State Volleyball Tournament Instructions

Congratulations on your Regional Championship!

The Ohio High School Athletic Association and Wright State University look forward to welcoming you to the 2026 State Tournament throughout the Dayton, Ohio area, Thursday, November 12 – Saturday, November 14.

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.

Volleyball Tournament Information page: https://www.ohsaa.org/sports/volleyball/tournament-info

Volleyball Sport Administrator, Michael Cornathan, will all be available for any questions you may have via phone or email, throughout the week, as will the following site managers. ***I am best reached by email or cell phone!***

Michael Cornathan	*Sports Administrator*	**E**: mcornathan@ohsaa.org	**C**: (614) 535-5261
Joe Dick	*Site Manager, Nutter Center*	**E**: joseph.dick@wright.edu	
Ryan Forbush	*Site Manager, Wittenberg University*	**E**: forbushr@wittenberg.edu	
Kelly Stevens	*Site Manager, Butler HS*	**E**: kelly.stevens@vbcsd.com	

FINALIST MANUAL & ONLINE FINALIST MEETING

By Sunday at 5:00 PM, you 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.

PAPERWORK REMINDERS

All paperwork requirements should have been completed online for the Regional Tournament (due by Wednesday, November 4 at noon). 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 Kinley Maynard at kmaynard@ohsaa.org

Please send Michael Cornathan (mcornathan@ohsaa.org), your *State Final Information Sheet*, found on page 5
AS WELL AS, any updates to your Team Roster

PROGRAM INFORMATION/TEAM STATS/LOGO

Program information is due to Kinley Maynard. Additional statistics and team information forms are due to Kinley **by Wednesday morning (November 4th)**, located on the *Volleyball Tournament Information* webpage. Each team will be provided complimentary programs upon their arrival to the State Tournament.

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 Kinley Maynard at kmaynard@ohsaa.org

TOURNAMENT & UNIFORM REGULATIONS

We ask that you review the *2026 State Volleyball Tournament Regulations* on the Volleyball webpage. Regulations that address number in uniform, number of individuals in the bench area, etc. 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.

NEW* - Due to NFHS Rule, the home team is permitted to choose their bench. Along with the finalist meeting and manual, you will receive an email from Michael Cornathan with a picture of each arena, and you must choose your bench. Your team has until Tuesday, November 10th at 8am to decide.

TEAM ADMISSION

Though pass lists were submitted prior to your Regional game, admission for the 22 total individuals (*players, coaches, Athletic 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 to your State Semifinal site. 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 access to anyone beyond the 22 with a bag tag. If you advance to the State-Final, please keep track of all bag-tags. No additional bag tags will be given, if lost or forgotten**

SPECTATOR ADMISSION

All tickets can be purchased at https://www.ohsaa.org/tickets. Ticket prices for the State Volleyball Tournament will be **$10.00 for students and $17.00* for all three sites**. 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 site.

The $17.00 ticket price for adults covers the parking cost, so there will be no additional fee to park at all three sites

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR ADMISSION

School Athletic Directors will continue to use the 8 complimentary tickets provided by Hometown Ticketing. It is the responsibility of the school Athletic Director to provide those tickets to the correct individuals. The 8 tickets are typically intended for the Superintendent (2), Principal (2), Athletic Director (2), Bus Driver (1), Other (1). These 8 individuals will need to utilize the specific entrance gates for admission, so their ticket may be scanned. These administrator tickets can be scanned at;

Wright State University (Nutter Center) – Loading Dock (Lot 5)
Wittenberg University – Front entrance (Pam Evans Smith Arena)
Butler High School – SAC/Athletic entrance (Refer to Finalist Manual for more specifics)

Should you have any questions regarding State Tournament tickets, please contact Claudia Markoff with the OHSAA.

Claudia Markoff, *OHSAA Customer Experience Manager*
B: (614) 549-6973
E: cmarkoff@ohsaa.org

TEAM EXPENSES

This is a reminder that the OHSAA does not plan to provide team reimbursements for 2026-27 OHSAA Tournament events. Please plan your visit to the State Tournament accordingly.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Please know that we do not make reservations, and teams are not assigned specific hotels. There will be a list of hotels in the area that Greene County Visitor's Bureau has provided for us. **The list of hotels will be emailed to all the district finalists**. Please feel free to find hotel accommodation beyond the provided list, if desired. There are many hotels in the area, with ample restaurants as well! We are very lucky to have this resource so please ask questions if interested!

If you have any questions, please contact Luke Driskell with the Visitor's Bureau.

Luke Driskell, *Sports Marketing & Sales Manager*
E: ldriskell@greenecountyohio.org
P: (937) 429-6770

If your team is interested in making hotel reservations, these need to be finalized by Tuesday 11/9 at noon. Reservations can be made as a precaution; however, cancelations can take place until Tuesday 11/9 at noon.

If necessary, label your block - OHSAA Volleyball Tournament*

ATTENDING OTHER MATCHES

Teams and coaches are permitted to attend tournament matches that are not their own. For admission, we ask that you enter the pass gate listed for each site in the State Finalist Manual. 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 designated pass gate—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.

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 FOR STATE FINALS
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 at the Nutter Center at any time.

PRIOR TO OFFICIAL WARM-UP PERIOD
An auxiliary gym or warm-up space 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. The coin toss will take place, followed by 10 minutes of ball handling on their side of the net. After the 10 minutes of ball handling, 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. The 20-minute warm-up shall be divided into the following designated times in order:

1. 2 minutes – both teams ball handling on their side of the net
2. 6 minutes – the serving team has the whole court
3. 6 minutes – the receiving team has the whole court
4. 3 minutes – the serving team has the whole court
5. 3 minutes – the receiving team has the whole court

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 IV58L-BKSV-OH Super Touch* as the official game ball of the OHSAA State Tournament. ***There will be no need to bring balls to the 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.

…CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE…

2026 State Volleyball Tournament Schedule

DIVISION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
DI Semifinals	Thursday, November 12	6:00 PM	Butler High School
DI Semifinals	Thursday, November 12	8:00 PM	Butler High School
DVII Semifinals	Thursday, November 12	12:00 PM	Wright State University
DVII Semifinals	Thursday, November 12	2:00 PM	Wright State University
DIV Semifinals	Thursday, November 12	4:00 PM	Wright State University
DIV Semifinals	Thursday, November 12	6:00 PM	Wright State University
DVI Semifinals	Thursday, November 12	6:00 PM	Wittenberg University
DVI Semifinals	Thursday, November 12	8:00 PM	Wittenberg University
DI Final	Friday, November 13	12:00 PM	Wright State University
DVII Final	Friday, November 13	2:00 PM	Wright State University
DIV Final	Friday, November 13	4:00 PM	Wright State University
DVI Final	Friday, November 13	6:00 PM	Wright State University
DII Semifinals	Friday, November 13	2:00 PM	Butler High School
DII Semifinals	Friday, November 13	4:00 PM	Butler High School
DIII Semifinals	Friday, November 13	6:00 PM	Butler High School
DIII Semifinals	Friday, November 13	8:00 PM	Butler High School
DV Final	Friday, November 13	11:30 AM	Wittenberg University
DV Final	Friday, November 13	1:00 PM	Wittenberg University
DII Final	Saturday, November 14	11:00 AM	Wright State University
DIII Final	Saturday, November 14	1:00 PM	Wright State University
DV Final	Saturday, November 14	3:00 PM	Wright State University

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 for School Administrators

State Volleyball Tournament
Dayton, Ohio
November 12 – 14, 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 Championships through the livestream. Though we express this continually, we appreciate any help you can provide throughout the game.

STUDENT SECTIONS

Upon arrival at your Semifinal or Final venue, there should be monitors or signs directing your communities which side of the arena your spectators should sit on. ***Since teams are no longer switching benches, we ask that student/fan sections to abide by the signs around the venues regarding seat location.***

COURT ACCESS FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

2 court-access passes will be provided to school administrators at the Nutter Center (only). These credentials may be used to be on the court during the award ceremony on Friday and Saturday. I will be in touch with the school Athletic Director to provide them with these passes. I will utilize the cell phone number of the administrator(s) in attendance that is listed on the *State Final Information Sheet* on page 5.

AWARDS CEREMONY INSTRUCTIONS

The name(s) provided on the *State Final Information Sheet* (pg. 5) 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 (Runner-Up team first) congratulating teams and coach will accept the team trophy to the school

Additional medals may be ordered through **Travis Nethers** at **Croton Craft** at 1-740-504-3228