

2026 Volleyball

Classification — based on grades 9-12

6A	1,400 and over	3A	349-175
5A	1,399-700	2A	174-90
4A	699-350	1A	89 and under

2026 Volleyball Season

First Day of Practice	August 10
First Match	August 21
District Tournament Completion	Tuesday, October 20
State Play-in Matches	Saturday, October 24
State Tournament	October 29-31

- All teams will be required to enter rosters, schedules, pictures and scores on MaxPreps.
- Report (MaxPreps) all scores for the following:
 - 2/3 matches where the first two sets shall be 25 points (no cap) the third set shall be 15 points (no cap)
 - 3/5 matches where the first four sets shall be 25 points (no cap) the fifth set shall be 15 points (no cap)
 - ***Any match with a different score format should NOT be included on MaxPreps***

Warm-Up Time for Matches

There will be a **maximum** of twenty minutes for pre-match warm-up between matches. The timer should start the clock 20 minutes prior to the start of the contest. The time schedule for the pre-match warm-up shall consist of the following 20-14-7:

1. 20-17 minutes: Teams can share court for warm-up time
2. 17-14 minutes: Coin flip to determine the serving and receiving teams. Pre-Match Conference will take place at the score table and should include the head coach, team captain and officials
2. 14-7 minutes: Visiting team (low seed) practices on the full court including net play and serving
3. 7-0 minutes: Home team (high seed) practices on the full court including net play and serving
 - * No off contest court practice while opposing team has the court for warm-up.

The warm-up period may be limited to 15-12-6 at the discretion of the tournament manager due to schedule requirements. If this becomes necessary, the periods shall consist of:

1. 15-12 minutes: Coin flip to determine serving and receiving teams. Pre-Match Conference will take place at the score table and should include the head coach, team captain and officials.
2. 12-6 minutes: Visiting team practices on the full court including net play and serving
3. 6-0 minutes: Home team practices on the full court including net play and serving
 - * No off contest court practice while opposing team has the court for warm-up.

Each tournament site has an area designated for team stretching prior to the start of the pre-match warm-up period. **Teams will not be allowed on the playing court until the clock is started for pre-match warm-ups.**

Official Ball

Baden Perfection VX5EC-220A (blue, grey and white) is the official ball of the IHSA State Tournament.

Bench Protocols

Team benches will be determined by the home team. Teams will not switch benches unless the officials determine there is a clear and distinct disadvantage, then teams would switch sides.

Warm-up and Practice Between Sets

Teams will not be allowed to use the net for practice between sets. The ball may not cross the net. The number of participants at any practice or warm-up, shall be limited to the number of participants allowed in uniform (15).

Number of Participants/Coaches/Support Personnel

At all play-in and state tournament matches, teams are limited to fifteen (15) students in uniform during warm-ups and at the start of the contest. Violation of this rule will result in the school being assessed a maximum fine for dressing more than the approved number of players at a state play-in or tournament match with forfeiture of the match if excess numbers play. All classifications will be allowed three coaches and three support personnel to be admitted without an IHSA card or tournament pass. Any coaches or support personnel exceeding that number must have either an IHSA card or purchase a tournament pass.

Team Match Limitation

No team or individual shall play more than 16 regular season dates.

1. A maximum of 8 dates tri-matches. Any school playing two schools on the same date must count that competition as a tri-match.
2. Two dates may be tournaments (more than 3 schools involved).
3. A team may substitute one additional tournament. A school desiring to play in 3 tournaments may only play on 15 dates.

Rules for tournament play:

1. A tournament may be of any format.
2. A tournament held on Friday after 1:00 p.m. and Saturday will count as one date or one tournament.
3. A two-day tournament starting prior to 1:00 p.m. on Friday will be counted as two of the sixteen allowable dates.
4. Total number of sets throughout the tournament will not be counted.

Individual Match Limitation

The athlete is permitted to play on **only 16 regular season dates**. Athletes may play in a sub-varsity and a varsity match against the same school on the same day providing the individual does not exceed five sets in 6A, 5A, 4A and 3A and seven sets in 2A and 1A. Athletes in all classifications may play in a post-season tournament (Freshman, Sophomore, JV) and then participate in the varsity district tournament.

A contestant who exceeds the limitations of regular season participation will become ineligible for district, state or any other additional IHSA sponsored competition of that sport.

Rules

All contests will be played under National Federation rules. Rule books and case books are to be picked up and signed for by the school representative at the district rules clinic.

IHSAA Match Details

1. All varsity matches shall be best 3 of 5 sets.
2. Sets shall be played to 25 points, no cap, win by 2 points.
3. Fifth and deciding set shall be played to 15 points, no cap, win by 2 points.
4. Home team selects its team bench upon entering the facility, and visiting captain shall call the toss. If necessary, prior to the deciding set of match, home captain shall call the toss.
5. Each team shall be allowed 2 time-outs per set, with a total of 10 time-outs if 5 sets are played.
6. 18 substitutions
7. Use of the libero has been approved by the IHSAA Board of Directors. See the NFHS Volleyball Rules Book for specific applications for using the libero.
8. Season tournaments, pool play and tri-matches can play 2/3 to 25, no cap, win by 2 points; the 3rd set to 15, no cap, win by 2 points.
9. State tournament will use the 3 of 5 format.
10. Sub-varsity matches may use the 2 of 3 format.

2026 Volleyball Representation

State tournament representation in volleyball is determined for a two-year period based on 40% of schools in each classification. See Rule 2-5.

State Play-in Matches - Saturday October 24th

Matchups will be determined by MaxPreps rankings. The highest seeded team according to MaxPreps will host.

6A Play-In Pool 4 Teams – 2 Matches

*District 5-6B (Host)
3 At-Large

5A Play-In Pool 4 Teams – 2 Matches

*District 3B
3 At-Large

4A Play-In Pool

2 At-Large Automatic Berths **2 teams – 0 Matches**
OR
*2 At-Large Automatic Berths **2 Teams – 1 Match**
*District 1A
1 At-Large

3A Play-In Pool 6 teams – 3 Matches

*District 3B
*District 6B
4 At-Large

2A Play-In Pool 6 teams – 3 Matches

*District 2B
*District 3B
*District 3C
*District 4B
2 At-Large

1A Play-In Pool 4 teams – 2 Matches 4 At-Large

State Tournament

Dates: October 29-31

Sites: *6A Coeur d'Alene High School, Coeur d'Alene
*5A Post Falls High School, Post Falls
*4A Lake City High School, Coeur d'Alene
3A Lewiston High School, Lewiston
2A Madison High School, Rexburg
1A Thunder Ridge High School, Idaho Falls

2026 Bracketing

Qualifying teams will be seeded into the state bracket according to the final rankings through and including all regular season and district tournament matches. The high seed is considered the home team for all matches in the tournament.

#2 Seed

#7 Seed

#3 Seed

#6 Seed

#4 Seed

#5 Seed

#1 Seed

#8 Seed