are at the host's discretion.

### **3-Team Format**

A vs. B

B vs. C

A vs. C

### **4-Team Format**

A vs. B

C vs. D

A vs. C

B vs. D

A vs. D

B vs. C

C. **REQUEST FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:** The NFHS sport rules allow for state associations to authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage. The school of a competitor with a disability or special need may request specific accommodations or to use special equipment. The following items are required before accommodation requests can be reviewed and considered:

1. A written request from the school administrator, describing the participant's special needs and the specific accommodation(s) being requested. The letter should include the rules references of applicable NFHS sport rule(s) that would be violated without the accommodation.
2. A letter from the parent(s) or guardian confirming the need for an accommodation and acknowledging the potential risk of injury associated with the accommodation.
3. A letter from the participant's doctor or applicable caregiver describing the medical circumstance or special need, and confirming the need for an accommodation.
4. Photographs of:
  - a. The special equipment, and
  - b. The participant wearing the special equipment, if applicable.

Subsequent requests (after a student is initially approved for an accommodation) will only require the school request (number 1 on the list above).

Written approval from the MSHSAA office is required **prior** to any competition. The letter of approval from MSHSAA must be presented to contest officials before any accommodations may be used. Please include all sports the competitor may be participating in for the school year. MSHSAA can issue one letter covering all sports for the year and you will not have to submit a request prior to the start of each sports season.

**Please allow ONE WEEK for the request to be reviewed prior to the first contest.**

MSHSAA will consider requests if:

1. The sport is not fundamentally altered by the accommodation,
2. The accommodation does not create a risk to either the competitor or to others, and
3. The accommodation does not place opponents at a disadvantage.

D. **REGULAR SEASON WARM-UP PROCEDURE:** The Board has approved a statewide regular season warm-up procedure in volleyball, which is consistent with the district and state series warm-up procedure of 16-minutes, in order to insure a safer and more consistent procedure throughout the state. Neither individual schools nor conferences may reduce warm-up time prior to the match; however, the 3-minute shared stretching and ball-handling portion of the warm-up may take place in another appropriate area of the facility prior to teams taking the competition court for the remainder of the pre-match warm-up.

**Note:** The regular season district and state series warm-up is 16 minutes, consisting of 3 minutes of shared stretching and ball-handling followed immediately by the 12-minute warm-up (6-6: [First 6: Home Team](#): full court, which includes serving. [Second 6: Visitor Team](#): full court, which includes serving; plus 1 minute to clear court) When one team is assigned to the full court the opposing team shall not be permitted to use balls, in any capacity, during that 6-minute period.

- E. VOLLEYBALL CLOCK PROTOCOL AND COUNTDOWN:** The following clock protocol for volleyball matches is to be implemented for consistency during warm-ups. (For additional information refer to '[Checklist When Hosting Volleyball Contests](#)' located in Appendix C).

Time on Clock	Action	Instructions
18:00	Start Clock	Pre-match Conference- <b><u>When multiple matches are played on the same date, an 18-minute clock shall start as soon as the officials have completed their duties from the previous match.</u></b> <b>CLOCK DOES NOT STOP.</b>
16:00	None	Pre-match Conference Completed; 3 Minutes Shared Stretching/Ball; Teams shall remain on their side of the net.
13:15	Official Whistle	Serving Team Vacates Court
13:00	Sound Horn	6 minutes (full court) <a href="#">Home</a> Team
7:15	Official Whistle	<a href="#">Home</a> Team Vacates Court
7:00	Sound Horn	6 minutes (full court) <a href="#">Visitor</a> Team
1:15	Official Whistle	<a href="#">Visitor</a> Team Vacates Court
1:00	Sound Horn	Clear Court, Prepare for Announcement of Team Line-Up, National Anthem, etc.

- F. INDIVIDUAL PLAYER LIMITS:** Except in tournament play, a team may participate in a maximum of three matches against three different schools (triple dual) on one calendar date.
- Daily Set Limitations for Dual Competition
    - High School Varsity Level – Plays 3-out-of-5 Set Matches.
    - High School Junior Varsity Level – Plays 2-out-of-3 Set Matches.
    - Any high school player may participate in a maximum of six sets on one calendar date against the same school in regular season dual competition.
  - Season Limits:
    - High School Level – A player is eligible to play in no more than 180 sets for the season.
- G. VOLLEYBALL VARSITY FORMAT:** Missouri school will utilize the three-out-of-five-set format at the high school level. The three-out-of-five-set format will be used in the district and state series. By-Law 3.25.1 Amendment allows Varsity Double Duals or Triple Duals to use either the 3-out-of-5-Set Match or 2-out-of-3-Set Match Format.
- H. VOLLEYBALL SUB-VARISTY LEVEL:** Lower level contests (junior high, freshman, junior varsity) will continue to be played in the two-out-of-three-set format only.
- I. TEAM BENCHES:** The MSHSAA Board of Directors approved a state association adoption per rule 9-1-2 of the NFHS Volleyball Rules Book for teams to remain on the same benches throughout the match. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage, teams may switch sides. Officials shall determine if a disadvantage is present.
- J. MODIFIED 3<sup>RD</sup> SET IN SUB-VARSITY MATCHES AND TOURNAMENTS:** The MSHSAA Board of Directors approved a state association adoption per rule 1-2-1 of the NFHS Volleyball Rules Book for the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of a Junior High/Freshmen/C Level match shall be played to 15 points and the Junior Varsity shall be played to 25 points.
- K. OFFICIALS FOR VARSITY CONTESTS:** There shall be **two** (2) MSHSAA registered officials for all varsity level volleyball contests within the boundaries of Missouri and/or hosted by a member school (grades 6-12). For sub-varsity contests, one official may be used (**By-Law 6.1.2**).
- L. OFFICIALS DECLARATION PROCEDURES:** With the removal of the rating system, head coaches or athletic administrators will be required to enter the officials of each varsity match played. Tournament hosts will be required to enter officials who worked tournaments.
- M. LINE JUDGES AND FLAGS:**
- It is recommended that adults be used as line judges during regular season play. This position is considered official game personnel, along with the official scorer, libero tracker, and timer.
  - In Missouri, each school shall be responsible for providing one-line judge to officiate all levels of volleyball matches. MSHSAA Registered Officials are to be used as line judges at sectionals and state tournament matches and at other matches when possible.

3. Line Judges will use flags. The host school or tournament host will provide the flags. The flags shall be solid red in color and of a recommended size of approximately 12x12 inches to approximately 16x16 inches.
4. Per NFHS Rule 5.9.2b – Line judges will switch sides of the court between sets when teams remain on the same benches throughout the match. However, rule 5-4-1g provides the first referee the authority to keep line judges on the same side throughout the match to create the best environment for match administration. Any divergence from the default positioning should be communicated to both head coaches.

**N. JUNIOR HIGH COMPETITION:**

1. All NFHS volleyball game rules shall apply to the **competition**. All matches and tournaments shall utilize the two-out-of-three-set format only. However, schools with a prior mutual agreement may lower the net to 7 feet to accommodate this age group.
2. B-Team Abbreviated Match Modification – At the junior high level it would be permissible for the B team dual matches only to play one set, not a complete match, if there are not enough players with sets remaining as per the individual daily set limits in By-Law 3.30.8 for dual competition. All NFHS volleyball match playing rules must be followed. The modification should be specified in the game contract, the officials' contract and agreed upon by both schools prior to the date of the match.

**O. VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS:** Abbreviated play may only be utilized during pool play. An abbreviated pool play match **does count** toward the team contest limitations. Varsity tournaments may utilize the best of three or the best of five set format. Junior varsity, freshman and junior high tournaments may only utilize the best of three set format.

**N. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP:** Good sportsmanship is an integral part of school activities. Coaches, players and fans should display only those actions which reflect the highest ideals of sportsmanship in the athletic program at all times. Any type of cheering, yelling and other similar actions which are done in a fashion to disconcert or be derogatory toward the opposing team or a specific opponent at the point play is occurring is considered inappropriate. Cheering, yelling and other support should be in a positive nature toward the school team and not done to taunt or disconcert opponents.

**O. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:** The Board of Directors is vested with the power to suspend schools from membership for the unsportsmanlike conduct of teams, coaches, students or fans. Each school is responsible for the conduct of its teams, coaches, students and fans at matches both at home and away.

1. The Board may delegate to the Executive Director power to take immediate action when a situation demands such. The party or parties concerned shall have the privilege of requesting a hearing before the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting for a review of the case and the action taken by the MSHSAA Office.
2. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, substitute a fine not to exceed the sum of \$25.00 for each offense in lieu of suspension from the Association or to take any action that it deems advisable that does not exceed the maximum penalty of 365-day(s) suspension from the Association.

### SECTION 3: POST-SEASON CRITERIA [\(TOC\)](#)

- A. **MSHSAA BY-LAW PROVISIONS:** In order to enter students in the MSHSAA District and State Volleyball Championships Series, the following provisions must be met:
1. A school must have employed a volleyball coach and offered instruction in volleyball as provided in MSHSAA By-Law 3.1.
  2. A school must meet all provisions of MSHSAA By-Law 5.1.2 concerning the number of matches which must be scheduled.
  3. In part, By-Law 5.1.2 indicates "No individual student shall be entered who has not represented her school in interscholastic competition in that sport during the season." In volleyball, as all sports, if a player is to be entered in the district tournament she shall have played in at least one regular season contest PRIOR to the district tournament.
- B. **CLASSIFICATION:** The district, sectional and state volleyball tournaments will be administered under an annual classification based upon the total number of schools participating in the sport. There will be a total of 5 classes for girls and 1 class for boys with the lowest enrollment schools representing Class 1 and the highest enrollment schools representing Class 5.
- C. **DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS:** District assignments, listing host sites and local managers will be published on the MSHSAA website early in the season. [Girls: Friday, August 29, 2025.](#) [Boys: Friday, March 20, 2026.](#)
- D. **SPORTS REGISTRATION FEE:** Schools which submitted the Tournament Registration Fee for volleyball have been assigned to a District Volleyball Tournament.
- E. **SPORTS SEASON:** Only those schools participating in the fall girls' and/or spring boys' volleyball season, as outlined in MSHSAA Athletic By-Laws (Section 3) will be eligible to enter the district volleyball tournament.
- F. **GAME BALL:** The official game ball for districts and the state tournament series for 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 is the Mikasa VFC1000 in red/white/blue for girls and [the Mikasa V200W-USA red/white/blue for boys](#). A game ball will be shipped to all sites from the MSHSAA office.

**DISTRICT TOURNAMENT:** The tournament series will consist of eight district or sixteen district tournaments per classification scheduled to be played during the windows listed below. Refer to Appendix E for specific hosting criteria.

Girls: [October 21-28, 2025](#)

Boys: [May 8-15, 2026](#)

## SECTION 4: POST-SEASON ENTRY PROCEDURES [\(TOC\)](#)

- A. **PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT TOURNAMENT:** Any team scheduled to play in the district tournament that does not appear as scheduled is subject to a forfeit and shall be responsible for paying the scheduled officials' fees.
- B. **ROSTER AND BENCH PERSONNEL:** During the district and state series, only 15 players may be listed on the roster. These 15 players, team coaches and two managers shall be permitted to sit on the team bench.
- C. **SEED MEETING:** The district manager shall schedule a meeting to draw the tournament bracket. The meeting shall be held no earlier than [Saturday, October 4, 2025](#) and no later than [Saturday, October 11, 2025](#) for the girls tournament and held no earlier than [Saturday, April 25, 2026](#) and no later than [Saturday, May 2, 2026](#) for the boys tournament.. All schools assigned to the tournament should be notified of the time and place for the meeting at least seven days in advance and all schools are requested to send a representative.
1. Seed Meeting Procedures:
    - a. The mandatory seeding procedure is to seed each spot individually starting with the #1 seed, followed by the #2 seed, continuing to the last seed.
    - b. Schools may not vote for themselves in the seeding process. NOTE: If School "A" votes School "B" as the #1 seed and School "B" does not receive enough other votes for the #1 seed, School "A" MUST vote School "B" as the #2 seed in the next round of voting.
    - c. The district schools participating in the meeting shall consider each team's win-loss record (varsity vs. varsity matches only), head-to-head competition, caliber of competition, and common opponents they have played over the season.
    - d. After the District Manager receives each school's vote after each round, the manager must make each vote known to all participating coaches.
    - e. If a tie should occur, a second vote would be used to determine the seed but only the district schools who are not involved with the tie would participate in the second vote.
    - f. Should a tie still exist, a coin flip shall determine the seeds of the tied teams. This specific procedure shall be followed by the district manager.
  2. Teams shall be placed on the bracket by the committee. In districts of eight or fewer teams, the teams shall be placed on the bracket according to seeding as illustrated on the MSHSAA website. Any byes are to be given to the first-seeded team, then the second-seeded team, etc. In districts of nine or more teams, the teams shall be placed on the bracket according to seeding as illustrated on the MSHSAA website. Any byes are to be given to the first-seeded team, then the second-seeded team, etc.

### D. **ENTRY PROCEDURES:**

1. All school/team district entries shall be submitted online for the MSHSAA District and State Tournament Series. The online guide for accomplishing this entry process can be found on the MSHSAA website by following these steps:
  - a. Select the Login Link in the upper right-hand corner of the MSHSAA website.
  - b. Under "Sports and Activities" select the link "District Entries"
  - c. Click on "Girls/Boys – Volleyball"
  - d. Complete the screens as listed.

Be sure to submit your Official Recommendations, District Eligibility Roster, Season Record and Pass List by the indicated individual deadlines listed on the MSHSAA website and included in this manual.

All eligible players shall be listed on the roster at the time of the beginning of each tournament (the District Tournament is one tournament and the Sectional/State combination is a second single tournament). No new players may be added to the roster once the team has participated in the respective tournament. **Example:** A coach may add a player to the roster at the completion of the District Tournament prior to participating in the Sectional Tournament. Once sectional match play begins no further additions would be allowed.

2. **Officials Recommendations:** All coaches are **required** to submit Postseason Volleyball Officials Recommendations, on the MSHSAA website under the "District Entries" link. Recommendations must be submitted online no later than [Friday, September 20, 2025 for girls and no later than Friday April 20, 2026 for boys](#). These recommendations will also be used when determining Sectional, Quarterfinal and State assignments.

Purpose of Official Recommendations: MSHSAA takes the officials recommendation/non-recommendation process very seriously. This process for post-season officials is designed to enhance the quality of officiating through input from each school on those officials that should be considered for post season contests. MSHSAA has the right to dismiss any recommendations/non-recommendations, submitted by head coaches, if it is determined that the coach has abused and/or manipulated the process for intentions not aligned with MSHSAA's purpose and philosophy in selecting post season officials.

3. **District Eligibility Roster:** This information shall be submitted online one week prior to the first allowable playing date of the district tournament ([Girls - Tuesday, October 14, 2025 and Boys – Friday, May 1, 2026.](#)) A school should include on the list all of its eligible athletes for volleyball (maximum of **15**). Failure on the part of the school and/or head coach to complete this process could result in the elimination of the school from the MSHSAA district and/or state championship series and a \$50 late fee will be assessed to the school.



4. Season Record: This information shall be submitted online five calendar days **prior** to the seed meeting date to draw the district tournament bracket.
5. Pass List: The district pass list shall be submitted on the MSHSAA website to the district manager no later than one week prior to the first allowable playing date of the district tournament ([Girls - Tuesday, October 14, 2025 and Boys – Friday, May 1, 2026.](#))
6. Sideline Cheerleaders: A maximum of 10 varsity cheerleaders in official cheerleading uniforms and their coach will be admitted free to the session their team plays, provided they have cheered during the regular season and the school athletic administrator has submitted their names through the MSHSAA online district entry process. Cheerleaders must enter the gate as a group and they must be accompanied by their coach. Specific instructions on how to obtain the digital pass for the cheer coach will be included in the information packet sent to each state qualifier by the MSHSAA Administrator responsible for that sport.
7. Late Entries: Managers are allowed to accept late entries up to the time of the seed meeting to draw the district tournament bracket commences. A late entry penalty fee of \$50 shall be assessed for the late entry. No entries will be accepted after the commencement of the district seed meeting to draw the tournament bracket begins. The district manager shall notify MSHSAA regarding any late entries for the tournament. MSHSAA shall invoice any school(s) owing a late entry penalty fee.
8. Additions/Substitutions:
  - a. Prior to Districts: The school may substitute prior to their first match in districts, any athlete from its eligibility list to replace one listed on the roster section of the District Volleyball Entry and Information Form. Substitutions after the first set begins may be made only in case of illness, verified by a physician. Any player who is thus replaced may not return to competition in the district tournament, but may return to competition during the sectional and/or state tournament provided her name has been added to the team roster prior to the first set of the state series tournament (see below). Additions may be made to the team roster after it is submitted for the district tournament, even if the number of names listed is less than the maximum limit of 15. A \$50 late fee per entry will be assessed to the school for any changes made after the deadline.
  - b. After Districts but Prior to Sectionals: A school may substitute or add to the team roster which was submitted for district play, prior to the start of the first match of the state tournament (sectional semi-finals). Additions may only be made until the maximum roster limit of 15 is reached. No additions or substitutions can be made after the sectional match of the state tournament.

## SECTION 5: CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES [\(TOC\)](#)

### A. DISTRICT, SECTIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENT FORMATS:

1. Scoring Format: The scoring format to be used for the district and state series competition will be: best three-out-of-five sets; the first four sets shall be rally scored to 25 points; with no point caps. The fifth and deciding set shall be 15 points (no cap), and a team must win by two points (NFHS Rule 1-4). The match shall end when one team has won three sets.
2. Single Elimination: District and Sectional tournaments will be conducted as single elimination. There will be no third place matches at districts. Teams that win their sectional round shall move to the quarterfinal round. Teams that win their quarterfinal round shall advance to state.
3. Warm-Up: The time between matches shall be a maximum of 18 minutes, consisting of a maximum of 2-minute pre-match conference followed immediately by the 3 minutes shared stretching and ball-handling. The 12-minute warm-up (6:6: [Home](#) Team, [Visitor](#) Team – serving time has been included in the 6-minute warm-up) and 1 minute to clear the court for competition. The clock and countdown shall begin as soon as the officials have completed their duties from the previous match. **The clock shall not stop.** The 3-minute stretching and ball-handling period should start as soon as the court is available. The District Tournament Committee may lengthen this time allowance only if conditions warrant. **NOTE:** The full court may be utilized by the teams prior to the timed warm-up. Teams must stay on their side of the net: balls may be used by the teams. **NOTE:** When one team is assigned to the full court, the opposing team shall not be permitted to use balls, in any capacity, during that 6-minute period.
  - a. Each team is entitled to one half of the court during the 3-minute stretching and ball-handling period.
  - b. Each team will have access to the full court during their 6 minutes to warm-up.
  - c. The [Home](#) team will warm-up (full court) first.
  - d. The [Visitor](#) team will warm-up (full court) second.
  - e. The 6-minute warm-up for each team includes serving.
  - f. 1-minute left on clock to clear the court for competition.
  - g. If space permits, teams shall be allowed to warm-up during the match prior in a designated area of the host schools' facility.
4. Warm-Up Balls: Unless notified otherwise by the district, sectional and quarterfinal managers, individual schools shall be responsible for providing their own volleyballs for warm-ups.
5. Home Team: The following shall be used to determine Home and Visitor on the bracket.  
Districts: For the district tournament the higher seeded team is the home team on the bracket. The visiting team shall call the toss for serve.  
Sectional and Quarterfinals: The top team on the bracket shall be the home team in odd numbered years and the team on the bottom of the bracket in even-numbered years. The visiting team and shall call the toss for serve.
6. Practice: Visiting schools participating in the district, sectional or quarterfinal rounds will not be allowed to practice at the host site prior to the start of the event.
7. Music: Pre-recorded music at the district and state series tournaments shall not be played by the individual schools in the playing/practice areas, but the host school may provide music for all schools if approved by the tournament committee. (Refer to Appendix B MSHSAA Position Statement Regarding U.S. Copyright Compliance)
8. Spectator Restrictions: See Section 1-E in this manual.
9. Continuous Standing: The district tournament committee shall establish specific guidelines regarding student cheer and spirit groups. The committee shall create these guidelines with a primary focus on sportsmanship and respect for other schools and spectators. The guidelines shall also consider the seating needs of the host facility. If the establishment of designated student seating sections is recommended by the tournament committee, the following criteria shall be enforced:
  - a. At least one empty row must serve as a buffer between the floor and the student sections.
  - b. The student sections shall be specifically marked and separated (such as by rope, pennants or other barrier) from the general spectator seating areas.
  - c. The student section shall be cleared out at the conclusion of each game for use by the schools playing the next contest. If a school is playing back-to-back games with its boys and girls teams, that school may remain in its section for both contests, as long as remaining in that section does not conflict with information mentioned in item g below.
  - d. In the interest of sportsmanship and positive behavior, the student sections for competing teams shall not be adjacent to each other, directly behind either goal, or directly behind the bench of the opposing team.
  - e. The student sections shall be placed in locations that minimize the obstruction of other patrons when the students stand in unison.
  - f. Sportsmanlike behavior is expected at all times from the student section.
  - g. An administrator with the responsibility of supervising students should be present at all contests involving that particular school and be present throughout the contest in the vicinity of the student section or in an area designated by the host site administrator.

- h. An administrator from each participating school, the host site administrator and a representative of the game officials shall meet prior to game time to reiterate the site's guidelines for student cheer and spirit groups; discuss the sportsmanship goals of the contest; and to confirm the physical location of the school administrators during the contest.

**B. DISTRICT MATCHES:**

1. Districts shall begin for girls on Tuesday of week 16 ([October 21, 2025](#)) and conclude no later than Tuesday of week 17 ([October 28, 2025](#)), and shall begin for the boys on Friday of Week 44 ([May 8, 2026](#)) and conclude no later than Friday of Week 45 ([May 15, 2026](#)) for the boys districts. No Sunday play is allowed.
2. The district tournament committee may allow the option for the first round tournament matches to be played at the higher seeded school. The district manager and tournament committee will draft the officials and establish the bracket and start time. If the tournament committee does not allow this option, all matches must be played at the district host school.
3. No school shall play in more than one match per calendar date. No more than 3 matches shall be schedule per school night if held at one gymnasium. (NOTE: Friday night is not considered a school night.)
4. In order to host a district tournament a school MUST meet the criteria outlined in Appendix C, letters A-C. If a school cannot accommodate these minimum requirements, the school shall not be considered as a district host site.
5. District Winners: Each team that qualifies for sectional play will be provided a packet of instructions by the district tournament manager. The sectional and quarterfinal hosting format for this year is located in Section 5-C. If there is a change in the team roster, the change shall be updated on the MSHSAA website and provided to the sectional manager in advance of the match. (Changes must adhere to the substitution policy).
6. Awards: Plaques will be awarded to the first and second place teams in each district tournament.

**C. SECTIONAL AND QUARTERFINAL MATCHES:**

1. **Sectional**
  - a. Schedule: These matches shall be played:  
Girls - on Thursday of week 17 ([October 30, 2025](#))  
[Boys – No Sectional](#)
  - b. Host: The team on the top of the bracket in odd-numbered years and the team on the bottom of the bracket in even-numbered years. The host school shall secure two local MSHSAA registered officials to officiate lines. In order to host a sectional match, a school MUST meet the criteria outlined in Appendix C, letters D & E. If the host school cannot accommodate these minimum requirements, the school has the opportunity to secure an alternate facility with prior approval from the MSHSAA office. The neutral site shall be at no additional expense to the MSHSAA. If the determined host is unable to secure such a facility, the opponent would then become the host site provided they can meet the established criteria.
  - c. Match Time: The contest shall take place at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Quarterfinal**
  - a. Schedule: These matches shall be played:  
Girls - on Saturday of Week 17 ([November 1, 2025](#))  
Boys – on Thursday of Week 46 ([May 21, 2026](#))
  - b. Host: Will be determined by the following
    - i. NO SECTIONAL – Team on the top of the bracket in odd-numbered years and the team on the bottom of the bracket in even-numbered years.
    - ii. WITH SECTIONAL
      - 1) If one team has hosted a sectional match and the other has not; the team that did not host the sectional match will host the quarterfinal match.
      - 2) If both teams have hosted or neither has hosted a sectional match the team on the top of the bracket in odd-numbered years and the team on the bottom of the bracket in even-numbered years will host the quarterfinal match.
      - 3) The host school shall secure two local MSHSA registered officials to officiate lines.
      - 4) In order to host a quarterfinal match, a school MUST meet the specific criteria outlined in Appendix E, letter D. If the host school cannot accommodate these minimum requirements, the school has the opportunity to secure an alternate facility with prior approval from the MSHSAA office. The neutral site shall be at no additional expense to the MSHSAA. If the determined host is unable to secure such a facility, the opponent would then become the host site provided they can meet the established criteria.
  - c. Match Time: For Girls, Schools participating in quarterfinals may select a 1:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. start time. If both schools cannot agree the 3:00 p.m. start time shall be used. For Boys, the quarterfinal game will begin at 6:30 p.m.

- E. STATE TOURNAMENT:** Four teams from each class will advance to the state tournament. Trophies will be presented to the first, second, third and fourth place teams in the state tournament along with individual medals for 15 players, the head coach and the assistant coach. See Appendix F for state tournament schedule, match ups, and rotation.

## APPENDIX A: PROGRAM INFORMATION AND STATISTICS [\(TOC\)](#)

The MSHSAA staff strives to publish the most accurate materials for all Championship events. Since a majority of the information contained in Championship publications is submitted by qualifying schools, it is imperative that the MSHSAA office receive correctly-spelled names, accurate classifications (year in school), season results, statistics of participants and coaching information. The MSHSAA Board of Directors has approved a fine process for all late, incomplete or illegible submissions for MSHSAA Championship publications. Schools that do not submit their information to MSHSAA in a timely, legible, complete and accurate manner will be fined \$25 per offense (Board Policy). Electronic reports must be submitted by the appropriate deadline in the format and style included with the report instructions. It is the responsibility of the school to verify that MSHSAA has received its program information, team photo and any other required information by the appropriate deadline.

In addition to the appropriate roster and schedule information, the following statistical information will be requested for Volleyball teams advancing past the district tournament:

<b>MP</b>	Matches played for the individual
<b>GP</b>	Sets played for the individual
<b>K</b>	Kills recorded to date
<b>E</b>	Hitting errors to date
<b>TA</b>	Total attacks to date
<b>Pct</b>	Hitting percentage (kills minus errors divided by total attacks)
<b>AST</b>	Assists recorded to date
<b>SA</b>	Serving aces recorded to date
<b>Dig</b>	Digs recorded to date
<b>TB</b>	Total Blocks (includes solo blocks and block assists)

### NOTE:

- 1) These numbers should represent all matches played through the district tournament and will be required for teams advancing past the district tournament. Any statistical information to be found incomplete will result in a fine per Board Policy on Delinquent Submissions of Required Data as listed above.
- 2) Stats only need to be entered once prior to the Sectional game. The stats will not need to be updated after each playoff contest.
- 3) If you have any statistical questions, do not hesitate in contacting Andrew Kaufman in the MSHSAA office by e-mailing [andrew@mshsaa.org](mailto:andrew@mshsaa.org).

## **APPENDIX B: COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE [\(TOC\)](#)**

### **MSHSAA Position Statement Regarding U.S. Copyright Compliance**

Educators, coaches, and administrators who wish to use copyrighted material need to understand the privileges and rights of the copyright owner and must abide by defined limitations as expressed in U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the school administration to ensure their school community is in compliance with U.S. Copyright Laws at all times when playing music at your events, reproducing consumable materials, and all other events taking place at school facilities where copyright laws are to be followed. When hosting a MSHSAA postseason event, the host site is responsible for confirming any music being played over a public sound system, used in video clips, etc., has the gained written permission and/or secured the necessary license(s) to play the music, video clips, etc. from the appropriate Performing Rights Organization (i.e. ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, other).

The NFHS (National Federation of State High Schools) has established an agreement with ASCAP to allow schools and non-school sites hosting a MSHSAA postseason event, to perform/play music in which they own the rights (at least 50%) of the work at no charge. It is your responsibility to ensure the music performed onsite is owned by ASCAP. To determine if the music is owned by ASCAP to go [www.ASCAP.com](http://www.ASCAP.com) and select the link 'Repertory' to search their catalog. If the work is not owned by ASCAP (at least 50%), you will need to work directly with the organization that does own the rights (BMI, SESAC, etc.) to secure the necessary license or not use that work. This agreement only extends to the playing of music recordings downloaded to personal electronic devices, CD's, etc. but does not extend to mash-up recordings or music altered from its original recording without the site obtaining a license to do so.



## **APPENDIX C: SITE SELECTION PROCESS [\(TOC\)](#)**

### **A. General Criteria: The following district site selection process shall be used for Volleyball.**

1. Following the assignment of all registered schools to classifications and districts, the MSHSAA staff shall select one Athletic Administrator or Principal (per district) to serve as the Site Selection Chairperson for the purpose of coordinating the process.
2. The chairperson shall be contacted and confirmed via email by the MSHSAA staff.
3. Each chairperson shall review the list of schools assigned to their district located on the activity page on [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org) under the "Class and District Assignments" link
4. Each chairperson will contact all athletic administrators of schools and arrange a meeting (face-to-face is preferred but telephone conference call, email, fax, ballot, etc. is acceptable) to select the host site(s). MSHSAA shall incur no expense in conjunction with this meeting.
5. The request shall be to select the host site(s) for only the current classification cycle.
6. Schools wishing to host, shall complete and submit the District Host Submission Form (Appendix F) to provide evidence that facilities and staffing meet the necessary and/or recommended requirements to safely, securely and adequately provide for the conduct of the district tournament.
7. The chairperson shall distribute all submitted forms to district members for review prior to the selection meeting.
8. The chairperson shall notify the MSHSAA office, via email, by the established deadline and indicate the selected host site(s) and manager's information and the District Host Submission Form.
9. The MSHSAA staff shall review the submitted host sites for any necessary adjustments and final approval. The MSHSAA staff and/or Board of Directors shall select the host site when a district committee is unable to reach agreement or the Board determines a suggested site is unacceptable due to site constraints. A neutral site may only be used, provided there is prior approval from MSHSAA, due to confirmation of inadequate facilities at the assigned district schools or unusual circumstances. The neutral site shall be at no additional expense to MSHSAA.
10. Prior to final approval, a Medical Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for all state series sites and venues must be confirmed/uploaded to the MSHSAA website prior to hosting. The medical EAP shall specifically require an onsite AED and use of MSHSAA's AED Guidelines as posted on the Sports Medicine page at [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org)
11. Following final approval, host sites shall be added to the district assignments link and the district managers' packets shall be forwarded to each district manager within an appropriate time frame to allow for proper administering of the event.

### **B. Specific Criteria for District Sites**

1. The Board of Directors has taken the position on the locations for District and State Tournaments that competition sites for all district and state series events shall be conducted in Missouri unless a school owned facility, contiguous to the school campus is beyond the state border..
2. The site facility(s) must be in compliance with the Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as a place of public accommodation.
3. A Medical Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the venue being used for hosting a postseason contest must be uploaded and accounted for at [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org). The medical EAP shall specifically require an onsite AED and use of MSHSAA's AED Guidelines as posted on the Sports Medicine page at [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org)
4. Secure location for contest officials to be sequestered from teams and spectators.
5. Ability to take admission for all contests.
6. Seating capacity shall be adequate to accommodate anticipated attendance.
7. Adequate off-street parking available for the seating capacity of the facility – required.
8. Adequate concessions available for spectators – required

### **C. MSHSAA Specific Criteria for Volleyball Districts**

1. Districts shall begin for girls on Tuesday of week 16 ([October 21, 2025](#)) and conclude no later than Tuesday of week 17 ([October 28, 2025](#)), and shall begin for the boys on Friday of Week 44 ([May 8, 2026](#)) and conclude no later than Friday of Week 45 ([May 15, 2026](#)) for the boys districts. No Sunday play is allowed.
2. No school shall play in more than one match per calendar date. No more than 3 matches shall be schedule per school night. (NOTE: Friday is not considered a school night)
3. In order to host a district tournament a school MUST meet the following:
  - a. Facility/site must be located within the boundaries of the State of Missouri and
  - b. The facility MUST be able to accommodate a minimum of 60 spectators per participating school in that match. A facility may allow more spectators per school if facilities allow it. Equal number of tickets per team/school shall be allocated.
  - c. Adequate off-street parking available for the seating capacity of the facility.
  - d. The site/facility must be in compliance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as a place of public accommodation.
  - e. Adequate concessions available for spectators.
  - f. Adequate team locker rooms.
  - g. Private dressing facilities for contest officials

- h. If a school cannot accommodate these minimum requirements, the school shall not be considered as a district host site.
- 4. Team rosters are limited to a maximum of 15 players per school.

**D. MSHSAA Specific Criteria for Volleyball Sectionals**

- 1. These matches shall be played on Thursday of week 17 for Girls.
- 2. There will be 8 sectional matches per class.
- 3. The 4 schools in that quadrant of the bracket shall be rotated each year (districts 1-4, 5-8, 9-12, 13-16).
- 4. The sectional match will be hosted by the team on the top of the bracket in odd-numbered years and the team on the bottom of the bracket in even-numbered years.
- 5. The host school shall secure two local MSHSAA registered officials to officiate lines.
- 6. In order to host a sectional match, a school MUST meet the following:
  - a. Facility/site must be located within the boundaries of the State of Missouri and
  - b. The facility MUST be able to accommodate a minimum of 60 spectators per participating school in that match. A facility may allow more spectators per school if facilities allow it. Equal number of tickets per team/school shall be allocated.
  - c. Adequate off-street parking available for the seating capacity of the facility.
  - d. The site/facility must be in compliance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as a place of public accommodation.
  - e. Adequate concessions available for spectators.
  - f. Adequate team locker rooms.
  - g. Private dressing facilities for contest officials
  - h. If a host school cannot accommodate these minimum requirements, the school has the opportunity to secure an alternate facility with prior approval from the MSHSAA office. The neutral site shall be at no additional expense to the MSHSAA. If the determined host is unable to secure such a facility, the opponent would then become the host site provided they can meet the established criteria.

**E. MSHSAA Specific Criteria for Volleyball Quarterfinals**

- 1. Schedule: These matches shall be played:
  - a. Girls - on Saturday of Week 17
  - b. Boys – on Thursday of Week 46
- 2. There will be 4 quarterfinal matches per class.
- 3. Hosting criteria:
  - a. If one team has hosted a sectional match and the other has not; the team that did not host the sectional match will host the quarterfinal match.
  - b. If both teams have hosted or neither has hosted a sectional match the team on the top of the bracket in odd-numbered years and the team on the bottom of the bracket in even-numbered years will host the quarterfinal match.
- 4. The host school shall secure two local MSHSAA registered officials to officiate lines.
- 5. In order to host a quarterfinal match, a school MUST meet the following:
- 6. Facility/site must be located within the boundaries of the State of Missouri and
- 7. The facility MUST be able to accommodate a minimum of 60 spectators per participating school in that match. A facility may allow more spectators per school if facilities allow it. Equal number of tickets per team/school shall be allocated.
- 8. Adequate off-street parking available for the seating capacity of the facility.
- 9. The site/facility must be in compliance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as a place of public accommodation.
- 10. Adequate concessions available for spectators.
- 11. Adequate team locker rooms.
- 12. Private dressing facilities for contest officials
- 13. If a host school cannot accommodate these minimum requirements, the school has the opportunity to secure an alternate facility with prior approval from the MSHSAA office. The neutral site shall be at no additional expense to the MSHSAA. If the determined host is unable to secure such a facility, the opponent would then become the host site provided they can meet the established criteria.

## APPENDIX D: MEDIA INFORMATION [\(TOC\)](#)

The following sections outline the standards and expectations set by MSHSAA for accommodating and managing media at MSHSAA postseason events. As the site manager, you are responsible for thoroughly understanding and adhering to these guidelines. You may also want to review our Media & Regulations Book on [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media).

- A. Eligible Media-** All media representatives must be approved by the MSHSAA communications team via our online credentialing system (See Credentialing in Section C). Please ensure media covering our events are working in a professional capacity and adhering to professional standards of conduct, as well as all MSHSAA media regulations ([mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media)) and event policies.
- B. Eligible School Media-** All school media representatives must be approved by the MSHSAA communications team via our online credentialing system (See Credentialing in Section C). School media is identified as a reporter/photographer/broadcaster who is verified to represent a full-member school. Each school qualifying for a MSHSAA-sponsored postseason event will be allowed school media credentials to gain access to the media areas for the purpose of taking still photography, videography, writing news/feature stories, or broadcasting. It is up to the school administration to decide which students or personnel will be issued these credentials (See Credentialing in Section C). See your Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media) for more information.
- C. Credentialing-** Athletic Directors can apply for **school media credentials** by logging into their MSHSAA administrative account, navigating to the Sports/Activities tab, and selecting "MSHSAA Media Credentials" under the postseason section. From there, athletic directors can add reporters and submit credential requests for postseason events. Schools may receive up to three approved media credentials per event, to be distributed at the school's discretion. Please note: Schools who wish to broadcast can apply for an additional number of media credentials (More Information in Broadcast Section Below). All media personnel—including, but not limited to, reporters, photographers, writers, broadcasters, and camera operators—must be credentialed to gain entry to the event grounds. Only individuals listed on the official pre-approved media list with a green checkmark are authorized to access your event. There are no exceptions. This list will include each media member's name, outlet, and email address, and can be found in the **Postseason Manager** portal by navigating to: **(The Event) > Tournament Items > Media Credentials**. Any outlet or individual not marked with a green checkmark, or not appearing on the list, must be treated as a spectator and must purchase a ticket for admission. If there is any uncertainty regarding a person's media status, please contact Andrew Kauffman or Scott Lunte for verification. See your Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media) for more information.
- D. Conduct-** All members of the media, school media included, should be held to the same standard. MSHSAA expects all media to behave in a professional manner. Any media representative who displays unprofessional behavior may be asked to leave. If a member of the media is found to have a direct association with a team or individual competing in a MSHSAA sanctioned event (such as a coach, team manager or reserve player), the individual's media credential privileges should be revoked, and an effort should be made to appropriately credential the violating individual should the situation warrant. Designated media areas should be for media use only. No one under 18 years of age (except student media representatives), spouses, friends, coaches or fans will be admitted to media areas. See your Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media) for more information.
- E. Restricted Areas and Procedures-** The player and officials locker rooms, practice areas and dressing areas are closed to all media representatives, including school media, at all times during any MSHSAA-sponsored activity. This policy is in place to protect the privacy of your student-athletes. It is the philosophy of MSHSAA and its member schools that minors in dressing areas do not mix with cameras and reporters, period. There are no exceptions to this rule at any time. Likewise, game officials are restricted from issuing comments to the media before, during or after a contest. Any attempt to pursue an official in the playing area, in the dressing areas or on the grounds of the event itself will be considered a violation of the conditions placed on the representative's/outlet's credentials. Rules interpretations may be sought through the site manager, media host or host athletic administrator only. See your Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media) for more information.
- F. Accommodations-** Site managers are responsible for accommodating media representatives and ensuring appropriate working space is provided. Basic accommodations should include, but are not limited to, access to team rosters and brackets, official scoring or results, a writing surface (e.g., a designated press table), weather protection, and access to the competition area after the event concludes. If there are any known limitations that may hinder the ability to properly accommodate media, the MSHSAA communications team must be notified in advance. Known limitations could include lack of broadcast areas, working table space, photography areas, exposure to inclement weather, and other areas that are believed to be at an unsafe distance from the playing surface. Additionally, banners, when permitted at the site manager's discretion, should be displayed at the station's originating location, and this banner may only be displayed while the outlet is originating. The banner may not display logos or names of advertisers sponsoring the outlet's origination. See your Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media) for more information.
- G. Results-** Each site manager has the responsibility to ensure all final results are reported immediately after the conclusion of each postseason game to the MSHSAA website.
- H. Photography-** Photographers who need "floor" access must be on the official pre-approved media list. Individuals with a camera who are not on the pre-approved media list with a green checkmark must be treated as a spectator and must purchase a ticket for admission. All photographers must follow NFHS and MSHSAA guidelines. Complete photographer regulations by sport can be found in the Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media). Individuals who fail to follow NFHS and MSHSAA guidelines may be asked to leave the facility.

I. **Broadcasts-** Any entity, including schools, wishing to conduct a video or audio broadcast must request approval through the MSHSAA online credentialing system. Only individuals listed on the official pre-approved media list with a green checkmark are authorized to broadcast your event. Unauthorized broadcasts of postseason games (even from the stands) are strictly prohibited. Once approved, broadcasters must coordinate directly with the site manager **at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled contest**. Broadcasters are solely responsible for securing and installing any necessary internet or phone lines. Site managers may choose to install these lines at their own expense and share costs among all broadcasting entities. **Please note: Do NOT collect any broadcast agreement forms or payment from media. This is all done online ahead of the event through the MSHSAA website and is NO LONGER the responsibility of the site manager.**

1. **Video Streaming-** All MSHSAA postseason events leading up to the final site are eligible for live video streaming by approved media outlets and schools. Entities who stream to MSHSAA.TV do not have any broadcast fees. All media outlets, including schools, must apply for credentials through MSHSAA's online credentialing system. If approved, they will show up on your pre-approved media list with a green checkmark. **All live video streaming must be streamed exclusively on MSHSAA.TV.** Video streaming showing game action through third-party platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, GameChanger, or similar services is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply may result in a minimum **\$500 fine** issued to the violating party. **Please note:** MSHSAA holds exclusive rights to all video streaming at the state final site. Media and school media are not eligible to video stream these championship events. For complete details, refer to the **Postseason Streaming Information** page linked on [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media).
2. **Linear TV-** There is a significant rights fee for all live/delayed linear television broadcasts. All requests to broadcast live/delayed on linear TV must receive prior approval from MSHSAA by contacting Andrew Kauffman at the MSHSAA office. If approved, the linear television stations will appear on your pre-approved media list with a green checkmark. For more information, visit [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media).
3. **Radio/Audio Only Broadcasts -** Media organizations and schools seeking to produce a radio or audio-only broadcast must submit a credential request through MSHSAA's online credentialing system. Upon approval, the outlet will be displayed on your pre-approved media list with a **green checkmark** indicating full authorization. If the checkmark appears **orange**, it means the outlet has **NOT YET** completed the required broadcast rights fee payment. In such cases, broadcasting is **not permitted** until payment is submitted **online only**. Once the fee is received and processed, the orange checkmark will automatically update to green, confirming the outlet is fully cleared to proceed with its broadcast.

**Priority for Broadcast Placement** (assigned by the site manager) shall be assigned in the following order:

- (a) Outlets representing the host school
- (b) Outlets covering participating teams — with equal distribution per school
- (c) Outlets covering the geographic region of the site and participating teams
- (d) All other outlets
- (e) When priorities are equal, preference is given to stations with more frequent regular-season coverage. If still tied, a coin toss will determine placement.

J. **Public Address Announcements-** You can see all our [public address announcements](https://mshsaa.org/media) on [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media). Please use these as you see fit during your games and broadcasts.

**NOTE:** Please contact Andrew Kauffman, Communications Director, by phone at (573) 875-1077 or by e-mail at [Andrew@mshsaa.org](mailto:Andrew@mshsaa.org), if you have ANY questions concerning the guidelines listed in this section or have any media questions/concerns. You can find our Media Regulations & Credentials Book on [mshsaa.org/media](https://mshsaa.org/media).

## **APPENDIX E: CHECKLIST WHEN HOSTING/WORKING A VOLLEYBALL CONTEST ([TOC](#))**

The following suggestions are not new, but if all parties will follow these suggested time-saving procedures, and adhere to them on match nights, concerns about long evenings can be alleviated. If consistently applied, these suggestions could save up to 45 minutes on an evening with 3 matches scheduled and all matches would go to the maximum number of sets allowed.

### **Administration:**

1. Establish clearly defined prematch introduction and National Anthem procedure. Make sure all parties (coaches and officials) are aware of the procedure so there is little delay in the execution of these items. This should be done before the day of the contest. It is suggested an email be sent to the visiting school's athletic director **prior** to the day of the contest to share with their coaching staff as well as the contest officials secured to work the match.
2. Secure ball retrievers (i.e. players from other levels or middle school students) to work the contest to chase balls between rallies and during warm-ups for both teams.
3. Secure and properly train personnel to work at the scorer's table (clock, scorer, libero tracker) to ensure substitutions are conducted timely and all time-outs and intervals between sets are efficiently timed. Secure and train your line judge working the match. Have them ready to meet the officials prior to the match.
4. Provide towels and/or floor mops near scorer's table to wipe the floor when necessary to minimize delays in the match. Balls are out and available for warm-ups.
5. Meet the officials upon arrival and escort them to the gym to inspect the court and playing area.
6. Be in the gym during the match for any problems or concerns that may require your attention.
7. Be in the gym at the conclusion of the match to get the next match and teams on the floor. If the last match of the evening, escort the officials off the court and to their changing area.

### **Officials:**

1. Arrive in plenty of time to conduct prematch responsibilities. It is suggested no later than 45 minutes prior to the first match of the evening.
2. Prior to each match, the R1 holds coin up and whistles head coaches and captains to immediately begin the prematch conference. Host administration should assist with the process.
3. Conduct all responsibilities during the match quickly and efficiently to keep the contest moving (i.e. substitutions, time-outs, signaling for serve, table communication, etc.).

### **Coaches:**

1. Have your teams immediately available to begin warm-up for the next match.
2. Ensure captains and head coaches are immediately available for the prematch conference and coin toss with the officials.
3. Have your teams ready for play following the timed warm-up, timeouts or intervals between sets.
4. Secure and train your line judge working the match. Have them ready to meet the officials prior to the match.

**Pre-match Conference:** **Note:** When multiple matches are played on the same date, an 18-minute clock shall start as soon as the officials have completed their duties from the previous match. The officials will conduct the conference in the first 2 minutes of the running clock and will release teams to their warm-up activities at 16 minutes on the clock. The conference shall be concluded before the 16-minute mark. The clock will continue without interruption.

1. Introductions of captains, head coaches and officials.
2. Officials inquire if all players are properly equipped and uniforms legal. Request any letters of authorization.
3. Cover playable area and any restrictions.
4. Conduct coin toss.

## APPENDIX F: SECTIONAL/QUARTERFINAL/STATE BRACKETS [\(TOC\)](#)

Sectional                      Quarterfinals                      State Qualifier

District #1 Winner

6:30 pm

District #2 Winner

Quarterfinal #1

Winner  
Quarterfinal 1

District #3 Winner

6:30 pm

District #4 Winner

District #9 Winner

6:30 pm

District #10 Winner

Quarterfinal #3

Winner  
Quarterfinal 3

District #11 Winner

6:30 pm

District #12 Winner

District #13 Winner

6:30 pm

District #14 Winner

Quarterfinal #4

Winner  
Quarterfinal 4

District #15 Winner

6:30 pm

District #16 Winner

District #5 Winner

6:30 pm

District #6 Winner

Quarterfinal #2

Winner  
Quarterfinal 2

District #7 Winner

6:30 pm

District #8 Winner

The State Tournament will be held at:  
Girls: The Civic Center, St. Joseph  
Boys: Show Me Center, Cape Girardeau

Sectional & Quarterfinal Hosts and Sites:  
Refer to Appendix C for hosting criteria.

## QUARTERFINAL BRACKET – NO SECTIONAL

### Quarterfinals                      State Qualifier

<u>District #1 Winner</u>	Winner
Quarterfinal #1	<u>Quarterfinal 1</u>
<u>District #2 Winner</u>	

The State Tournament will be held at:  
 Girls: The Civic Center, St. Joseph  
 Boys: Show Me Center, Cape Girardeau

Sectional & Quarterfinal Hosts and Sites:  
 Refer to Appendix C for hosting criteria

<u>District #5 Winner</u>	Winner
Quarterfinal #3	<u>Quarterfinal. 3</u>
<u>District #6 Winner</u>	

<u>District #7 Winner</u>	Winner
Quarterfinal #4	<u>Quarterfinal. 4</u>
<u>District #8 Winner</u>	

<u>District #3 Winner</u>	Winner
Quarterfinals #2	<u>Quarterfinal. 2</u>
<u>District #4 Winner</u>	



## APPENDIX G: STATE TOURNAMENT [\(TOC\)](#)

- A. State Tournament Time Schedule and Pairings: Please note that matches may start later than the time listed below depending on pace of play.

### 2025 MSHSAA Girls Volleyball Schedule

Wednesday, November 5, 2025		
TIME	CLASS	GAME
12:00 PM	2	Semi-Final #1
2:00 PM	2	Semi-Final #2
4:00 PM	4	Semi-Final #1
6:00 PM	4	Semi-Final #2
Thursday, November 6, 2025		
10:00 AM	5	Semi-Final #1
12:00 PM	5	Semi-Final #2
2:00 PM	2	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
4:00 PM	2	Championship
6:00 PM	4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
8:00 PM	4	Championship
Friday, November 7, 2025		
10:00 AM	5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
12:00 PM	5	Championship
2:00 PM	3	Semi-Final #1
4:00 PM	3	Semi-Final #2
6:00 PM	1	Semi-Final #1
8:00 PM	1	Semi-Final #2
Saturday, November 8, 2025		
10:00 AM	3	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
12:00 PM	3	Championship
2:00 PM	1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
4:00 PM	1	Championship

### Rotation MSHSAA Girls Volleyball Schedule

2024				
	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Classes	4, 5	4, 5, 3	3, 1, 2	1, 2
2025				
	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Classes	2, 4	2, 4, 5	5, 3, 1	3, 1
2026				
	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Classes	1, 2	1, 2, 4	4, 5, 3	5, 3
2027				
	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Classes	3, 1	3, 1, 2	2, 4, 5	4, 5
2028				
	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Classes	5, 3	5, 3, 1	1, 2, 4	2, 4

**2026 MSHSAA BOYS Volleyball Schedule**

<b>Tuesday, May 26, 2026</b>		
<b>TIME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>GAME</b>
10:00 AM	1	Semi-Final #1
12:00 PM	1	Semi-Final #2
2:00 PM	2	Semi-Final #1
4:00 PM	2	Semi-Final #2
<b>Wednesday, May 27, 2025</b>		
10:00 AM	1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
12:00 PM	1	Championship
2:00 PM	2	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
4:00 PM	2	Championship

MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL  
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

*Centennial*

FEBRUARY

4

**MSHSAA'S 100<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY**



MSHSAA Centennial  
National Anthem

**MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**

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