



2026 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT PLAN – KEY POINTS OF REVIEW

- Schools are assigned to one of 128 Districts, 32 Districts in each of four Divisions.
- District tournament dates are November 2 – November 7.
District champions advance to one of 32 Regionals, eight Regionals in each Division.
- Regional dates are November 10 & 12.
Regional winners advance to Quarterfinal matches November 17.
- The MHSAA Semifinals are November 19 (Divisions 1 & 4) and November 20 (Divisions 2 & 3),
Finals - November 21 (all divisions) in Battle Creek.
- All matches in the MHSAA tournament are best 3 of 5 with rally scoring.
- Admission is \$8/person at the District matches, \$10/person for Regionals, \$11/person for Quarterfinals, and \$12/person for Semifinal and Final matches.
- **Managers hire officials at the District level.** The MHSAA assigns officials at the Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Finals levels. Local managers shall secure timers, scorers, libero trackers and line judges.
- **Ball Requirement:**
The only legal ball for girls regular season and post-season play is the (Royal) Blue/Grey/White smooth volleyball. Any manufacturer is fine for the district as long as the ball has the NFHS Authenticating Mark. Balls will be furnished for the Regional and Quarterfinal. This is not a reimbursable expense—you use and keep the ball as part of your stock.
- **REMINDER:**
The entire week of Nov. 2-7 may be used for the Districts – with the following restrictions;
 - A team may play only one match per day
 - A team cannot play back-to-back nights, unless their opponent has also
 - District Final cannot be played prior to Thurs, Nov. 5



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT MANAGER MANUAL (Alphabetical by topic)

ADMISSION – Ticket prices for the MHSAA Volleyball Tournament are \$8/person at the District matches, \$10/person for Regionals, \$11/person for Quarterfinals, and \$12/person for Semifinal and Final matches. All tickets will be sold via GoFan. Passes or a pass list for contestants should be supplied to a maximum of 15 players in uniform for each competing team and five adults/managers.

Passes - League passes, coaches' passes, local booster club passes, officials' association passes, etc., are not to be honored at any tournament. There are no passes to be honored except those distributed by the local management for supervision purposes. Managers are urged to issue complimentary tickets for visiting school administrators for the purpose of crowd supervision. Complimentary tickets should be limited to the school's administration and/or designated security staff. A written plan suggesting placement, duties, and contacts should be available to persons acting in these capacities. There is to be no free admission for college coaches.

BANDS – Pep Bands are not allowed at the MHSAA District, Regional and Quarterfinal games.

CROWD CONTROL - During contests, officials will penalize under applicable sportsmanship or playing rules student-athletes or coaches who leave the field of play and contact or approach spectator areas for celebrations. Each school shall assign an acceptable number of crowd control supervisors to be stationed in front of its student cheering sections. These individuals are to be admitted into the contest, enforce this policy and include a school administrator. Each tournament manager or the MHSAA Staff will determine the acceptable number of crowd supervisors necessary for each school dependent on the situation.

At the conclusion of contests, prior to or after the awards are presented, athletes shall not enter spectator areas or physically contact spectators in the stands. After awards are presented, athletes may approach their spectators (e.g. stand in front of their sections while on the field of play) but for safety reasons athletes are not to enter or physically contact spectators in the stands. Crowd supervisors are to ensure that spectators do not press the facility and possibly cause damage.

The cost for repair or replacement to facilities damaged as a result of celebrations shall be paid by the school involved directly to the host facility within 30 days of the bill being submitted to the school. MHSAA reimbursement or revenue sharing will be withheld until paid by the offending school. Future tournament hosting privileges or school reimbursements to offending schools may be withheld if payment is not made.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS – Managers must prepare information packets for participating teams at all levels as follows:

District – The MHSAA will determine the draw/bracket eight days before the start of Districts. Managers should determine the date, time, and location of all contests prior to the draw, preferably at the beginning of the season, and should immediately give them to the assigner and the MHSAA (Due by Oct. 1). In addition, managers should provide information to competing schools regarding the time schedule, location of the gymnasium, directions, locker room access (or lack of), and all other pertinent details of the tournament.

Regional - Managers must prepare a winning team packet for each District Manager to give to the winning team. This packet should include: (a) map with directions to Regional gymnasium, (b) date and starting time of the game, (c) location of dressing and shower facilities, (d) host school facility rules, (e) parking arrangements for buses or cars of competing schools. The District Tournament Manager shall give the packet to the winning team.

Quarterfinal – Managers must prepare a winning team packet for each Regional Manager to give to the winning team. The packet should include directions/map to the Quarterfinal gymnasium location, time schedule, location of locker rooms, parking arrangements for school vehicles and host school facility rules. Make sure the winning team packet is at the Regional site for distribution by the manager to winning teams prior to the Regional Championship game.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS –“Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional.” The language above, which appears in all National Federation sports rule books, reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. This language reflects an increasing focus on safety and acknowledges that the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness. This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during the course of contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

1. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise that the player should be examined by a health care professional for an exact determination of the extent of injury.
2. If it is confirmed by the school’s designated health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may reenter competition pursuant to the contest rules.
3. Otherwise, if competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
 - a. The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
 - b. Only an M.D., D.O., Physician’s Assistant or Nurse Practitioner may clear the individual to return to activity.
 - c. The clearance must be in writing and must be unconditional. It is not sufficient that the M.D., D.O., Physician’s Assistant or Nurse Practitioner has approved the student to begin a return-to-play progression. The medical examiner must approve the student’s return to unrestricted activity.
 - d. Individual school, districts and leagues may have more stringent requirements and protocols including but not limited to mandatory periods of inactivity, screening and post-concussion testing prior to the written clearance for return to activity.
4. Following the contest, an Officials Report shall be filed with a removed player’s school and the MHSAA if the situation was brought to the officials’ attention.
5. Member schools are required to complete and submit the forms designated by the MHSAA to record and track head injury events in all levels of all sports.
6. In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician (MD/DO/PA/NP) is present, his or her decision to not allow an athlete to return to activity may not be overruled.

[Return to Activity & Post-Concussion Form](#)

DATES/TIME SCHEDULE – The MHSAA Volleyball Tournament dates are as follows:

Districts – Nov 2 -- Nov. 7. Matches may be played throughout the week, but the District Final may not be played earlier than Thursday, November 5. A team may not play more than one match per day. If a team has to play back-to-back days, the opponent must also play back-to-back days.

Regionals – Semifinals - Tuesday, November 10 | Final -Thursday, November 12

Quarterfinals – Tuesday, November 17

DRAW PROCEDURES – District hosts do not need to host a draw meeting. The District bracket will be determined by the MHSAA and posted to the MHSAA website on the Sunday eight days before the District tournament starts.

SEEDING: The top two teams in each District will be determined by the Michigan Power Rating formula (see the MPR section later in this document). The two seeded teams will be placed on the opposite side of the bracket, which ensures that they cannot meet until the District Final. The #1 seed will be placed on line 1 and the #2 seed will be placed on line 5 – this will guarantee placement on the top line and could give them a home game when the game is not played at the designated host school.

In Non-Traditional Districts, designated hosts will host all games they are competing in. If the designated host is not competing in a contest, the seeded teams have the first priority to host, followed by the team on the top line of the bracket. A random formula will then specify where to place the non-seeded teams on the bracket. Go to the MICHIGAN POWER RATING portion of this document to read about how MPR is used to seed the teams.

All brackets in all sports using the MPR seeding methodology to identify the top two seeds will be drawn to guarantee the seeded teams receive byes if a bye exists in the bracket. If one bye is in the bracket, it shall go to the #1 seed. If two byes are in the bracket, the byes will go to the #1 and #2 seeds. Home games are not guaranteed for seeded teams.

NEW IN 2026: To receive the designation of a #1 or #2 seed, a team must have at least 15 varsity match results.

Scores should be entered in the MHSAA.com Score Center IMMEDIATELY after games. If a score is not entered within three hours of the scheduled start time, both ADs and both coaches will receive an automated email reminder. Consider assigning this task to your scorekeeper, manager, reliable parent, or assistant who can easily become a registered user on MHSAA.com and enter scores from their phone.

All matches of at least two games will be used for calculating MPR. This includes pool play matches which feature only two games. These matches could end in a tie.

The team on the top of the bracket is the home team at all levels of tournament competition.

- The District host's team may play ALL of its games at home, regardless of its position on the bracket.

When a team withdraws from the District Tournament after the draw has taken place the following procedures will apply:

- **Four or eight-team District:** The bracket position of the team that withdraws is vacated, its opponent advances, and no re-draw is held.
- **Five-team District:**
 - If the team that withdraws did not receive a bye in the initial draw and is in the bracket position for a first-round game, the bracket position of the team that withdraws is vacated, its opponent advances to the semifinal, and no re-draw is held.
 - If the team that withdraws was scheduled to play the winner of the first-round game, move the two first-round opponents directly to the semifinal.
 - If the team that withdraws received a bye into the semifinals and is scheduled to play another team that received a bye (resulting in its opponent advancing directly to the District Final without playing a game), then a re-draw of all remaining teams is required by the tournament manager.
- **Six or seven team District:** If the team that withdraws did not receive a bye in the initial draw and is in the bracket position for a first-round game, the bracket position of the team that withdraws is vacated, its opponent advances to the semifinals, and no re-draw is held. If the team that withdraws received a bye into the semifinals in the initial draw, move the two corresponding first round opponents directly to the semifinal.

DISTRICTS & REGIONALS CONTAINING UPPER PENINSULA TEAMS –

A. DISTRICT ROUNDS

1. Non-traditional draws will be mandated for Districts comprised of:
 - a. All Upper Peninsula teams, or
 - b. A combination of Upper Peninsula teams and northern Lower Peninsula teams, or
 - c. 7 or 8 team groupings in any location of the state.
2. In a and b, if all participating teams agree, a traditional draw may be conducted.
3. Once the host school reports the draw type (traditional or non-traditional), no change will be made.

B. REGIONAL ROUNDS

1. Geographically neutral sites will be selected in regions that include more than one (1) District located entirely in the Upper Peninsula.
2. Based on Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee recommendations, each sport site selection committee will finalize hosts at their May meetings.

NON-TRADITIONAL FINANCIAL - Each alternative site should be treated the same as the selected site and be responsible for conducting each game date using the existing financial forms for revenue sharing.

DRONE POLICY -- For the purposes of this policy the word “drone” applies to all Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. The policy is written for all MHSAA tournament contests. Local laws and policies control all regular-season contests.

Drones are prohibited for all indoor tournament contests in all sports. For outdoor sports, local, state, and federal laws govern the use of drones. Drones may never be flown over spectators, athletes, or the playing surface. All drones must stay outside of the “restraining line” or the normal footprint of the playing surface. This includes never flying over bleachers, press box, or anywhere that spectators sit or gather for a contest. The operator of the drone must be registered with the FAA and follow local, state, and federal law when flying the drone. [Register Your Drone](#).

Drones can never be used for the purposes of scouting opponent’s games or practices. Non-school facilities reserve the right to restrict drones on their property. An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for MHSAA broadcast partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the MHSAA.

FORMAT – All matches in the MHSAA Tournament will be best three of five games with rally scoring. Teams may not play more than one match per day.

FINANCES/EXPENSES – The Financial Report Form must be returned to the MHSAA as soon as possible following the completion of the tournament. All revenue and approved expenses should be included in the report. The MHSAA will not reimburse tournament managers for scorebooks, ball chasers, assistant managers, hospitality supplies, or unnecessary additional security. If a non-traditional draw is used, each host school is responsible for filing a financial form.

Failure to return the required financial reports within 30 days after the Final will cause the host school to lose any expense reimbursement.

Audit of Tournament Host Reports – All MHSAA tournament sports sites are subject to audit. These sites are to be randomly selected and require documentation of all income and expenses. Tournament expenses different from regular season host site expenses in that same sport will require justification before said expenses are approved for payment to or retention by the host site.

FORFEITURES/USE OF INELIGIBLES - Failure to be ready for play by twenty (20) minutes after the scheduled starting time of the match will result in forfeiture unless the team in question has communicated with tournament management of a delay due to unforeseen circumstances.

Individuals or teams which are defeated by an ineligible opponent or teams which allowed one or more ineligible students to participate or teams or individuals found to be in violation of contest limitations or maximums do not advance in MHSAA tournaments. If placements in MHSAA tournaments are vacated as a result of an individual being ineligible or a team allowing one or more ineligible students to participate, other individuals or teams neither advance to those placements or receive awards for those places.

GAME BALL/OFFICIAL BALL – A (royal) blue, grey and white smooth-textured volleyball must be used. Any brand with the NFHS authenticating mark is approved for tournament play at District competition. The Baden Perfection game ball will be provided for all Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final matches. A list can be found on the National Federation of State High School Association's web site: www.nfhs.org
Since the host school keeps the volleyballs, the MHSAA does not reimburse for their cost. The ball may be used during the regular season.

INTRODUCTIONS - When introducing teams prior to the match, no special recognition should be given to one team, especially a home team, which would not be given to the opponent. The pre-match protocol suggests teams line up on their end line for introductions.

INJUNCTION/RESTRAINING ORDER - Managers are reminded of the following statement adopted by the Representative Council and which is in effect for all MHSAA tournaments: "In the interest of fairness to all participants, if an injunction or restraining order is served or presented at an MHSAA tournament site and such purports to require the eligibility of or participation by a student or team which a school and/or the MHSAA has ruled to be ineligible under MHSAA regulations, the on-site tournament manager is to suspend the entire competition (team competition) or events in which that student is intending to participate (individual competition)." If the meet has begun, it shall be completed.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY POLICY - Host school Tournament Managers should follow all local school District policies regarding medical emergencies for participating athletes, coaches, students, and adult spectators for competitions conducted in school facilities. It is advised that AED devices be readily available during tournament competitions. In addition:

- Trainers are an allowed expense for the tournament host and are encouraged but not required.
- If your school requires immediate and continuous attention, you are encouraged to bring your own certified athletic trainer (at your school's expense) to cover your team's needs and to also assist in the event if called upon. Your school's certified medical professional may not overrule certified medical professionals provided by tournament management.
- All MHSAA concussion protocols will be followed.
- MHSAA tornado watches and warnings shall be followed.
- MHSAA policy on managing heat and humidity shall be followed.

When MHSAA tournament contests are conducted at non-school facilities, plans should be developed for the following needs and/or circumstances:

- Student, coach, and spectator shelter for outdoor events
- Host facility emergency equipment such as AEDs, fire escapes, etc.
- Emergency communications, i.e., phone numbers and school administration contact.
- Coordination with facility management regarding evacuation, first aid, and on-site responsibilities.
- Medical transport or first responder contact procedures.
- Proximity/directions of nearest medical facility.
- If your school requires immediate and continuous attention at post-season TEAM competitions, you are encouraged to bring your own certified athletic trainer (at your school's expense) to cover your team's needs and to also assist in the event if called upon. Your school's certified medical professional may not overrule certified medical professionals provided by tournament management.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For all MHSAA tournaments conducted at either school or non-school facilities, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is required to be within visible distance of the event.

MEDIA NOTES – For information on credentials, locker room privacy policy, microphones, photographers, flash photography, postgame interviews, press box, results, streaming (audio and video), and videotaping, go to this [Media/Streaming Information PDF](#).

Here are a few important sections, some specific to volleyball:

- **PHOTOGRAPHY** - Photographers should not be positioned inside the boundary of playable areas.
- **RESULTS/SCORE REPORTING** – Tournament results should be reported to the MHSAA immediately after games, not the next morning. Scores of bracketed tournaments should be entered in the Score Center on the MHSAA web site or emailed to results@mhsaa.com. Host schools are responsible for informing local media and the major daily newspapers.
- **STREAMING – AUDIO & RADIO** – Outlets are required to submit a broadcast application for postseason events with the MHSAA. Approval or denial emails will be sent to both the outlet and host school. Outlets are encouraged to check with the host school before applying to check on space/equipment needs. There is no limit to the number of outlets that may stream audio – as long as the host can accommodate them. In the regular season, outlets do not need 7 to submit broadcast applications but need permission from the host school to provide an audio stream.
- **STREAMING - VIDEO (REGULAR SEASON)** – Video streaming during the regular season is allowed by the home/host school in a couple of different ways. If the home/host school is a member of the NFHS Network, they must stream games to the NFHS Network first and foremost. They can also produce a stream to broadcast on a school-controlled page (separate from the NFHS stream). Additionally, NFHS Network members can partner with local media to broadcast regular season home games on the media outlet's channel/website. Schools that are not members of the NFHS Network can stream regular season home games to a school-controlled webpage. Refer to the Multimedia Regulations for more information.
- **STREAMING - VIDEO (POSTSEASON)** - The broadcast and streaming rights of MHSAA postseason tournament events belong exclusively to the NFHS Network, the MHSAA, and those media outlets that have pre-arranged to

secure those rights. Teams participating in MHSAA Tournaments are prohibited from streaming live video of any portion of an event over the Internet - including using social media platforms or any other method. Likewise, individual spectators are also prohibited from live streaming video through any means. Participating schools are responsible for informing their students, parents, and other fans of this policy and to assist the MHSAA upon request in enforcing it.

MERCHANDISING - Concession stands, whether operated by school or non-school groups, must confine sales to non-alcoholic beverages, edible items and general school spirit items that were available at regular-season home contests. The selling of tournament-related merchandise is limited to programs offered by the MHSAA and its authorized vendors, which may be in contact with you regarding their availability. Such programs may include, but are not limited to, the following categories: T-shirts, DVDs and photography. Regardless of the availability of such authorized programs, schools may not produce their own tournament-specific merchandise items to sell at MHSAA tournament sites.

MICHIGAN POWER RATING (MPR) – The Michigan Power Rating (MPR) formula will be used for boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, ice hockey, girls volleyball and boys and girls lacrosse. MPR is simply winning percentage times 25%, plus opponents' winning percentage times 50%, plus opponents' opponents' winning percentage times 25%. Ties count as half a win and half a loss.

The only games calculated for MPR are games played between teams that will play in the MHSAA tournament. Games that do not count include games against out-of-state schools, games versus JV teams, games against varsity B teams, games against non-school club teams, and games against MHSAA schools that are not playing in the tournament.

MPR only looks at who won and who lost – or who tied. MPR does not look at scores or margin of victory. It does not matter if you are home or away. Games at the beginning of the season are weighed the same as games at the end of the season. Scrimmages are not used in the calculation.

The most current MPR for each school can be found at <https://www.mhsaa.com/sports/girls-volleyball/mpr>. This page updates every 5 minutes, so after a score is entered into the system, visitors can quickly see how the result affects each team's MPR.

Schools must enter game schedules to MHSAA.com prior to the season. Games entered into Arbiter, BigTeams and Eventlink should automatically migrate to the MHSAA website. All other games can be manually entered. Schedules can also be edited throughout the season. Call the MHSAA if you are having issues.

The final score must be submitted after each game is completed. If no score is submitted three hours after the scheduled start time, an email reminder will be sent to both athletic directors and coaches. This is a crowd-sourced system—anyone with an MHSAA login can enter a game score. Schools should take advantage of this and instruct an assistant coach, a parent, or a student to make sure all scores are posted to the system.

Only games played and scores reported through the District reporting period, 10 days before the tournament, will be included in calculations. Unreported scores and games played but missing from the published schedules will not be included. The formula needs some time to start making sense. There will be many anomalies at the beginning of the season, but once each team has about 10 results reported, the MPR numbers will start to fall into place. Remember to be patient early in the season.

OFFICIALS

District— Officials are to be secured by the host team from the Approved List on the AD/Coach portion of the volleyball home page. Fees for officials are \$80/match at the District level. Managers at the District level pay officials the game fee and \$.40/mile round trip mileage beginning with the 51st mile.

The host school is responsible for providing the first referee, the second referee, the scorer, timer and libero tracker. In addition, the host must secure line judges who must be adults or a student organization that has provided this service all season long (not JV players). Scorer, timer, and libero tracker are paid \$15/match and \$10 for each additional match. Line judges are paid \$45 per match.

Financial forms are available for ADs, logged into myMHSAA, under Financial Forms on the volleyball page.

Regional— Officials at the Regional level matches will be assigned by the MHSAA and reviewed by the volleyball officials selection committee. Fees for officials are \$90/match. Managers pay officials the game fee and \$.40/mile round trip mileage beginning with the 51st mile.

The host will provide a scorer, timer and libero tracker. In addition, hire line judges who are also registered MHSAA officials. Scorer, timer, and libero tracker are paid \$15/match and \$10 for each additional match. Line judges are paid \$50 per match.

Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Finals – Officials at the Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Finals matches will be assigned by the MHSAA and reviewed by the volleyball officials selection committee. Fees for officials are \$100/match at the Quarterfinal level, \$125/match for Semifinal and Final matches. Managers pay officials the game fee and \$.40/mile round trip mileage beginning with the 51st mile.

The host will provide a scorer, timer and libero tracker. In addition, hire line judges who are also registered MHSAA officials. Scorer, timer, and libero tracker are paid \$15/match and \$10 for each additional match. Line judges are paid \$50 per match for Quarterfinal contests, \$70 for Semifinal and Final matches.

OPT OUT DUE DATE/ENTRY MATERIALS – Participating teams must supply the District Manager with a roster and Master Eligibility list by the Opt-out due date of October 9. Schools with late submission of materials are subject to late fees. Updates to the Master Eligibility list may be made prior to the first date of the tournament. District managers should forward winning team materials to Regional Managers, who forward winning team materials to the Quarterfinal Manager.

PLAYING RULES – All National Federation playing rules apply with the following MHSAA approved adaptations. During the MHSAA Tournament, the pre-match warm-up is 20 minutes. The first four minutes is shared time; the second four minutes is home team; the next four minutes is visitor; next four minutes is home team; next four minutes visitor. Consult the [2026 MHSAA Volleyball Rules Interpretations and Updates](#) for more information.

PRACTICE AT TOURNAMENT SITE - A manager may allow competing teams to practice at their site if they offer practice sessions to all teams involved.

PROTESTS – There are no protests of officials' decisions, including ejections for unsporting conduct in MHSAA Tournament competition.

50/50 RAFFLE -MHSAA tournament hosts can conduct 50/50 raffles provided the host site manager requests and receives the appropriate license from the State of Michigan.

[Charitable Gaming Raffle License](#)

PAIRINGS –

District winners advancing to the Regional level are paired by the following formula as drawn by the MHSAA Volleyball Site Selection Committee:

2nd Lowest District # vs Highest District #

2nd Highest District # vs Lowest District #

Quarterfinal winners advancing to the Semifinal level will be paired as follows, drawn by the MHSAA Volleyball Site Selection Committee:

DIVISION 1:	SF#4 vs SF#2	SF#3 vs SF#1
DIVISION 2:	SF#6 vs SF#8	SF#5 vs SF#7
DIVISION 3:	SF#10 vs SF#9	SF#12 vs SF#11
DIVISION 4:	SF#15 vs SF#13	SF#16 vs SF#14

By Representative Council action, May 2011, a Quarterfinal site may be changed if either team (not requiring both teams) has inordinate travel (140 miles or more one way). MHSAA staff will select an alternate site if an appropriate site is available. (This will not alter the opportunity for MHSAA staff to also change sites when the venue is not located between the two opposing schools, is significantly distant from one or both schools, but is less than 140 miles away from either school one way.)

RESCHEDULING POLICY - If an MHSAA tournament meet or contest is postponed or suspended because the facility becomes unusable or as a result of acts of persons or nature, and the playing rules require that the meet or contest must be played or resumed, the meet or contest must be played or completed on the first available subsequent date, at the same facility. If that facility is unavailable at any future time within the tournament schedule, MHSAA staff shall determine if other facility options are available. If no reasonable options exist, the contest(s) shall not be played and a coin toss or tosses will determine which team or teams shall advance to the next level of the tournament. If it is the championship game of the entire tournament series, co-champions shall be named and awards provided.

REFUND POLICY - Refunds on admission tickets or parking are not provided by the MHSAA for postponed or suspended MHSAA tournament meets or contests, or for such meets or contests that are terminated before their normal conclusion for any reason. Tickets shall be honored for admission to a rescheduled or resumed contest.

SPECTATORS/NOISEMAKERS – Use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited at MHSAA indoor tournament competition. Examples of artificial noisemakers are whistles, cowbells and air horns. Tournament managers have the authority to restrict use of any devices which in their judgment disrupt the integrity of the competition, compromise officials rulings or cause significant problems for other spectators.

SPORTSMANSHIP – MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3 applies in all tournament contests, including the following provisions:

Unsporting Conduct in Previous Contest - A player or coach who is ejected during a contest for sportsmanlike conduct shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition for that team. If a school fails to enforce the subsequent disqualification with respect to one of its students or coaches, the tournament managers or any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament.

Player Suspension - A suspended player is treated as an ineligible player, which means that student shall not participate. It is permissible, but is not recommended, that the player may sit with the team, even in uniform. The minimum requirement is that the suspended student shall not enter the contest as a participant. **Coach Suspension** - Suspension from coaching requires at least that the coach not be at or near the team bench before, during or after the contest, not be in or near the locker room before, during or after the contest, and not give instructions directly or indirectly to coaches or players from any position in or near the gymnasium or field of play.

Multiple Disqualifications/Abuse of Officials- Any coach who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during a season, any player who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during a season, and any coach or player who is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season, is not eligible to participate in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. If the tournament disqualifying ejection for that individual occurs during the MHSAA tournament, that player or coach is ineligible for the remainder of that tournament.

The school of the disqualified coach or player must prohibit that person from being present on the property of the tournament venue for the remainder of the tournament series. If that school fails to enforce this, the tournament manager, any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament.

Taunting - In all sports, officials are to consider taunting a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul that disqualifies the offending bench personnel or contestant from the contest/day of competition (and the next contest/day of competition). A warning may be given but is not required before ejection.

Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs or personal matters.

At all MHSAA tournament venues, tournament management may give spectators one warning for taunting. Thereafter, spectators who taunt others are to be ejected by security.

TEAM LIMITS - A team may dress a maximum of 15 members. Only team members in uniform will be permitted to sit on the team bench. The Team Roster and Master Eligibility List may include as many players as desired by the school; however, the tournament roster must list a maximum of 15 players. In addition, 5 individuals (Coaches, Managers, and Trainers) may receive passes. (Exception: If the varsity team has had more than 15 players, every match the entire season, all players may advance.)

Bench Personnel - Tournament Managers will limit the number of non-players, such as statistician, trainer and assistant coach allowed on the team bench at tournament matches.

TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL POLICY - Use of alcohol or tobacco, including e-cigarettes or other smoking devices, is prohibited at MHSAA tournament events by players, coaches and spectators. Managers should stress in coaches meetings that they are not to use tobacco at the tournament venue.

TROPHIES/MEDALS –The MHSAA Tournament trophies and medals will be provided by one company, ESCO of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. You will notice a new trophy design and some design changes in medals as well, with a much more efficient process of production, ordering and delivery working with one company.

Tournament managers will receive both trophies and medals together in one shipment from ESCO. The box containing the trophies and medals should be opened immediately upon delivery and inspected for accurate amounts, engraving, etc. Tournament managers should contact ESCO directly (not the MHSAA) at 800-852-4266 with any questions or problems regarding trophy and medal shipments.

Trophies and 15 individual medals will be awarded to District and Regional champions in each division. Champion and second place teams receive trophies and 15 individual medals in each Division at the MHSAA Finals.

[EXTRA/REPLACEMENT MEDAL ORDER FORM](#)

WARMUP POLICY - A warm-up area or court is suggested. Teams should be permitted to warm-up prior to competition on the main court but a minimum of 20 minutes on main court must be provided.

Pre-match warm-ups at MHSAA tournaments will be 20 minutes in length, broken down to include 4 minutes with each team on one half of the court (no volleyballs are to cross over the net). Four minutes for the home team, the next 4 minutes for the visiting team, the next 4 minutes for the home team, and then 4 minutes for the visiting team.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY - Tournament management is to contact the MHSAA office if a school withdraws or fails to show for scheduled competition after the draw is completed for team sports or the pairing, heat assignments or flight are determined for individual sports of the first level of the MHSAA tournament in a sport. The MHSAA staff person responsible for the sport will request from the school principal a written explanation for the no-show/withdrawal. If the reason is determined to be unacceptable by MHSAA staff, the MHSAA Executive Director will place the school on probation for the next two school years. A second offense within the two-year probationary period will cause the school to be prohibited from tournament play in that sport for the two years following the second offense.



District Tournament: Dates & Times

**Tournament Managers must fill out and scan to email
to Tricia@mhsaa.com by Oct. 1**

District # _____ Host Site: _____

Traditional _____ Non-Traditional _____

of Teams in District: _____

*Did any team Opt-Out? If so, which team? _____

District first-round games date & times:

Date: _____ (no sooner than Nov. 2)

Time: _____ Location: _____ (use for 5, 6, 7, 8 teams)

Time: _____ Location: _____ (use for 6, 7, 8 teams)

Time: _____ Location: _____ (use for 7, 8 teams)

Time: _____ Location: _____ (use for 8 teams)

District Semifinal games date & times: (use for all including 4-team districts)

Date: _____

Time: _____ Location: _____

Time: _____ Location: _____

District Final game date & time:

Date: _____ (must be Nov. 5, 6, or 7)

Time: _____ Location: _____

**All Times Are
Local Times**



Results of Regional Tournament Draw

NOTE: Tournament Managers please fax/email game times no later than Oct. 1. Teams will be determined later.

This information is needed BEFORE YOUR TOURNAMENT to answer inquiries concerning competing teams and starting times of contests at Tournament Centers. Your immediate cooperation will be appreciated.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT NO. _____ HELD AT _____

DIVISION _____

District # _____

Time _____

Nov. 10

District # _____

Time _____

Nov. 12

District # _____

Time _____

Nov. 10

District # _____

2026 Regional Draw:
2nd Lowest District # vs Highest District #
2nd Highest District # vs Lowest District #

Any questions on which District draws into which line, please consult the MHSAA website.

All Times Are
Local Times

Date _____ (Signed) _____
(Tournament Manager)

EMAIL: Tricia@MHSAA.com No later than, Oct. 1



Schedule of Quarterfinal Tournament Matches

NOTE: Quarterfinal Tournament Managers please EMAIL BY Oct. 1, 2025

This information is needed for the Volleyball Officials Assignment Committee to assign officials to your Quarterfinal Center. Your immediate cooperation will be appreciated.

QUARTERFINAL TOURNAMENT NO. _____

HELD AT _____

DIVISION _____

MY QUARTERFINAL MATCH WILL BE
PLAYED ON TUESDAY, Nov. 17, 2026 AT:

_____ /P.M. Local Time

Date _____ (Signed) _____
(Tournament Manager)

**EMAIL: Tricia@MHSAA.com
BY OCT. 1**



FINAL TOURNAMENT COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS FOR TOURNAMENT MANAGERS

Each manager of a MHSAA Volleyball Tournament is entitled to two complimentary tickets for the Final Volleyball Tournaments at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. Please complete the lower portion of this memo and return it to our office prior to Friday October 16, 2026.

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a Host Tournament Manager.

FINAL SCHEDULE - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026

Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek

DIVISION-MATCH TIME

Division 4 10:00 a.m.

Division 1 12:00 p.m.

Division 3 2:30 p.m.

Division 2 4:30 p.m.

Please complete.

DISTRICT # _____

REGIONAL # _____

QTRFINAL # _____

2026 FINAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

VB

Please send two complimentary tickets for the Final Volleyball Tournament at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026 to:

MANAGER _____

SCHOOL _____ SCHOOL ID _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

**PLEASE EMAIL TO Tricia@MHSAA.com
BY FRIDAY, OCT. 16, 2026**

YOUR COOPERATION PLEASE...

Fans are reminded that the broadcast and streaming rights of this event belong exclusively to the N-F-H-S Network, the M-H-S-A-A, and those media outlets which have pre-arranged to secure those rights. Any individual streaming of this event is strictly prohibited.

