



2026

Spring Volleyball

Information

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VOLLEYBALL SPORTS PAGE**](#)



2026 Spring Volleyball Tournament

A. TENTATIVE TOURNAMENT DATES*

- Cut-off Date: Sunday, May 24, 2026
- Bracket Release: May 26, 2026
- Tournament Begins: May 28, 2026
Note: If both ADs agree, matches may be played on May 27, 2026
- Finals: June 11-12, 2026

**Dates subject to change*

B. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

1. A school must schedule and compete in a minimum of 50% of the season competition limits per Handbook Rule 34 (10 contests) to be eligible for tournament play.
2. As many as three matches with a single opponent may be played and will count toward tournament qualification.
3. All team sports will qualify the top 32 teams by division
4. Teams not power seeded in the top 32 but meeting 50% qualifying criteria will be eligible for the tournament
5. All team sports will be seeded by power ranking system
6. Top 4 seeded teams placed in four brackets (1,2,3,4)
7. The rest of bracket positions filled with remaining teams by power ranking system. After the top 32 teams are power seeded, the remaining teams with 50 % or better record will be seeded from the bottom of each bracket
8. All matches will be at home site of higher seed for the Preliminary Play in matches, Round of 32, Round of 16 and Round of 8

C. FORFEITED CONTESTS

When a forfeit win is awarded to a school due to the termination of their opponent's volleyball program or failure to fulfill their contractual obligation, for power ranking purposes, the score will be entered as 3-0.

D. SEEDING/ PAIRING ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Seeding is to be done by a Seasonal Seeding Committee. Members of the Seasonal Seeding Committee will include one chairperson (or designee) from each sport of current season, and 4 Tournament Management Committee members. Tournament Directors and Executive Liaisons will be present but are non-voting members. All decisions made by the Seasonal Seeding Committee are final. No appeals regarding seeding decisions will be allowed.
2. Seeding will be done by a power rating system:
 - a) Team's average margin of victory + average of opponents' ratings = overall rating
3. Tie Breaking Procedure (Seeding)
 - a) Head-to-head Competition
 - b) The higher average of each team's opponents' rating, based on the power rating formula.
 - c) League Champion
 - d) Coin flip
 - Only 2 teams tied – use coin flip
 - More than 2 teams, all team names will be put into a hat. Once team name will be drawn – that team wins the tiebreaker. All other remaining teams will return to step 1.

In a tie breaker for tournament seeding every match played including exclusion games are counted.

Note: If a tie involves multiple teams (more than 2) and a team is eliminated, the procedure starts over at step one with the remaining teams.

4. Pairings and Tournament Information will be available on MIAA website throughout the tournament.
5. Tournament match results should be called in to the Tournament administrator by the winning team, as soon as possible, from the site.



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E. SITE INFORMATION

1. All matches will be at home site of higher seed for the Preliminary Play-in matches, Round of 32, Round of 16, and Round of 8.
2. For volleyball tournament matches, home sites must have the following minimum capacity per round:
 - a) Preliminary Play-In, Round of 32, and Round of 16: Minimum capacity of 250
 - b) Round of 8: Minimum capacity of 500 or permission of the Tournament Director.
3. If home team site is not acceptable the following will apply:
 - a) Home school AD finds an acceptable site
 - b) Lower seed will host the match
 - c) If both sites are not acceptable, Tournament administrator will place match at an acceptable site within MIAA site policy
4. The MIAA will provide sites for State Semi Finals (round of 4) and State Finals as defined by TMC Site policy.
5. Home court venues must meet the following standards from the MIAA handbook:
 - a) Condition of playing surface
 - b) Crowd Control
 - c) Seating capacity
 - d) Ticket sales control
 - e) Locker rooms
6. Higher seeded team will have the choice of bench at neutral site final four and championship matches.

F. Contest Rules

All matches shall be governed by rules stated in the **NFHS 2025-26 Volleyball Rules**, except as modified in the MIAA Handbook or this format.

1. The Volleyball Tournament will be three out of five sets, rally scoring to 25 points, with the 5th set to 15 points, must win by 2. In a 5th set the teams will change courts when a team reaches 8 points.
2. Each team will consist of those players submitted on the Official Tournament Roster. Only submitted players will be eligible and sit/stand on the bench.
3. The decisions of the MIAA Volleyball Committee relative to the operation of the tournament shall be final. The Tournament administrator or designated site manager is responsible for making all decisions at the site.
4. Electronic scoring is allowed but school must also have manual backup in place.

G. Assignment of Tournament Game Officials

1. All officials must be enrolled with the MIAA in order to receive a tournament assignment.
2. Officials must have officiated a minimum of ten (10) MIAA high school matches during the regular season.
3. When possible there will be four officials at all tournament matches – to be used as follows: first official, second official, two line judges.
4. Officials will be used as written scorers and libero trackers beginning with State Semi-Finals.
5. No high school student is allowed to be a line judge.
6. The host (higher seeded team) is responsible for securing the officials (through the league assignor most likely) in the preliminary round, round of 32, round of 16 and round of 8. The state semi-finals and state finals will be assigned by the MIAA.

H. Postponement

The rescheduling of a postponed tournament match will be the decision of the MIAA Staff Liaison and Tournament administrator after consultation with the two principals of the schools involved.

I. Practice Regulations

No competing team is to practice on a tournament site after having qualified for the tournament. (Exception – if it is a team's home site.)



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J. Official Ball

The official Mikasa VFC1000 series volleyball will be used for State Semi-Finals and State Finals and will be provided by the tournament administrators.

K. Team Roster

Team rosters shall include a maximum of eighteen (18) players. In addition, each team will be allowed not more than eight (8) additional people on the bench for a total of twenty-six (26). These eight (8) people shall include coaches, managers, and medical personnel. NO spectators are allowed on the bench.

L. Medical Coverage

A licensed athletic trainer, physician, physician's assistant, certified EMT, or nurse practitioner will be available at all tournament contests. Coverage and compensation for medical coverage will be the host school's responsibility through the Round of 8. The MIAA will begin compensation starting with State Semi-Final play.

M. Participating School Supervision Protocol (State Semi-Finals & State Finals)

1. No later than 24 hours before match, please contact the respective Tournament administrator with the names of your school's designated site supervisors.
2. The list should include a minimum of **3 supervisors. (Principal or designee, Athletic Director or designee, and a minimum of one additional adult designee).**
3. Supervisors are asked to arrive at the site and sign in with the Tournament administrator or designated Site Director no later than 30 minutes before the match starting time.
4. Upon arrival, the Tournament/Site Director shall review the roles/responsibilities, to include:
 - a) Observe and monitor the school's spectators upon entrance into the gymnasium and assist in seating students in your designated area. **It is understood that the Tournament administrator /Site Supervisor will determine and post the designated student seating section for all participating schools.**
 - b) Remain stationed in close proximity to your spectator section. The Site Director will request any specific supervisor placements based on venue and spectator needs.
 - c) Remain visible to your spectator base and accessible to tournament staff until spectators exit gymnasium.
 - d) Help ensure positive behaviors and sportsmanship.
 - e) Assist in ensuring that no one other than team players, bench personnel, and school leaders has access to the playing court (before, during, and after match).

N. SAT/SAT SUBJECT TESTS:

1. Tournament contests may be scheduled for the same date of the SAT and SAT Subject Tests. Please tell all coaches and student-athletes now so alternative plans may be made. A listing of all dates and sports that may take place on scheduled College Board exam dates can be found at: <https://www.collegeboard.org>
2. The College Board offers a SAT® Program Alternate Test Date Policy. As stated in their published material: "The SAT Program will consider granting an alternate test date when the following criteria. The conflicting event must be unexpected. Regularly scheduled sporting events or previously scheduled school activities, such as a prom, are not considered unexpected. An event such as an academic or athletic competition, in which students have advanced through the competition or into post-regular season competition, can be considered an unexpected event."
3. SAT School Day: Allows high schools to administer the SAT to students during the school day, thus avoiding weekend athletic conflicts. To date, the MA school districts that participate are Plymouth, Springfield, Revere and most recently Fitchburg. SAT School Day is contracted through the College Board with participating districts. Contact info: Alan Bernstein, Senior Director, K-12 Services, New England Regional Offices, The College Board, 1601 Trapelo Road, Suite 12, Waltham, MA 02451.



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PRE-MATCH PROTOCOL / WARM-UP PROCEDURE

Sample Warm-up Procedure

Will be utilized in all MIAA Volleyball Tournament Contests

Actual Time (e.g. 7:00 match)	Visible Clock	Protocol
6:30 – 6:47	:30 – :13	COIN FLIP (Court available for shared warm-ups) (<i>NO hitting or serving across net</i>)
6:47 – 6:53	:13 – :07	Visiting Team Court
6:53 – 6:59	:07 – :01	Home Team Court
6:59 – 7:00	:01	Team Huddle / Announcements
7:00	:00	Match begins with introductions and National Anthem

A minimum of 30 minutes will be allotted between matches

MIAA Volleyball Tournament Protocol

Every tournament contest is the last match of the tournament for one team and their fans. Please do everything that you can to make every single volleyball tournament match that you host a special event for the participating students.

Before the contest:

1. Contact the Athletic Director of the visiting school(s) and insure that they know how to get to your school, when to arrive and if you are going to sell tickets at the contest. Tell them where to park their buses and where fans are expected to park. Arrange to have a trainer present at every tournament site.
2. Prepare a secure place for officials to meet and change. Keep in mind that you may have male and female officials.
3. Ensure that the officials use the Warm-up-Protocol as published in the Volleyball Tournament Format. Have a copy available at the scorer's table.
4. Provide a scorer, scoreboard operator, libero tracker and announcer.
5. Make sure that the officials meet with the coaches, and that officials and captains hold a pre-match meeting addressing proper conduct of the match and expectations for sportsmanship. Read the MIAA Taunting Policy.
6. Announce the names of **all** individual players, coaches and officials before the contest.
7. Play the National Anthem immediately before the match begins.