



PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

2023 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 2023-24 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 Oct 30 – November 4. An open draw conducted by the District Manager will determine first-round opponents in the District Tournaments. The team on the top of the bracket is the home team. Host schools may receive a bye. 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. 2. If travel dictates, a Friday-Saturday District may be played with MHSAA approval.

Regional dates are Tuesday, November 7 for Semifinals and Thursday, November 9 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. 14. Semifinal matches will be played at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek on Nov. 16-17. Final matches will be played at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek on Nov. 18.

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 4 minutes, and then the visiting team 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 4, 2023. 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 ineligible - 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

Each District manager will conduct an open draw to determine first-round opponents. The team listed on the top of the bracket is the **home** team. Host schools may receive a bye. The draw may be conducted after the season begins. A Representative Council-approved option may be used to allow teams on the top bracket to **host** to reduce travel expenses and increase host school attendance. Any District with 7 or more teams must use the Non-traditional draw. Any other district may choose to use the non-traditional draw.

5. TIME SCHEDULES

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

SEMIFINAL GAME SCHEDULE

SESSION 1 - Two Division 3 matches (12:00 and 2:00 p.m.) Thurs., Nov. 16

SESSION 2 - Two Division 2 matches (4:30 and 6:30 p.m.) Thurs., Nov. 16

SESSION 3 - Two Division 4 matches (12:00 and 2:00 p.m.) Fri., Nov. 17

SESSION 4 - Two Division 1 matches (4:30 and 6:30 p.m.) Fri., Nov. 17

FINAL (CHAMPIONSHIP) GAME SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 18

Division 4 – 10:00 a.m.

Division 1 -- 12 Noon

Division 2 – 2:30 p.m.

Division 3 – 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 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 21 sets per day. MHSAA tournament dates do not count against season maximums.

8. FINANCES

Spectator Admission – Ticket prices for the MHSAA Volleyball Tournament are \$7/person at the District matches, \$9/person for Regionals, \$10/person for Quarterfinals, and \$11/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 15. 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 [2023 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

The MHSAA issues annual Tournament Media Passes to approved media.

Commercial photographers are never issued credentials and hosts are under no obligation to allow them access.

Multimedia Policies - Audio/Video/Still Photography Rights – The MHSAA owns the rights to all multimedia (audio-video-still images-Internet) at all levels of its tournaments. Still and video photography is allowed by individual spectators from the seating area of the venue unless the host school district or facility has a previously-existing policy which is more restrictive. The MHSAA has exclusive multimedia arrangements for its Final events.

MHSAA Handbook Regulation II, Section 14(A) reads as follows: "No school may sell or rent videos (DVD, tape or film) or sell still images of contests which are part of an MHSAA tournament without the permission of the MHSAA."

If a school wishes to authorize an individual(s) to create multimedia content, the principal or athletic administrator must contact the tournament manager for passes and access.

Refer to the publication [MHSAA Multimedia Regulations](#) for more information.

PARTICIPATING TEAM/SPECTATOR VIDEO STREAMING (POSTSEASON) - The broadcast and streaming rights of MHSAA post-season tournament events belong exclusively to the N-F-H-S Network, Bally Sports Detroit, the M-H-S-A-A, and those media outlets, which 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. Participating schools are asked to help promote where their particular game may be viewed when being streamed by the MHSAA, one of its television partners, or a media outlet, which has pre-arranged to secure such rights.

Only one stream per site is allowed.

Video Streaming (Regular Season) – Video streaming during the regular season is allowed by the home/host school through the NFHS Network, MHSAA contracted partners (Bally Sports Detroit, State Champs! TVB), or if a school is not a NFHS partner, through a school-controlled web page or app. If the home/host school chooses not to live stream, the visiting school would have the option of doing so.

Individual spectators or media outlets are prohibited from live streaming video through any means.

Only one stream per site is allowed.

Audio Streaming/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 to submit broadcast applications but need permission from the host school to provide an audio stream.

Drones - The use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) is prohibited at MHSAA tournament venues. It is recommended that this postseason policy extend to the regular-season.

Press Box - Local schools hosting MHSAA Tournaments should plan to provide all working media wishing to cover an event appropriate working space in a facility which shelters them from the weather at outdoor events (such as a press box), and provides a counter/table space with ancillary accommodations such as electricity; and when available without additional expense to the local site – telephone and internet. More details on press box priority can be found on [page 21, Section N of the Multimedia Regulations](#).

Post-Game 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 post game 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.

Videotaping- Competing schools may videotape games in which that school competes. The tape is not to be used to second-guess decisions made by game/meet officials. Schools wishing to videotape games at other sites may do so without securing advanced permission, but must tape from the stands unless press box space is available. 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 tape may not be distributed, sold, rented, or loaned for commercial purposes.

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. Program information kits are available on the respective sports pages of the MHSAA Web Site. Those sports are as follows: Baseball, boys and girls basketball, girls competitive cheer, football, ice hockey, boys and girls soccer, softball, girls volleyball, team dual wrestling. 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.

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 because of inclement weather management is encouraged to consider delaying competition for a few hours and/or playing games/matches in brackets of teams/individuals that 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 is to be conducted on the day scheduled.

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. UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (DRONE) POLICY

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (“UAV”), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at MHSAA tournament venues. Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV until the event has been completed. For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device. 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. [RETURN TO ACTIVITY & POST-CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM](#)