

VOLLEYBALL

TOURNAMENT DATES

District Tournaments

Classes B and C..... Oct 26-31

Divisional Tournaments

Classes AA, A, B and C.....November 2-7

State Tournaments

All ClassesNovember 12-14

I - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- (1) The Montana High School Association will promote, provide for and control all interschool volleyball activities among the member schools.
- (2) Schools will be divided into four classes – AA, A, B and C.
- (3) The playing rules as authorized and published by the National Federation of State High School Associations for the current year shall be followed for all matches.
- (4) The Montana High School Association Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practice and the first allowable date when any contests may be played. No individual shall play in any Association contest until he/she has a minimum of eight (8) days of volleyball practice of at least one practice session per day on eight (8) different days (no practice permitted on Sunday), prior to the date of the first allowable game.

The initial eight (8) practices for each individual must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with the full coaching staff.

When determining what constitutes a MHSA practice that satisfies the language above in (4), the following criteria must be applied:

1. Practice must be at least one (1) hour long.
2. At least one full squad (varsity team/J.V. team/C squad) and their coaching staff must be present.
3. The athlete must participate in the entire practice.
4. Practice should include the majority of drills and conditioning that are the norm for that team or squad.
5. A practice the day of a match does not count (unless an athlete is practicing with another squad that does not have a match that day, i.e. a varsity team member who stays home and practices with the JV team that does not have a match that day).
6. Warm-ups or walk-throughs with the team prior to a match does not constitute a practice.

If a student begins his/her initial eight (8) days of required practices and that period of days is interrupted by sickness, injury, academic ineligibility or any other reason for a period of two weeks, then the student shall be required to practice an additional four (4) days and in cases of sickness or injury to produce a doctor's release.

Athletes participating on teams competing in MHSA post season play, which overlaps the beginning of the next MHSA sanctioned activity starting practice date, may be credited for practices during the overlap period toward meeting the minimum practice requirement of the overlapped activity season.

If a student transfers to a new school after completing the required days of preseason practices for their sport or activity, the student must complete an additional number of practices (equal to half the # of required practices for that sport or activity) at their new school.

- (5) Eighteen (18) volleyball matches will be the maximum limit for schools in classes A, B and C and nineteen (19) matches in class AA, with no more than three (3) 3-out-of-5 matches [or five (5) 2-out-of-three matches in dual tournament format only] on any one date excluding Association sponsored tournaments. These match limits apply for each squad: varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, freshman, etc.

- (6) No school is required to take part in any contests or athletic events, but once entered, teams are obligated to participate in a contest or athletic event to its normal conclusion unless the contest is terminated by mutual consent of the school officials involved due to unusual weather or game conditions, or situations which could be hazardous to participants or spectators. Any coach is prohibited from unilaterally refusing to play.

If a school fails to complete contests or athletic events that they have entered, the violating school would be subject to penalties as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Executive Director.

No school is required to take part in any regular season match or tournament, but when once entered under the plan outlined, schools shall carry out their part of the program in fairness to all other schools represented. Any team taking part in season play is automatically entered in to the first tournament held in that district or in that division. That team shall not be allowed to withdraw from playing in such tournament without the specific approval of the Executive Director. The penalty for violation shall be as outlined under Penalties, Article VIII, Section (2).

- (7) Each school's squad can take part in a maximum of three (3) regular season tournaments excluding Association-sponsored tournaments (regular season tournaments are defined as either invitational or dual tournament formats). An invitational or dual tournament shall count as one match and one day toward the match and date limitations established in section (5). Invitational or dual tournaments conducted over two (2) days constitute two matches and two days toward the match and date limitations. Dual tournament matches shall not be considered conference matches.

- (8) Match formats:

Regular Season Matches

Varsity matches – All classifications will play a three (3) out of five (5) match format and will play a rally scoring system. In the first four sets, the score will go to twenty-five (25) points with no cap and a team must win by two (2) points. If a fifth set is needed, the score will go to fifteen (15) points with no cap and a team must win by two (2) points. The let serve will be utilized and two (2) time-outs per set will be allowed. **Two libero players can be utilized.**

Sub-varsity matches – All classifications will play a three (3) out of five (5) match format and will play a rally scoring system. Sets 1 and 2 score to twenty-five (25) points with a cap of thirty (30) points, and sets 3, 4 and 5 score to fifteen (15) points with a cap of twenty (20) points. The let serve shall be utilized with two (2) time-outs allowed for sets 1 and 2 and one (1) time-out allowed for sets 3, 4 and 5. **Two libero players can be utilized.**

Dual Tournament Format

Varsity matches – All matches will be a three (3) out of five (5) or two (2) out of three (3) match formats and will use a rally scoring system. In a three (3) out of five (5) match format, the first four sets score will go to twenty-five (25) points with no cap and a team must win by two (2) points. If a fifth set is needed, the score will go to fifteen (15) points with no cap and a team must win by two (2) points. In a two (2) out of three (3) match format, the score will go to twenty-five

(25) points in all three sets, with no cap and a team must win by two (2) points. In all match formats, the let serve will be utilized and two (2) timeouts per set will be allowed. ***Two libero players can be utilized.***

Sub-varsity matches – All matches will be a three (3) out of five (5) or two (2) out of three (3) match formats and will use a rally scoring system. In a three (3) out of five (5) match format, sets 1 and 2, the score will go to twenty-five (25) points with a cap of thirty (30) points, and sets 3, 4 and 5, the score will go to fifteen (15) points with a cap of twenty (20) points. In sets 1 and 2 two (2) time-outs will be allowed and one (1) time-out allowed for sets 3, 4 and 5. In a two (2) out of three (3) match format, the score will go to twenty-five (25) points in sets 1 and 2, with a cap of thirty (30) points and set three (3) the score will go to fifteen (15) points with a cap of twenty (20) points. In sets 1 and 2 two (2) time-outs will be allowed and one (1) time-out allowed for set 3. The let serve and the libero player will be utilized in all sub-varsity match formats.

Dual tournaments may be organized by utilizing the pool play concept, round robin play or bracket play, and a minimum of four teams must be involved to be considered a dual tournament.

Invitational Tournament Format

Invitational tournaments may be organized by utilizing the "pool" play concept in which teams play only two (2) sets of a match. The teams which win their "pool" play then may advance to true match play which can be the best two out of three games or three out of five sets. Invitational tournaments will have a cap of 25.

- (9) The Association prohibits students of member schools from entering a preliminary contest and then starting in the varsity contest the same day, except for Classes **B and C** when there are insufficient non-varsity players to play a junior varsity contest, schools may, by mutual consent of the **administrators** involved, play no more than two (2) varsity starters in the jv contest.

Individual volleyball players shall be allowed to play in no more than two matches/levels (freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, varsity) in any school's dual match. Entering a contest for one live ball counts as participation in one match. MHSA By-Laws, Section 2, General Penalties will be followed for any contest in which a participant exceeds the limitation. The player limitation rule doesn't apply during invitational or dual tournaments. Montana volleyball teams will always follow the MHSA match limitation rule when playing in neighboring states.

INTERPRETATIONS

1. Any volleyball team that receives a forfeiture may be allowed to schedule and play a make-up match but the team that gives the forfeit must count the forfeited match as one of the season's match limit for its school and that team will not be allowed to schedule another match in place of the forfeited match(es).
 2. Definition of "squad" – An athletic squad is determined by union of "act and intent" by grouping together a number of students to play as a unit to represent the school, under the direction of a designated coach or coaches.
 3. Club team participation – during the MHSA volleyball season, no more than three (3) rostered participants in a school's program can compete in an outside volleyball event on the same team.
 4. Definition of "invitational tournament" – An invitational tournament is defined as a tournament that does not have a predetermined number of matches a team will play. The number of matches per team is determined solely by wins and losses.
- (10) All varsity regular and post season matches will be a best three (3) out of five (5) competition with rally scoring all sets. A continuous twenty-minute warm-up clock will be standard for all varsity play. The buzzer will be sounded at twelve (12) minutes (signaling the end of joint court warm-up), at eight (8) minutes (signaling the end of the serving team court time), at four (4) minutes (signaling the end of the receiving team court time), at two (2) minutes (signaling the end of the serving team court time) and at 0.00 (signaling the end of the

receiving team court time). The officials will conduct the pre-match conference before the twenty (20) minute warm-up period begins. Coaches must be on the floor at this time. This applies to regular season and post season play. A continuous fifteen-minute warmup will be standard for all sub varsity levels of play. The buzzer will be sounded at (12) minutes (signaling the end of joint court warm-up), at eight (8) minutes (signaling the end of the serving team court time) at four (4) minutes (signaling the end of the receiving team court time), at two (2) minutes (signaling the end of the serving team court time) and 0.00 (signaling the end of the receiving court time). The officials will conduct pre-match conference before the fifteen (15) minute warm-up period begins. Coaches must be on the floor at this time.

- (11) It is mandatory that line judges be adults for all varsity matches (excluding invitational and dual tournament matches) which utilize a three (3) out of five (5) match format and play a rally scoring format. It is recommended that adult line judges be used for sub-varsity matches and invitational/dual tournaments, but high school students are acceptable.
- (12) The volleyball season officially closes with the end of the state tournament for the classification of the school concerned.
- (13) No warm-up activities are allowed in the vicinity of the main playing floor at any time while any volleyball match is in progress. Invitational and dual tournaments are excluded from this rule.
- (14) For MHSA volleyball post season play, the Baden Lexum Comp VX450c-210 red/white/navy blue microfiber composite volleyball will be used. For regular season play, a solid white volleyball may be used. If a colored volleyball is used for regular season play, it can only be a red/white/navy blue colored volleyball. For both regular season and post season play, any volleyball used for all levels of play shall include the NFHS authenticating mark.
- (15) The MHSA prohibits any use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol or other mood altering drugs during competition. Violation will cause the coach or participant to be disqualified from further participation in that event.
- (16) For post season play, volleyball teams will not be allowed on the playing floor until thirty (30) minutes before the start time of the match.
- (17) All district and divisional volleyball tournaments that use a three-day format must be played on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. If the tournament uses a two-day format, the tournament can be held on Thursday/Friday or Friday/Saturday. Any variation must be approved by the MHSA office.

II – DISTRICT, DIVISIONAL AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPATION AND PLAYOFF

- (1) The playing rules as authorized by the National Federation of State High School Associations for the current year shall be followed for all sets.
- (2) No all-star teams or players shall be picked or announced at the tournament site by either the Executive Board or tournament officials. This applies to district, divisional and state tournaments.
- (3) It shall be mandatory for the winners of Classes AA, A, B and C in the divisional tournaments to take part in the final playoff series. In the event that any such winners should refuse to take part as provided above, then such team shall forfeit its right to its respective tournament championship, trophies etc., and the next team in line shall take its place and receive all respective trophies and replace the defaulting team in the final playoff. Furthermore, the defaulting team shall be barred

from all tournament participation the following year, unless excused by the Executive Board for such default.

- (4) All divisional volleyball tournaments in Classes A, B and C shall utilize a true double-elimination bracket. Class AA will have playoff games to qualify for state. All classes will play three (3) out of five (5) basis with rally scoring for all sets. The let serve will be utilized and two time-outs per set will be allowed. The libero player can be utilized.
- (5) There will be an eight (8) team, three (3) day state tournament on a three out of five rally scoring basis for all classes.
- (6) Montana High School Association will provide volleyballs for the state tournaments.

III – ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

Teams and players recognized as eligible to participate in interscholastic volleyball in Montana under the rules of the Montana High School Association will be eligible to participate in the tournaments arranged. All schools of the state are cautioned to carefully check their lists of potential players and make certain that each student whose name is submitted is fully qualified under the rules.

IV – TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS

In Classes B and C no more than twelve (12) players may be in uniform for any tournament match. Classes AA and A may suit fourteen (14) players.

V – TOURNAMENT POLICING

- (1) The local tournament manager and/or committee must make arrangements for adequate policing at the gymnasium during the course of the tournament, which includes general policing of the building and grounds as well as policing of team dressing room facilities.
- (2) Special attention must be given to insure that the game officials are afforded proper protection when leaving the floor, during their movement to the dressing area and while in the dressing room.
- (3) These rules apply for district, divisional and state tournaments.

VI – CROWD CONTROL AT SEASON ATHLETIC CONTESTS

The Executive Board of the MHSA urges all school administrators, athletic directors and coaches to establish a policy in their school to prohibit students from rushing the floor at the conclusion of athletic contests. The request for this policy comes as a result of the dangers to players, officials and fans with the rushing of uncontrolled fans on the confined area of the gymnasium floor.

VII – DETERMINATION OF TOURNAMENT SITES

- (1) Each district and division will determine its own tournament site and manager and is authorized to make all arrangements for the proper staging of said tournament in accordance with the general rules and under the MHSA finance plan. Tournament managers cannot be a coach or official if that coach or official is participating in the tournament.
- (2) The determination of tournament sites, tournament managers and arrangements for all other MHSA tournaments will be made by the Executive Board. This determination will be made at a meeting of the Board after interested member schools or communities have been given an opportunity to submit written invitations to host an Association tournament.
- (3) Following are some of the criteria which will be considered by the Board in making the determination of tournament sites: (1) Adequate gym facilities; (2) Adequate community facilities

for team and spectator housing and eating; (3) Reasonable assurance of financial success; (4) Definite invitation showing local community support; (5) Geographical rotation when feasible.

- (4) If the Board places a state tournament in a member school's facility, an administrator of that school will normally be named tournament manager. If the tournament is located in a facility other than a member school, the Executive Director, a member of the MHSA staff or a member of the Executive Board will normally be named manager.
- (5) The concession rights for any tournament held in a nonmember school facility shall be awarded by the MHSA Executive Board.

VIII - TOURNAMENT PROGRAMS, CONCESSIONS AND CORPORATE SPONSORS

- (1) The tournament program rights for all district and divisional programs will be determined by the respective district or division. The tournament program rights for all state tournaments will be the responsibility of the MHSA Executive Board.
- (2) The concession rights for any state tournament must be approved by the Executive Director. Concession rights include but are not limited to t-shirts, other apparel, photos, buttons etc.
- (3) At district and divisional events, concessions where goods and/or services are received would be at the approval of managers of events.
- (4) Corporate sponsorship of any post season event is the responsibility of the MHSA Executive Board and requires Board approval. Exceptions are: a) program advertisements and b) signage or announcements acknowledging the receipt of donated goods including food or beverages for the hospitality room, the use of tents at outdoor events, or the use of other equipment necessary for staging the event. Signage should be placed only in the appropriate areas; i.e. on the tents or in the hospitality room/area.

Established facility sponsorships are not affected provided that MHSA corporate sponsorship requirements are met.

IX - TOURNAMENT FINANCE PLAN

- (1) After each district, divisional or state tournament the tournament manager shall submit a financial report of the tournament to the Executive Director of the Montana High School Association within fifteen (15) days following the conclusion of that event. Schools will be required to itemize all charges. These itemizations and amounts charged are subject to review and approval.
- (2) The Executive Board wishes to point out that the local community definitely profits from the tournaments in three ways: (a) All concessions of the tournaments are normally given to local organizations. (b) Local communities profit considerably through income at hotels, motels, restaurants and stores. (c) The local school is under no expense to send its team to the tournament.
- (3) The host school does not underwrite the expense of the tournament, but is obligated to do its best to see to it that the gross receipts are such that allowable expenses are paid in full.
- (4) Pretournament or post tournament playoff matches are considered part of the tournament; therefore, all receipts and expenses of these matches are part of the tournament financial report.

Allowable Tournament Expenses

Charges against the tournament will stand for payment in the following order:

- (1) Referees' fees and expenses.
- (2) Only one volleyball may be charged against the district tournament. The volleyballs for all divisional and for all state tournaments will be furnished by the MHSA office at no charge.
- (3) Normal administrative expenses. (Printing tickets, scorebook, advertising, signs, postage, telephone, clerical, scorer and timer.)
- (4) Use of facility charges (rental), shall include all charges, if any, for the following: extra custodial service, utilities, ticket sales, ticket takers, police/security, door guards, ushers, parking attendants, first aid room and towel service.
- (5) Team expenses for district and divisional tournaments are to be computed as follows:

A. In addition to the players on the tournament roster (a maximum of twelve) per diem will be allowed for four additional persons at \$45.00 per day for a maximum of 16 persons (12 players, 2 managers, 2 coaches), plus travel expense allowance of \$2.50 per mile for one round trip for each school participating.

B. The decision to stay at the tournament site or to commute rests with each school. If a school elects to commute to the tournament site, any or all days the tournament is in session, they will be paid expenses as follows:

1. \$2.50 per mile for each round trip, maximum of one round trip per day, plus \$20.00 a day per person, to a maximum of 16, for meal allowance for each day they commute while the tournament is in session.
2. For the days when the team stays overnight at the tournament site, the regular schedule of \$45.00 applies.
3. No expenses are paid for the day following the tournament.

C. One additional day per diem will be allowed if travel distance is more than 200 miles one way, if the team stays overnight an extra night preceding the tournament dates.

D. Teams required to report to the tournament site a day early for playoff match will be entitled to an extra day per diem at \$20.00 or \$45.00 whichever applies.

E. If a team(s) draws a bye and does not have to play on any day of the tournament, they will be paid expenses, either commuting or overnight schedule, whichever is applicable, if they are in attendance at the tournament on that day(s).

F. If, after a team is eliminated from tournament play, they leave before completion of the tournament play, they will receive one day less per diem than they otherwise are entitled to receive under this schedule.

G. Teams located at the tournament site will not receive any mileage or per diem.

H. In computing miles traveled the shortest paved route open to travel, as listed on the current official Montana Highway Map published by the Montana Department of Highways, will be the mileage used.

Note: No guarantee is made that teams will receive maximum expense allowance.

- (6) For state tournaments only: team expenses will be calculated and distributed with consideration of the total travel distance

of the qualifying teams based on a multi-tiered mileage chart established by the Executive Board.

Non-allowable Tournament Expenses

- (1) Proper policing of hotels.
- (2) Proper timing and scoring equipment.
- (3) Adequate dressing room and shower facilities.

Established Ticket Prices for Division and State Tournaments

- (1) Each district and division in each classification shall determine their own ticket prices for each tournament.
- (2) The following ticket prices as established by the MHSA Executive Board will be used for all state tournaments:

State Tournaments

General Admission	Adult	Student
All-Session	\$36.00	\$25.00
Thursday or Friday – All Day Pass	\$ 16.00	\$ 11.00
Thursday or Friday – After 5:00 pm	\$ 10.00	\$ 8.00
Saturday – All Day Pass	\$ 10.00	\$ 8.00

X - SELECTION OF OFFICIALS

Refer to the MOA section for procedure for selection of officials to work the volleyball tournaments.

XI - PRETOURNAMENT PRACTICE SESSIONS PROHIBITED

- (1) The tournament floor shall not be made available for practice purposes for any tournament team during the days when the tournament is in progress (other than the regular warm-up period) or at any time during the ten-day period immediately preceding the opening of the tournament, except when a team plays the majority of its home season matches on the floor selected as the tournament site. Then that team only would be permitted to practice on the tournament floor during the ten day period prior to the opening of any Association tournament.
- (2) Teams which have a bye for the first match will be allowed one open practice period during the days when the tournament is in progress prior to their first match of the tournament if scheduling at the tournament site permits.
- (3) Teams which receive byes after their first match and/or have a day without a match can practice on the tournament floor with the tournament manager's approval.

XII - VIDEO TAPE AT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS

The Montana High School Association Executive Board has established the following policy for videotaping at MHSA sponsored tournaments in basketball, volleyball, and wrestling:

- (1) All videotaping must be approved by the tournament manager.
- (2) All videotaping (other than that approved for news media) shall be conducted from an area designated by the tournament manager. [Refer to Rules and Regulations, Section (32) Policies for Videotaping, Cybercasting, Telecasting and Photograph of MHSA Events.]
- (3) No videotaping shall be conducted for commercial purposes unless previously approved by the Executive Director of the MHSA.
- (4) Schools or their representatives may video only those specific competitions in which their students participate.

XIII - POLICY FOR TOURNAMENT PASSES

The Association has established the following policy for tournament passes which shall be adhered to by all tournament managers.

- (1) Personnel passes — fourteen (14) all-session tickets per school. If school's co-op the host school will receive the fourteen administrative tickets and the other school(s) in the co-op will each receive an additional four (4) administrative tickets. These are to be used for administrators, coaches, spouses, chaperones, bus drivers, etc., who actually attend the tournament.
- (2) For players — twelve passes for players and four for managers — total of sixteen.
- (3) For spirit, bands and performing groups — they will be allowed free admission at playoff and state championship games when they play or perform.
- (4) For radio — three passes to each station given permission to broadcast the tournament or match. The match (or matches) must be broadcast in its (or their) entirety.
- (5) For media other than radio
 - a. Print news media - one pass for Associated Press and passes for working staff of local newspapers of teams in the tournament or newspapers in the marketing area of those teams. Members of the print media are required to show their Montana Newspaper Association press credentials when picking up their passes.
 - b. Television news media - passes for working staff of local stations of teams in the tournament or stations in the marketing area of those teams.
 - c. Commercial photography or broadcast - passes for working staff as contracted by the event manager or MHSA.
 - d. Passes will not be issued for spouses or children who attend the event with working members of the media.
- (6) For referees — one pass to each referee working the tournament.

XIV - DISTRICT AND DIVISION ORGANIZATION

- (1) Each Class B and C district and each division in AA and A should organize to transact such business as may come under their jurisdiction. Such organization may transact any business at their meetings which does not conflict with the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and the rules and regulations adopted by the MHSA Executive Board. Division dues may be voted if such dues are used in the carrying out of division organization and plans. If dues are voted, it must be understood that they are voted in addition to the annual dues of the Association. Each should elect a full complement of officers to carry out such work as may come under its jurisdiction.
- (2) While the management and general arrangements of divisional tournaments are left to each division, all officers are cautioned to adopt such rules and regulations as are consistent and fair to all schools within the division. No attempts to boycott or discriminate against individual schools will be allowed. Tournament committees and officials are cautioned not to select a tournament site unless the community school sponsoring such a tournament has adequate facilities and housing conditions to warrant staging the event. This should particularly include an adequate gymnasium with all locker and shower facilities and sufficient hotel accommodations to properly house all teams as well as patrons who are in attendance.
- (3) Any officers, when authorized by a vote of their respective division, who have various proposals to submit to the Executive Board or the entire membership of the Association may submit these proposals to the Executive Board and

request that these proposals be published in the regular Association Bulletin. If, after reviewing these proposals, the Board finds that they are not in conflict with Association policy, the Board will authorize publishing these various proposals in the regular Association Bulletin.

- (4) In order that divisional officers may be furnished with tournament and other Association information, it is necessary that a list of officers elected for the current year be sent immediately to the Executive Director, Helena. The president or secretary of each division will be responsible for furnishing this information at the earliest possible date along with the tournament site.
- (5) At the conclusion of each respective tournament, the secretary or tournament manager should be responsible for furnishing a complete financial report of the tournament to the Executive Director.

CLASS AA VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

- (1) See www.mhsa.org for the detailed alignments for Class AA.
- (2) The Class AA schools will be charged with the responsibility of playoff structure and seeding.
- (3) Playoff structure is for both boys and girls and will be held each year. Each division will have charge of the operation and management of its respective playoffs as to times and sites, and with other arrangements in accordance with the standard tournament plan as set for all tournaments and outlined in this handbook.
- (4) Seeding for Class AA playoffs will be determined by AA conference policy.

Playoffs for Eastern and Western Divisions

- #1 – Bye (1st seed at state)
- #2 – Bye (2nd seed at state)
- #3 – Plays #6 (at #3's site)
- #4 – Plays #5 (at #4's site)
- #5 – Plays #4 (at #4's site)
- #6 – Plays #3 (at #3's site)

- (5) The dates for playoff games will be determined by the AA conference.
- (6) Each division's seeding will be as follows for advancement to the state tournaments:

Seeding for Eastern and Western Divisions

- #1 – 1st place in the division
- #2 – 2nd place in the division
- #3 – Next highest remaining seed in the division
- #4 – Last remaining seed in the division

- (7) Seeding for the Class AA state tournaments will be as follows:

Bracket I	1st place Eastern vs. 4th place Western
	3rd place Eastern vs. 2nd place Western
Bracket II	1st place Western vs. 4th place Eastern
	3rd place Western vs. 2nd place Eastern

Brackets I and II shall alternate each year. The order of matches within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

- (8) The state tournament will be an eight (8) team, three (3) day, true double-elimination tournament played on a three (3) out of five (5) basis with rally scoring all sets. The let serve will be utilized and two time-outs per set will be allowed. The libero player can be utilized.

CLASS A VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

- (1) See www.mhsa.org for the detailed alignments for Class A.

- (2) The Class A schools in each division will be charged with the responsibility of drawing up the conference schedules each season and for determining the number of conference matches the schools must play to be eligible for tournament seeding.

- (3) The Class A schools in each division will be charged with the responsibility for divisional tournament seeding. Possible options include but are not limited to:

- All teams advance to divisional tournaments.
- Playoff games in which the number of teams advancing from each conference are determined by the division.
- A conference tournament may be conducted to determine divisional seeding or conferences may choose to seed teams directly to the divisional tournament.

Divisions must inform the MHSA office of their divisional seeding plans.

- (4) Each of the two divisions will hold a divisional volleyball tournament each year to determine the teams that will advance to an eight-team State Class A Tournament. The divisional tournaments will be seeded as follows:

Western Division

Bracket I 1st place SW vs. lowest remaining NW seed
 2nd place NW vs. highest remaining SW seed

Bracket II 2nd place SW vs. highest remaining NW seed
 1st place NW vs. lowest remaining SW seed

Brackets I and II shall alternate each year.

Eastern Division

Bracket I 1st place NE vs. 4th place SE
 2nd place SE vs. 3rd place NE

Bracket II 3rd place SE vs. 2nd place NE
 1st place SE vs. 4th place NE

- (5) Each of the two divisions will be responsible for the operation and management of its divisional tournament. They will be responsible for the selection of the tournament sites and tournament managers, and the financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSA Tournament Finance Plan, as set up for all volleyball tournaments. In the event of ties in conference standing, the division will be responsible to determine seeding in its divisional tournaments.

- (6) The date for divisional and state tournaments will be determined by the Executive Board.

- (7) Each divisional tournament manager will be responsible for seeding the teams in the divisional tournament according to each division's policy.

- (8) The sites, managers and standard seeding plan for the State Class A Tournament will be determined by the MHSA Executive Board.

- (9) Seeding for Class A State Tournaments will be as follows:

Bracket I 2nd place Eastern vs. 3rd place Western
 1st place Western vs. 4th place Eastern

Bracket II 2nd place Western vs. 3rd place Eastern
 1st place Eastern vs. 4th place Western

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of the matches within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

The state tournament will be an eight (8) team, three (3) day, true double elimination tournament played on a three (3) out of five (5) basis with rally scoring all sets. The let serve will be utilized and two time-outs per set will be allowed. The libero player can be utilized.

CLASS B VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

- (1) See www.mhsa.org for the detailed alignments for Class B.

- (2) The Class B schools in each division will be charged with the responsibility of drawing up the conference schedules each season and for determining the number of conference matches the schools must play to be eligible for tournament seeding.

- (3) The Class B schools in each division will be charged with the responsibility for divisional tournament seeding. Possible options include but are not limited to:

- All teams advance to divisional tournaments.
- Playoff matches to determine which teams advance to the divisional tournaments.
- District tournament.

Divisions must inform the MHSA office of their divisional seeding plans.

- (4) Each district will advance teams to the divisional volleyball tournament and be seeded according to the following plan. In the event of any ties in conference standing, the division will be responsible to determine seeding in its district tournaments or playoff games. Each division will advance teams to an eight-team State Class B Tournament according to the Class B state tournament seeding plan.

Northern Division

Bracket I 1st place District 1B vs. 4th place District 2B
 3rd place District 1B vs. 2nd place District 2B

Bracket II 2nd place District 1B vs. 3rd place District 2B
 4th place District 1B vs. 1st place District 2B

Western Division

Bracket I 1st place District 6B vs. 4th place District 7B
 3rd place District 6B vs. 2nd place District 7B

Bracket II 1st place District 7B vs. 4th place District 6B
 3rd place District 7B vs. 2nd place District 6B

For Northern and Western Divisions, Brackets I and II will alternate each year.

Southern Division

2026-27

Bracket I Game 1: 3rd place Dist. 4B vs. 3rd place Dist. 3B
 Game 2: 1st place Dist. 4B vs. 3rd place Dist. 5B
 Game 3: 1st place Dist. 3B vs. 2nd place Dist. 5B

Bracket II Game 4: 2nd place Dist. 3B vs. 2nd place Dist. 4B
 Game 5: 1st place Dist. 5B vs. Winner of Game 1

2027-28

Bracket I Game 1: 3rd place Dist. 3B vs. 3rd place Dist. 5B
 Game 2: 1st place Dist. 3B vs. 3rd place Dist. 4B
 Game 3: 1st place Dist. 5B vs. 2nd place Dist. 4B

Bracket II Game 4: 2nd place Dist. 5B vs. 2nd place Dist. 3B
 Game 5: 1st place Dist. 4B vs. Winner of Game 1

2028-29

Bracket I Game 1: 3rd place Dist. 5B vs. 3rd place Dist. 4B
 Game 2: 1st place Dist. 5B vs. 3rd place Dist. 3B
 Game 3: 1st place Dist. 4B vs. 2nd place Dist. 3B

Bracket II Game 4: 2nd place Dist. 4B vs. 2nd place Dist. 5B
 Game 5: 1st place Dist. 3B vs. Winner of Game 1

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of the matches within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

(5) Each of the three divisions will be responsible for the operation and management of its divisional tournament. They will be responsible for the selection of the tournament sites and tournament managers, and the financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSA Tournament Finance Plan, as set up for volleyball tournaments.

(6) The date for the district, divisional and state tournaments will be determined by the MHSA Executive Board.

(7) The sites, managers and standard seeding plan for the State Class B Tournaments will be determined by the MHSA Executive Board.

(8) Seeding for the Class B State Tournament will be as follows:

2026-27

Bracket I 1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Southern
 1st place Western vs. 3rd place Southern

Bracket II 1st place Southern vs. 3rd place Northern
 2nd place Northern vs. 2nd place Western

2027-28

Bracket I 1st place Southern vs. 3rd place Northern
 2nd place Northern vs. 2nd place Western

Bracket II 1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Southern
 1st place Western vs. 3rd place Southern

2028-29

Bracket I 1st place Western vs. 4th place Southern
 1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Northern

Bracket II 1st place Northern vs. 3rd place Southern
 2nd place Southern vs. 2nd place Western

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manger. The order of the matches within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

The state tournament will be an eight (8) team three (3) day true double elimination tournament played on a three (3) of five (5) basis with rally scoring all sets. The let serve will be utilized and two time-outs per set will be allowed. The libero player can be utilized.

CLASS C VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

(1) See www.mhsa.org for the detailed alignments for Class C.

(2) The Class C schools in each division will be charged with the responsibility of drawing up the conference schedules each season and for determining the number of conference matches the schools must play to be eligible for district tournament seeding.

(3) Each district will hold a district tournament or have playoff matches and will determine seeding into the divisional. If a district wishes not to hold a district tournament or playoff matches, they must contact the MHSA office for approval. In event of any ties in conference standing, the division will be responsible to determine seeding in its district tournaments.

(4) Each of the four divisions will hold a divisional volleyball tournament each year to determine the two teams that will advance to an eight-team State C Tournament.

(5) Each of the four divisions will be responsible for the operation and management of its divisional tournament. They will be responsible for the selection of the tournament sites and tournament managers, and the financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSA Tournament Finance Plan, as set up for volleyball tournaments.

(6) The date for the divisional and state tournaments will be determined by the MHSA Executive Board.

(7) Teams will be seeded in the divisional tournaments according to the brackets listed on the MHSA website.

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

(8) The sites, managers and standard seeding plan for the State Class C Tournament will be determined by the MHSA Executive Board.

(9) Seeding for the Class C State Tournament will be as follows:

2026-27

Bracket I 1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Southern
 1st place Western vs. 2nd place Eastern

Bracket II 1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Northern
 1st place Eastern vs. 2nd place Western

2027-28

Bracket I 1st place Eastern vs. 2nd place Southern
 1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Western

Bracket II 1st place Western vs. 2nd place Northern
 1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Eastern

2028-29

Bracket I 1st place Eastern vs. 2nd place Northern
 1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Western

Bracket II 1st place Western vs. 2nd place Southern
 1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Eastern

2029-30

Bracket I 1st place Eastern vs. 2nd place Southern
 1st place Western vs. 2nd place Northern

Bracket II 1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Western
 1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Eastern

2030-31

Bracket I 1st place Western vs. 2nd place Eastern
 1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Northern

Bracket II 1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Southern
 1st place Eastern vs. 2nd place Western

2031-32

Bracket I 1st place Eastern vs. 2nd place Northern
 1st place Western vs. 2nd place Southern

Bracket II 1st place Southern vs. 2nd place Eastern
 1st place Northern vs. 2nd place Western

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of the matches within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

The State Class C Volleyball Tournament will be an eight (8) team, three (3) day, true double elimination tournament played on a three (3) out of five (5) basis with rally scoring all sets. The let serve will be utilized and two time-outs per set will be allowed. The libero player can be utilized.