PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
2026 MHSAA GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

1. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The MHSAA Girls Volleyball Tournament will be conducted in four equal Divisions - 1, 2, 3, and 4 by enrollment as stated in the 2026-27 Handbook. Schools will be placed in one of 32 districts in each Division as determined by MHSAA staff and the site selection committee. District winners will advance to one of eight Regionals in each Division. Eight Regional champions in each Division advance to the Quarterfinal round. Four Quarterfinal winners in each Division advance to the Semifinal, with Semifinal winners meeting for Division 1, 2, 3 & 4 Championships. The Semifinal and Finals games will be conducted at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. All MHSAA Volleyball Tournament matches will be single elimination, best 3 out of 5 matches with rally scoring.

Tournament Dates

District dates are November 2 – November 7. The team on the top line of the bracket is the home team. District matches may be played on any day during the week designated for District play and 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. The district Final cannot be played prior to Thursday, Nov. 5. If travel dictates, a Friday-Saturday District may be played with MHSAA approval.

Regional dates are Tuesday, November 10 for Semifinals and Thursday, November 12 for Finals. An Advance Master Draw by the Volleyball Committee will determine opponents in the Regional Tournament. (see the Volleyball Page of MHSAA.com)

Quarterfinal Matches will be Tuesday, Nov. 17. Semifinal matches will be played at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek on Nov. 19-20. Final matches will be played at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek on Nov. 21.

2. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

WARM-UP PERIODS - 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). Then, using the entire court, the home team has 4 minutes, after which the visiting team has 4 minutes, after which the home team has 4 minutes, and then the visiting team has 4 minutes. By mutual agreement of both competing schools, the warm-up can be reduced or eliminated.

SQUAD SIZE - For the MHSAA tournament series, a team may dress a maximum of 15 players. Only team players in uniform will be permitted to sit on the team bench. The Master Eligibility Form may list as many players as desired by a school; however, the Tournament Roster Form must list only 15. (Exception: If the varsity team has had more than 15 players, every match the entire season, all players may advance.)

Individuals or teams shall be accompanied to the event by the coach, administrator or appointee of the school in order to participate in a MHSAA event.

3. OPT OUT POLICIES, ELIGIBILITY LISTS, ROSTERS

Schools must see that District tournament managers receive an accurate Eligibility List and Team Roster by the Opt-Out Due Date. These forms are available at www.mhsaa.com. Failure to fulfill the above obligations by the specified Opt-Out Due Date will result in MHSAA penalties as stipulated in the MHSAA Handbook. For volleyball, the Opt-Out Due Date is October 9, 2026. Schools must notify the tournament managers by the Opt-Out Due Date if they DO NOT intend to participate in a previously assigned MHSAA tournament.

Additions or updates to the list (except transfer students who enroll after the dates in Regulation I, Section 9 [F]) may be accepted by the Tournament Manager if submitted and received prior to the start of competition for ANY team in the first level of that tournament to which the school is assigned.

Use of ineligibles - Individuals or teams which are defeated by an ineligible opponent or teams which allowed one or more ineligible students to participate 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 nor receive awards for those places.

4. 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 10 days prior to the tournament. Prior to that date, typically at the beginning of the season, District hosts are asked to notify the MHSAA and participating schools on the date, time and location of the semifinals and finals. Within 24 hours after the District draws have been posted, hosts should finalize First Round game days, times and locations and provide to the MHSAA. Assigners have a very short time to assign officials for these games, so this needs to be a timely process.

All teams in the District are seeded according to MPR which will separate the top two teams in each District. To receive a #1 or #2 seed within a district, a team must have 15 or more varsity match results during the regular season. More information about MPR can be found in the Tournament Managers Manual and MHSAA.com.

5. TIME SCHEDULES

District, Regional and Quarterfinal start times will determined by the host school tournament manager. Semifinal and Final time schedules will be as follows.

SEMIFINAL GAME SCHEDULE
SESSION 1 - Two Division 4 matches (12:00 and 2:00 p.m.) Thurs., Nov. 19
SESSION 2 - Two Division 1 matches (4:30 and 6:30 p.m.) Thurs., Nov. 19
SESSION 3 - Two Division 3 matches (12:00 and 2:00 p.m.) Fri., Nov. 20
SESSION 4 - Two Division 2 matches (4:30 and 6:30 p.m.) Fri., Nov. 20

FINAL (CHAMPIONSHIP) GAME SCHEDULE
Saturday, Nov. 21
Division 4 – 10:00 a.m.
Division 1 -- 12 Noon
Division 3 – 2:30 p.m.
Division 2 – 4:30 p.m.

6. AWARDS

The winning school in each division at each District and Regional Tournament will receive a trophy. The runner-up team and championship team in each division at the Final Tournament will receive a trophy. Fifteen medals will be awarded to members of winning teams at District, Regional, and Final Tournaments. The same number of medals will be awarded to runner-up teams at the Final Tournament. If additional medals are desired by winning or runner-up schools, they may be ordered through the MHSAA at school expense. BY REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION, ONLY MHSAA APPROVED AWARDS MAY BE PRESENTED. Awards ceremonies will take place immediately after the final game in each division.

Extra/Replacement Medal Order Form

7. LIMITS OF COMPETITION

Teams and individuals may have a maximum of 18 dates of competition during the regular season. A student shall participate in no more than 18 sets per day. MHSAA tournament dates do not count against season maximums.

8. FINANCES

Spectator 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.

Team Expenses– Each team will assume its own expenses at all levels of the MHSAA Volleyball Tournament. The MHSAA will help defray the cost of Semifinal and Final teams for housing, meals and mileage after the conclusion of the tournament based on the MHSAA formula. Only participating schools which travel more than 75 miles to the Finals Tournament site will receive such reimbursement. Housing will be reserved for competing teams only. Coaches of participating teams must return the housing form by 9 a.m., Wednesday, November 18. Housing is provided to those teams that qualify by distance and only during the tournament. Saturday night housing is not provided unless pre-approved.

9. OFFICIALS SELECTION/ASSIGNMENTS

District managers will hire officials from the MHSAA approved list. At the Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final level all officials will be assigned by the MHSAA official's selection committee.

10. PLAYING RULES/ADAPTATIONS

All National Federation volleyball playing rules will be followed.
Consult the 2026 MHSAA Volleyball Rules Interpretations and Updates for more information.

Official Ball - The official Volleyball of the MHSAA Regional, Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals is the (Royal) Blue/Grey/White Baden®. The Royal Blue/Grey/White Baden® is required to be used for all post season competition.

11. MEDIA

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.

Souvenir Program Policies - Teams winning Regional titles in selected sports must fill out and e-mail program information and a team photograph to the MHSAA office to be used in the souvenir program for the Semifinals and the Finals in the event the team qualifies for Final round play. Complete directions for filling out and submitting information and photographs is included with each kit. All program information and photographs must be submitted by e-mail.

Information For District/Regional/Quarterfinal Tournaments - Teams competing in MHSAA District, Regional and Quarterfinal tournaments shall provide, upon request, team rosters, photographs and other information as necessary, to local tournament managers so that a souvenir program may be assembled for the event.

Merchandising/Promotion Policies
Use of MHSAA logo – The MHSAA logo and acronym are registered trademarks. MHSAA tournament trophy designs are also copyrighted. Use of these legally protected marks requires written permission of the MHSAA. Contact the MHSAA Communications Director for additional information.

Postgame Interviews -- Coaches should also be readily available to meet with the media shortly after the conclusion of a contest. It is recommended that approximately five minutes after the game, managers provide a location other than the team locker rooms for postgame interviews with coaches and/or players the coach may wish to designate for interviews. Locker room access should never be allowed to media. Inasmuch as many media outlets are often on deadline following contests, interviews should be granted before any lengthy team meetings occur.

12. SPORTSMANSHIP

When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for the remainder of that day of competition and for at least the next day of competition for that team. When a coach is disqualified during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, that coach shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching for the remainder of that day of competition and from coaching at or attending at least the next day of competition for that coach's team.

Failure of the school for any reason to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament or during the last regular-season contest.

Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season in any sport for seniors. If the playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty or more rapid progression, or use of such a progression for other violations, the playing rules apply.

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.

If a team is removed from competition in protest, the contest is forfeited to the opponent and the coach and principal of the removed team must appear before the Executive Committee to indicate why additional action should not be taken. The Executive Committee may also require the appearance of personnel from other schools and game officials.

If the coach is ejected from the contest and an assistant coach, or an assigned school representative is not available to continue as the coach the event is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.

When a contest is interrupted or it ends prematurely because of breakdown of proper sportsmanship and whether or not the on-site officials forfeit the contest to one team, one or both schools may be subjected to any or all, but not limited to, the following: censure, probation with competition, probation without competition, forfeiture, loss of privilege of revenue sharing, expulsion. In addition, it may be required of one or both schools that their coaches and administrators appear before the Executive Committee to indicate why additional action should not be taken.

13. WEATHER POLICIES, SUSPENSIONS, POSTPONEMENTS

When teams are delayed in arriving at tournament sites due to inclement weather, management is encouraged to consider delaying competition for a few hours and/or playing games/matches within brackets of teams/individuals who are present and prepared to participate. If, after a reasonable delay, fewer than 60% of the scheduled teams/individuals have not arrived, the tournament must be rescheduled. If 60% or more of the scheduled teams/individuals are present, the tournament will be conducted on the scheduled day.

Every effort should be made to complete play on the originally scheduled tournament date. MHSAA policies apply regarding suspension of competition when thunder or lightning is present and tornado policies as stated in the MHSAA Handbook. However, MHSAA tournament weather delay timeframes (e.g. how long to wait) do NOT follow the regular season guidelines. For example, games may be delayed by more than 90 minutes in an MHSAA tournament scenario. Common sense and discussion with participating team administrators will dictate the maximum length of a delay.

In many cases, MHSAA tournament regulations differ from NFHS playing rules and regular season guidelines. However, when contests are interrupted due to weather, it is imperative to know what NFHS playing rules and MHSAA tournament regulations require regarding resumption of play and weather-shortened regulation contests which become official. If playing rules allow, interrupted games shall resume at the point of suspension. Also know that an interrupted game can be considered a complete/official game by mutual agreement of both teams.

14. INJUNCTION, RESTRAINING ORDER, PROTESTS

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.

Protests will not be reviewed by the MHSAA. All disputes must be decided at the site before the game proceeds. The umpires will make the final decision regarding game events. The Tournament Manager will resolve all next game concerns.

15. 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.

16. YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

During the MHSAA Tournament events, the MHSAA expects all designated managers, volunteer or paid staff assisting in the event, officials or any other personnel to follow local school district policy and state statute regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse, bullying, hazing and sexual harassment. A report of such activity shall be made to legal authorities and to the MHSAA Executive Director or his designee.

17. LOCKER ROOM PRIVACY POLICY

Using devices of any kind to capture or transmit images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing areas, training rooms, weigh-in rooms, showers, restrooms, or other areas where there is an expectation of privacy during MHSAA tournament events. Tournament managers or athletic directors that discover such use should move immediately to have the device removed and inform the head coach or athletic director of the identity and nature of the activity of the person involved.

18. SPECTATOR POLICIES

The following general policies apply to spectators at MHSAA Volleyball Tournament events. Tournament managers may also have additional school, facility or institutional restrictions and/or policies.

- Banners are allowed with Meet Manager approval.
- Noisemakers are not allowed at MHSAA indoor tournaments.
- Body paint and bare chests are not allowed.
- Smoking is not allowed at the tournament site.
- Coolers are not allowed.
- Signs on sticks are not allowed.
- Helium filled balloons are not allowed.
- Spectator Videotaping – Spectators may tape games from their normal seating area but are not to interfere with the view of other spectators or news media personnel covering the activity. A manager is not required to provide electrical hook-ups; or tripod space and may arrange spectator videotaping from a designated location(s).
- The policies of the local host site shall prevail with respect to pets/animals. In the absence of local host policy, animals or pets shall not be permitted to enter MHSAA tournament venues; including spectator and team areas. However, properly marked or documented service animals which are leashed or harnessed at all times may accompany spectators paying admission or attending with other approved team or school personnel. Individuals who bring service animals are asked to bring their own waste disposal bags and request special seating in advance of the event if this is needed.

19. DRONE POLICY

For the purposes of this policy the word "drone" applies to all Unmanned Aeriel 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.

20. 50/50 RAFFLE POLICY

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

21. RETURN TO ACTIVITY & POST-CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM