2025 MHSAA VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

MEMBERS PRESENT
Shawn Andrews, Flushing
Michael Bakker, Fenton
Jordan Drake, Lowell
Kris Ernst, Fowler
Samantha Jay, Port Huron
Terra King, Battle Creek (MIVCA)
Jean LaClair, Bronson (MIAAA)
Alizandra Neitzert, Quincy
Rick Noorman, Grand Rapids
Aaron Smaka, Grand Haven
Brett Steele, Battle Creek
Jabe Thomas, Laingsburg
Preston Treend, Richmond
Marty Weese, New Lothrop
Chris Westfall, Ypsilanti
Anthony Wetmore, Gladwin
Sarah Wilhelm, Jackson (MATS)
Betty Wroubel, Pontiac

MHSAA STAFF
Andi Osters (Recorder)

The 2025-26 MHSAA Volleyball Committee met in the John E. “Jack” Roberts MHSAA building to review volleyball topics and the tournament series for both girls and boys. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision-making process and the charge of the Volleyball Committee. Agenda items from correspondence, staff, committee members, and the volleyball coaches association were compiled.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL SEEDING
The 2025 girls volleyball season was the second to feature MPR seeding, wherein the top two teams of each MHSAA District were placed on opposite sides of the tournament bracket. Staff provided a general overview of schedule data from MHSAA.com, demonstrating that teams continue to improve the accuracy of their regular-season schedules and results.

A robust and lengthy discussion took place regarding tournament seeding concepts and philosophy. Committee members presented various ideas about how to separate perennial powerhouse teams that happen to be geographically close to each other. Other sport models and ideas were reviewed, along with division maps from prior girls volleyball seasons.

While action was not taken, staff agreed to lead a discussion with a smaller subgroup during the summer of 2026. At that time, subgroup members will be invited to present specific thoughts, accompanied by data, to support seeding concepts that would change the current tournament structure. Items that continue to be pressing include travel for teams at the regional round, displacing teams from areas where they may achieve success, accuracy of MPR as a ranking system, optics for the MHSAA, and general balance of the volleyball tournament within each division.

REGULAR-SEASON MATCH FORMATS
Details related to an early-season email were shared with the committee regarding regular-season match formats for varsity teams. Efforts continue to standardize both head-to-head contests and events involving multiple teams at one location. Language has been added to all volleyball materials to state existing policies:

a. All varsity dual matches must be played as best three-of-five sets.
b. In varsity tri and quad matches that use a best two-of-three format, all sets (including a deciding set, if necessary) shall be played to 25 points.
c. Multi-team tournament matches that include placement or pool-play games to determine seeding are counted as wins, losses or ties – even if those games are played to 21 points.
d. Single-set matches do not count toward MPR.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL MPR – MINIMUM CONTEST THRESHOLD
Currently, a girls volleyball team must have a minimum of eight varsity match results to earn a #1 or #2 seed within their assigned District. The committee reviewed multiple 2025 District groupings, along with their respective schedules and match counts. Ultimately, a proposal emerged to increase the minimum number of match results required to earn a top two seed from eight to 18 matches. If no team in a District has 18 match results on the day brackets are released, teams will be placed on the bracket based upon their existing MPR. If only one team has 18 or more results, that team will be given the #1 seed.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL ONBOARDING & TRANSITION
Staff continue to receive team additions for the inaugural season of boys volleyball, set to begin in Spring 2026. Currently, 113 member schools have added the sport and plan to participate in the MHSAA tournament. Boys volleyball is in the small group of sports permitted to enter into cooperative agreements when involved schools have a combined enrollment under 3,500 students. At present, three teams have formed co-ops that place their combined enrollment between 1,000 and 3,500 students.

The tournament will be conducted in two divisions, with competition beginning with a Regional round, followed by Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals. The venue for the boys volleyball culminating event (June 5-6, 2026) was discussed. The Semifinals and Finals will be played at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek, with four semifinal matches played on Friday, June 5, with the two Finals played on Saturday, June 6.

GAME BALLS
The 2026-27 NFHS Volleyball Rules Book will allow, for the first time, the use of a textured volleyball for use in high school games. Currently, volleyballs used during both the girls and boys MHSAA volleyball season must be gray, white, and royal blue, and adhere to current NFHS game equipment standards, which require a smooth ball. Many boys programs prefer a textured ball, stating that it is more durable, flies truer when hit hard and generally feels better. Committee members were provided with volleyball samples during the meeting, with consensus leaning toward making the change for boys when allowed by rule. The committee advanced a proposal for 2026-27 to mandate the use of a textured volleyball during MHSAA boys volleyball postseason matches, while still allowing schools to use either a smooth or textured ball during regular-season matches (as determined by the host school). Staff will continue to monitor this option for girls volleyball in the future.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL: COACH REQUIREMENTS
The committee reviewed *MHSAA Handbook* Regulation II, Section 3(C), which requires each head coach of a varsity team in an MHSAA tournament sport hired for the first time as a high school varsity head coach at any MHSAA member high school after July 31, 2016, to complete either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP). The group strongly supports the enforcement of this regulation with respect to boys volleyball coaches, believing that the program could significantly benefit many coaches who have not been associated with school-based sports.

Discussion also occurred on the history of girls volleyball participation, site selection criteria, NFHS streaming improvements, the 2025 MHSAA Update Meeting Survey results, and "Fifth Quarter" concepts for all sports.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. To be granted a #1 or #2 seed in a Girls Volleyball District tournament, a team must have a minimum of 18 varsity match results. (16-0)

2. Beginning in 2026-27, the competition volleyball used for the MHSAA Boys Volleyball postseason tournament will be a textured volleyball. Regular-season contests may be played with either smooth or textured volleyball. (16-0)