

**17. VOLLEYBALL — GIRLS & BOYS****A. GENERAL REGULATIONS****1) Interscholastic Participation****Grades 9-12**

1. All high school matches shall be played utilizing NFHS Volleyball rules. The libero rule shall be used for high school volleyball only.

**Note:** Starting with the 2026-2027 school year, the libero will be permitted in grades 7-12.

1. Boys volleyball shall utilize the NFHS Volleyball Rules Book, with the following modifications:

- a. Boys net height: Boys shall utilize the net height listed in NFHS Rule 3-1-4, which is 7'11 5/8".
- b. Boys volleyball: The volleyball shall be the Molten Flistatec V5M5000 in any color combination.

2. All varsity dual matches shall be played in a best three of five format. Each set shall go to 25 points with no cap (must win by two points), and the deciding set shall go to 15 points with no cap.
3. Varsity regular season matches contested in any format other than a dual, head to head format, i.e., tri-matches, quadrangular matches or other multi-match tournaments, may be played in a best three of five format if agreed upon in advance of the competition in the game contract(s). If there has been no advance contracting to play these matches in a best three of five format, then the matches shall be played in a best two of three format.
4. All non-varsity matches, including junior varsity, reserve, freshmen, etc., shall be played in a best two of three format. Each set shall go to 25 points with no cap (must win by two points), and the deciding set shall go to 25 points with no cap.
5. Match limitations for each high school team and individual player are 22 matches on no more than 22 playing dates.
6. Individual limitations for volleyball players who play in both Varsity and any non-varsity competition on the same day and against the same opponent consist of a maximum of six (6) sets per day per common opponent. Any part of a set is considered a full set.
7. In any tournament or regular season competition, teams and/or individuals shall be permitted to play a maximum of three matches per day.
8. All regular season matches count in the 22 match limitations including non-varsity tournaments.
9. The penalty for exceeding the participation limitation during a match is forfeiture of the match in which the ineligible player is participating. When discovered, the ineligible player is removed from the set, and the match may continue to completion; however, the result of the contest shall be a forfeiture by the offending team.
10. A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests may be removed from the OHSAA tournament, as outlined in General Sports Regulation 12 and additional penalties may apply.
11. Any girl who has not participated on the girls' team in the fall, either in a scrimmage or match, may participate on the boys' team in the spring of that school year.

**Grades 7 & 8**

1. All 7 & 8th grade matches shall be played in a best two of three format. Each set shall go to 25 points with no cap (must win by two points), and the deciding set shall go to 25 points with no cap.
2. 7 & 8th grade volleyball matches shall not use the libero rule.

**Note:** Starting with the 2026-2027 school year, the libero will be permitted in grades 7-12.

3. A student may participate in no more than four (4) sets per opponent. Any part of a set is considered a full set. When playing more than one opponent, this rule applies for each opponent.
4. In any tournament or regular season competition, teams and/or individuals shall be permitted to play a maximum of three matches per day.
5. The penalty for exceeding the participation limitation during a match is forfeiture of the match in which the ineligible player is participating. When discovered, the ineligible player is removed from the set, and the match may continue to completion; however, the result of the contest shall be a forfeiture by the offending team.
6. The net height for grades 7 & 8 shall be the same as the net height for grades 9-12 at 7'4 1/8", per NFHS Rule.
7. Match limitations for each 7 & 8 grade team and player are 20 matches on no more than 20 playing dates.

8. Postseason Tournament—These regulations permit one postseason tournament not to exceed four matches. Postseason means after the 20 regular season matches have concluded. A player may play in just one postseason tournament. For example, if a student plays in the 7th grade postseason tournament, he/she is ineligible to play in the 8th grade postseason tournament.

- 1.1) When a volleyball match is interrupted for any reason, the match shall be resumed from the point of interruption.
- 1.2) Any scheduled regular season volleyball set or match which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, is considered a “No Contest.” Sets or matches not played are not included in won-lost statistics.
- 1.3) PREVIEW — A preview may be scheduled and played any time throughout the regular season. A Preview must conform to all requirements defined in General Sports Regulation 23.

Previews are limited in length to two sets of 21 points each, played according to National Federation Volleyball Rules.

## 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

Reference the Regulations for Non-Interscholastic Participation in General Sport Regulation 7 for what is permitted in and outside of a school season and penalties that shall apply if violated, as outlined in Bylaw 11

A volleyball athlete who has not participated for the school in volleyball that season must cease non-interscholastic volleyball competition by the established dates below, Monday, September 1, 2025 in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided applicable Bylaws and Regulations have been followed.

Girls Non-Interscholastic Date: Monday, September 1, 2025

Boys Non-Interscholastic Date: Monday, March 31, 2026

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in volleyball who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in volleyball, may be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in volleyball in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

- 2.1) A girls volleyball player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the three-player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 2.2) All-Star Contests — All-Star events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school volleyball season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulation 7.

Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

## 3) Instructional Programs

See *General Sport Regulation 7 for Non-Interscholastic Participation and Individual Skill Instruction*.

## 4) No Contact Period — Coaches

See General Sport Regulation 11 for information on the mandatory No Contact Period.

## 5) Penalties

Violation of any Volleyball Regulations or General Sport Regulations are subject to penalties, as outlined in the Volleyball Regulations and/or Bylaw 11.

## 5) Transfer Bylaw

While all questions regarding the transfer bylaw should be addressed to the appropriate school administrator, information regarding the transfer bylaw can be found on the OHSAA website at this link, <http://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw, and who participated in high school volleyball within 12 months of the transfer date, are ineligible for all regular season contests, scrimmages, and the OHSAA postseason tournament beginning with varsity regular season contest #12.

## 6) Other Bylaws and Regulations

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations at [OHSAA.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 at [OHSAA.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

## B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — Girls: August 1, 2025 | Boys: February 23, 2026
- 2) First match — Girls: August 15, 2025 | Boys: March 13, 2026

- 3) **Deadline date for OHSAA Tournaments — Girls: September 22, 2025 | Boys: April 20, 2026**
- 4) **Tournament draw/seeding date —**  
**Girls: October 5, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Boys: May 3, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**
- 5) **Coaching and Season end — Girls: November 8, 2025 | Boys: May 30, 2026**
- 6) **Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of six scrimmages and/or previews.**  
**Note:** May be a combination of both, but not exceed six in total.
- 7) **Regular season matches — Maximum of 22 matches on no more than 22 playing dates. Each match played opposing another school shall be counted as one match in the 22 permitted, whether played in triangular, quadrangular or invitational tournament.**
- 8) **Rules — National Federation Volleyball Rules Book**
- 9) **Uniform Rules — National Federation Volleyball Rules Book**
- 10) **Officials:**
  - 10.1) Varsity — One Class 1 official who shall be the First Referee is required. The Second Referee shall be either Class 1 or Class 2 volleyball official.  
**EXCEPTION:** If an emergency arises which prevents the contracted Class 1 official from being present, a Class 2 official may be used as the First Referee provided the schools mutually agree. In the event that only one OHSAA registered official arrives to officiate the match, the match may be played provided the participating coaches agree.
  - 10.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Two OHSAA Class 1 or 2 volleyball officials required.
  - 10.3) Freshmen — A minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 volleyball official required. Regardless of the number, all officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or officials in training.
  - 10.4) Line Judges — For varsity and reserve/junior varsity volleyball competition, all line judges shall be either well-trained adults or students not listed on the volleyball roster for the high school.

**C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 7 & 8**

- 1) **Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — Girls: August 1, 2025 | Boys: February 23, 2026**
- 2) **First match — Girls: August 15, 2025 | Boys: March 13, 2026**
- 3) **Coaching and Season end — Girls: November 8, 2025 | Boys: May 30, 2026**
- 4) **Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of three scrimmages and/or previews.**  
**Note:** May be a combination of both, but not exceed three in total.
- 5) **Regular season matches — Maximum 20 matches on 20 playing dates plus one postseason tournament not to exceed four matches. The 7th grade tournament is considered one tournament as is the 8th grade tournament.**
- 6) **Rules — National Federation Volleyball Rules Book**
- 7) **Uniform Rules — National Federation Volleyball Rules Book**
- 8) **Officials — A minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 volleyball official required. Regardless of the number, all officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or officials in training.**

## VOLLEYBALL CALENDARS

Girls Volleyball	2025	2026	2027
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	8/1	8/1	8/1
Regular Season Contests Begin	8/15	8/21	8/20
Sectional	10/13-10/18#	10/19-10/24	10/18-10/23
District	10/20-10/25	10/26-10/31	10/25-10/30
Regional	10/27-11/1	11/2-11/7	11/1-11/6
State	11/6-11/8	11/12-11/14	11/11-11/13
Season Ends	11/8	11/14	11/13
Thanksgiving	11/27	11/26	11/25
Coach — No Contact Period	Starts with the first day after the last interscholastic contest and ends 28 days later.		
#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).			

<b>Boys Volleyball</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	2/23	2/22	2/20
Regular Season Contests Begin	3/13	3/12	3/10
Regional Qualifying	5/9-5/16	5/8-5/15	5/6-5/13
Regional Semi-Finals & Final	5/18-5/23	5/17-5/22	5/15-5/20
State	5/29-5/30	5/28-5/29	5/26-5/27
Season Ends	5/30	5/29	5/27
Coach — No Contact Period	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31

## VOLLEYBALL — GIRLS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION

2028-2032-2036	2025-2029-2033	2026-2030-2034	2027-2031-2035
VII	IV	I	VI
III	VI	VII	II
V	III	IV	I
II	VII	VI	V
IV	I	II	III
I	V	III	VII
VI	II	V	IV