



State Boys Volleyball Tournament Instructions

Congratulations on your Regional Championship!

The Ohio High School Athletic Association and Wittenberg University look forward to welcoming you to the OHSAA State Boys Volleyball Tournament at the Pam Evans Smith Arena on the campus of Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30.

As we make preparations for the State Tournament, we ask that the Head Coach and Athletic Director reference this document. You will receive much more information through an email, State Finalist Manual and an online State Finalists Meeting on Sunday.

Boys Volleyball Tournament Information page: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Volleyball-Boys/Boys-Volleyball-Tournament-Information>

Boys Volleyball Administrator, Michael Cornathan, will all be available for any questions you may have via phone or email, throughout the week, as will the Site Manager, Ryan Forbush. *I (Michael) am best reached by email or cell phone! Please feel free to call or text.* However, please wait until after you have reviewed the Finalist Manual and Finalist Meeting prior to reaching out—thank you!

Michael Cornathan	<i>Sports Administrator</i>	E: mcornathan@ohsaa.org	B: (614) 549-6956 C: (614) 535-5261
Ryan Forbush	<i>Site Manager, Wittenberg</i>	E: forbushr@wittenberg.edu	B: (937) 327-7095

FINALIST MANUAL & ONLINE FINALIST MEETING

By Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM, you all will receive a copy of the State Finalist Manual and a link to the online State Finalist Meeting. We have summarized some information in these instructions; however, the manual and meeting will go into much more detail. We kindly ask that you wait for those materials before submitting your questions. Thank you!

PAPERWORK REMINDERS

All paperwork requirements should have been completed online for the Regional Tournament. You may make changes to those lists if necessary but all players on your roster must be eligible, and you will need to send any updated forms to acollinsworth@ohsaa.org and tstried@ohsaa.org.

**Please send Michael Cornathan, mcornathan@ohsaa.org, your *State Final Information Sheet*, found on page 4
Please send Michael Cornathan any updates to your Team Roster**

PROGRAM INFORMATION/TEAM STATS/LOGO

Program information is due to Andrew Collinsworth (acollinsworth@ohsaa.org) and Tim Stried (tstried@ohsaa.org). The *Team Information and Statistics Form* is due to Andrew and Tim as soon as possible, located on the *Boys Volleyball Tournament Information* webpage.

Though everyone has been instructed to submit their logo at the Regional level, please check that this has been done by sending your school logo (in the best resolution possible) to Andrew Collinsworth (acollinsworth@ohsaa.org).

TOURNAMENT & UNIFORM REGULATIONS

We ask that you review the [2026 Boys Volleyball Tournament Regulations](#) on the Boys Volleyball webpage. The Tournament Regulations should have been enforced in previous rounds and will be strictly enforced at the State Tournament level. Please make sure your libero is in a compliant uniform top according to the NFHS Volleyball Rules. Should the official determine your libero is wearing a non-compliant uniform top prior to the beginning of the match, they will be asked to change into a compliant top, or they will not compete in the match.

SIZE OF SQUAD (15)

Each squad is restricted to **15 players in uniform**, and this is strictly enforced. The 15 in uniform may change from game to game, as long as they are eligible. There is a maximum of 16 individuals (includes players, coaches, trainers, managers, etc.) permitted in the bench area, while the 6 are on the court. Their admission is described below.

TEAM ADMISSION

Though the Team Bench List(s) were submitted prior to your Regional game, admission for the 22 total individuals (*players, coaches, trainers, managers, etc.*) at the State Tournament is done entirely through the use of **bag tags**. These bag tags will be available for pick-up upon arrival at the team entrance on the backside of The Steemer building*. The 22 individuals provided bag tags will be required to show their bag tag prior to admittance through the pass gate. **There will be no pass list used at State Semifinal or State Final contests. There will also be no locker-room or court access to anyone beyond the 22 with a bag tag. Individuals beyond the 22 with a bag tag will be instructed to pay admission at the main entrance.**

**further details on access to the team entrance will be included in the Finalist Manual and online Finalist Meeting.*

SPECTATOR ADMISSION

All tickets can be purchased at <https://www.ohsaa.org/tickets>.

Ticket prices for the State Boys Volleyball Tournament will be **\$10.00 for students and \$16.00 for adults**. Children under the age of 5 are admitted free of charge. All tickets are General Admission. Please know that these tickets admit the patron to all matches on that day. If the person leaves the arena after a session ends, the patron will have to buy another ticket for a different session, should they return to the Pam Evans Smith Arena.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR ADMISSION

School Athletic Directors will continue to utilize the 8 complimentary codes provided by Hometown Ticketing. It is the responsibility of the school administrator(s) to provide that link to the correct individuals. The 8 tickets are typically intended for the Superintendent (2), Principal (2), Athletic Director (2), Other (2). **These 8 individuals will need to utilize the main entrance gates for admission, so their ticket may be scanned.**

Should you have any questions regarding tickets, please contact Claudia Markoff.

Claudia Markoff

E: cmarkoff@ohsaa.org

P: 614-549-6973

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The OHSAA does not provide hotel reservations or accommodations for teams. There are many great hotels in Springfield, Ohio near Wittenberg University, but it will be up to the school staff to reserve hotel rooms.

SPECTATOR PARKING

Wittenberg University has ample parking around the campus and the arena, and you can reference parking information here:

<https://www.wittenbergtigers.com/gameday/parking/index>

Wittenberg University Athletics will be charging for parking, \$5 per car. However, there is free parking that is further away from the arena

TEAM TRANSPORTATION PARKING

The team transportation will be instructed to drive into a drive located off of Lowry Avenue and The Steemer indoor facility (use address *1025 N Lowry Avenue, Springfield, OH 45504*). It is important the bus driver enter Lowry Avenue from McCreight Avenue, as this will be the easiest way to navigate to the drop-off area. The appropriate parking attendants will then direct the bus drivers where to park the team transportation vehicle(s) after team drop-off. Further details will be listed in the State Finalist Manual.

ATTENDING OTHER MATCHES

Teams and coaches are permitted to attend other tournament matches that are not their own. For admission, we ask that you enter the team entrance on the backside of The Steemer and show your bag tag. Anyone that does not show their bag tag, will be required to purchase a ticket for entry. If coaches and/or teams would like to come to a match that is earlier than the one they are participating in, they may go ahead and pick up their bag tags at the team entrance—however, it will be your responsibility to make sure you have your bag tags for the match you are participating in. No additional bag tags will be provided.

Please email Michael Cornathan (mcornathan@ohsaa.org) if you plan to attend other games!

CHEERLEADERS & PEP BANDS

The OHSAA will permit up to 6 cheerleaders, however those cheerleaders must be individuals recognized by the school as cheerleaders throughout the school year. **Pep bands are not permitted at the State Volleyball Tournament.**

AWARDS CEREMONY

A very important part of the State Finals is the presentation of awards, both individual and team, to the State Champion and the Runner-Up. Though this will be mentioned in the Finalists Meeting, it is important and required for both teams to participate in this ceremony with the utmost respect it deserves.

After shaking hands, teams will be asked to line up in front of their respective fans/benches. Names will be called and school administrators from each school will assist our Board of Directors and OHSAA Staff with the presentation of individual awards. Individuals will be expected to wear their medal around their neck and observe the other team receiving their awards. Fans will not be permitted on to the court in the Pam Evans Smith Arena at any time.

PRIOR TO OFFICIAL WARM-UP PERIOD

The auxiliary gym will be available for teams prior to their official warm-up period beginning prior to their match.

OFFICIAL WARM-UP PERIOD

There will be a 30-minute warm-up on the playing court by both teams. Once the coin toss has been conducted, teams shall be provided 10 minutes of ball handling on their side of the net. The remaining 20-minute warm-up shall be divided into the following designated times in order. A 20-minute warm-up on the court by both teams is required. Teams may not be on the official playing court until 30-minutes prior to their match start. Main clock will start at 30 minutes prior to match time. Team Hosts will ensure your team makes it to the court on time.

1. 2 minutes – both teams ball handling on their side of the net (20:00 – 18:00)
2. 6 minutes – the serving team has the whole court (18:00 – 12:15)
3. 6 minutes – the receiving team has the whole court (12:00 – 6:15)
4. 3 minutes – the serving team has the whole court (6:00 – 3:15)
5. 3 minutes – the receiving team has the whole court (3:00 – 0:15)

NOTE: There may be no use of volleyballs in the facility while team is not on the court for the designated time.

GAME BALLS

The OHSAA has partnered with Molten and will utilize the *Molten Flistatec V5M5000* as the official game ball of the OHSAA State Tournament.

GAME OFFICIALS

Game officials for the State Tournament are selected from procedures adopted by the OHSAA's Board of Directors and are assigned by the Executive Director's office. There are no protests of decisions and interpretations of the rules by officials during contests per *OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 3*. Decisions and interpretations are final.

LIVE STREAM

All State Semifinal and Final matches will be live streamed through the NFHS Network. Links will be posted to our Volleyball Tournament Coverage page on our website—these might not be available until the day of the game.

GAME SCHEDULE

DI Semifinals	Friday, May 29	12:00 PM
DI Semifinals	Friday, May 29	2:00 PM
DII Semifinals	Friday, May 29	4:00 PM
DII Semifinals	Friday, May 29	6:00 PM
DI Finals	Saturday, May 30	12:00 PM
DII Finals	Saturday, May 31	3:00 PM

Ohio High School Athletic Association
State Final Information Sheet



School Name: _____

Head Coach's Name	
Head Coach's Cell Phone	
Athletic Director's Name	
Athletic Director's Cell Phone	

Name of Administrator(s) Helping with Awards Ceremony:

NAME	TITLE

Please send completed form to Michael Cornathan at mcornathan@ohsaa.org

PLEASE PROVIDE THIS SHEET TO YOUR ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR

Additional Instructions to School Administrators

State Boys Volleyball Tournament

Pam Evans Smith Arena, Wittenberg University | Springfield, OH

May 29 – 30, 2026

FAN BEHAVIOR

As a school administrator, you are aware of the importance of sportsmanship. There can be no better place to exhibit great sportsmanship than in front of the largest crowd our athletes may play in front of, in addition to the thousands that view our State Tournament through the livestream. Though we express this continually, we appreciate any help you can provide throughout the game.

STUDENT SECTIONS

Upon arrival at Wittenberg University, there should be information directing your communities which side of the arena your spectators should sit. ***Since teams are no longer switching benches, we ask that student sections not sit behind the bench of the opposing team.*** This should only apply to the schools that are on the same side of the arena as the team benches.

COURT ACCESS FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

2 court-access passes will be provided to school administrators for the team(s) that advance to the State Championship match on Saturday. These credentials may be used to be on the court during the awards ceremony on Saturday. Michael will be in touch with the school Athletic Director to provide them with these passes. She will utilize the cell phone number of the administrator(s) in attendance that you will list on the *State Final Information Sheet* on page 4.

AWARDS CEREMONY INSTRUCTIONS

The name(s) provided on the *State Final Information Sheet* (pg. 4) will be announced as assisting with the Awards Presentation at the conclusion of the State Championship game. With approximately 5 minutes remaining in the game, please come down to the court level and someone from our staff will assist you onto the court to be present for your school's awards ceremony. We will ask your assistance in lining up your team for the awards. We do require both teams to participate in the ceremony and respect the presentation of awards to the opponent.

Our normal protocol for awards is:

1. Teams will line up in front of their fans/benches
2. School administrators will place the medal around the neck of the individual(s)
3. Announcer will read script congratulating teams and coach will accept the team trophy to the school

Additional medals may be ordered through **Travis Nethers** at **Croton Craft** at 1-800-947-5521