



2020-2021

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Girls Volleyball Section Tournament Information

Dates	Monday, November 30 - Saturday, December 12, 2020
Location/Facility	Sections have local control to schedule host sites – high seeds or neutral sites are optional. High Seeds are recommended for sites to greatest extent possible.
Tournament Format	<p>Sections may schedule 3 matches per week if the number of schools in a section requires them to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Section matches may begin on November 30 ○ Pigtail games may be played the week of November 23rd if necessary to not exceed 3 matches during the week of November 30. ○ Schools may NOT exceed 3 matches during either week of the section tournament. ○ Contests should not be held on consecutive days. ○ Dividing large sections into subsections based on geography, when feasible, is highly encouraged to limit travel and exposure. • Second Week – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The week of December 7th should be used for semifinals and finals. • All section tournaments must be complete by December 12th.
Changes/ Adjustments in MSHSL Approved Season Sport Guidance	All MSHSL Approved Season Sport Guidance remain in effect.
Information on Advancement	The tournament will end with the Section Championship. The State Tournament will not be conducted.
Site Management (Spectators, Concessions, etc.)	See MSHSL Event and Facility Management
Tournament Personnel	Team members, game officials and site staff (including ticket takers/sellers, administrative supervision from both schools, certified athletic trainer, table workers etc.) do NOT count toward the maximum number of occupants. These individuals are considered “essential” to the game.
Seeding	Dividing Class A sections into subsections based on geography is highly encouraged to limit travel and exposure.

Awards/Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trophies 1st - 2nd Place Teams • Medals 1st - 2nd Place Teams
Officials	To meet the needs of all sections, assigners should schedule contest on Monday/Wednesday, Tuesday/Friday, or Thursday/ Saturday.
Streaming	Streaming may take place.
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See MSHSL Event and Facility Management • See MSHSL Media Guidance
Promotions/Results	Section brackets updated by each section and MSHSL will post on the website.
Ticketing/Passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region committees determine ticket prices • Ticketing and passes must comply with the MDE Guidelines and spectators must remain 12 feet from the playing surface. (This limit is for anyone not essential to the competition; participants, coaches, officials, table workers etc.) • Region committees shall determine how to best divide tickets for its section matches, allowing for spectators from both teams the opportunity to attend (for example, the host team cannot use the maximum number of tickets, allowing none for the visiting team). <u>ADs have been doing this all season so will have ideas of how this is being handled best locally.</u> • Tickets must be pre-sold at schools, or schools can submit lists of people who can purchase tickets on site (again, rely on ADs for best practice locally). If lists of people are being provided to ticket sellers, it is encouraged that a staff member from both schools be on-hand to assist ticket sellers with any conflicts regarding names or identities.

All aspects of athletics including meetings, practices, competitions, transportation and facility usage must align with the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education plan for return to learning, must follow the requirements from the [Minnesota Department of Health's Guidance on Youth Sports](#), and must include the required actions identified in the Governor's Executive Orders.

Sportsmanship should have a constant presence in all school-based athletics.

- Teams are encouraged to find appropriate methods of demonstrating good sportsmanship and respect towards others within the physical distance guidance.
- Additional care should be taken when addressing contest officials with questions or seeking interpretations. At no time, other than in the natural course of competition, should a coach or player violate the required physical distance with an official. Any coach or

COVID Related Guidance:

1. Educate athletes about physical distancing, handwashing and sanitizer use, and other immune system protocols.
2. Any person who has had a fever or cold symptoms in the previous 24 hours should not be allowed to take part in workouts and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate healthcare professional.
3. Individually or as a team, participants should confirm that they are symptom free. These confirmations can be aligned with the CDC's "Coronavirus Self-Checker" or current MDH recommendations.
4. A record should be kept of all individuals present at practices and competitions (contact tracing).
5. It is recommended that personal prep areas are to be set up prior to practice - Cones or other markers should be set up at least 6 feet apart so players have a specific place for their own bag, water bottle, etc. One cone or marker should be assigned per player.
6. Avoid grouping of athletes at start and end of practice or during transitions Staggered start times for practices and team meetings are recommended, when possible and when field space does not allow players to come and go from separate areas.
7. Workouts should be conducted in "pods" – following current MDH Return-to-Play guidelines. Pods are small groups of students always working out together. This will ensure limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
8. Whenever possible, players should maintain the recommended six feet of distancing between individuals and should not be in contact with each other. In addition, there is to be no sharing of equipment to the extent that it is possible.
9. Officials are not expected to monitor physical distancing: each person is responsible to provide space between themselves and others. Coaches should provide direction to their students regarding social distancing and other safety protocols.
10. Team celebrations or congratulations should be no-touch and should be done with appropriate social distancing.

MSHSL Volleyball Guidance and Information

Practice	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer must be used by participants and coaches as they enter and leave practice. • Pods may not exceed 25. • Team huddles may not take place prior to play unless student-athletes and coaches are wearing masks. • Leave the court as soon as reasonably possible upon the conclusion of practice. • Wash your hands thoroughly or use a hand sanitizer after coming off the court. • No social activity or congregation of students should take place. • Showers should not be utilized after practice.
Equipment	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volleyballs must be sanitized before and/or after each practice, whether self-provided or provided by the coach. https://members-nfhs-org.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/document/attachment/5205/Wilson_Ball_Cleaning_Recommendations.pdf • All student-athletes must bring their own clearly labeled water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared. Drinking fountains may not be utilized. • Student-athletes must wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing) individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout.
Recommendations and Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean frequently touched objects and areas. • Student-athletes' bags shall be placed 6 feet apart.
Competition	
Masks/Face Coverings	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks must be worn by coaches at all times. • Masks must be worn by student-athletes who are not actively participating in practice or in a match. • Use of the locker rooms must take place in pods (Varsity, JV, Sophomore, B-Squad, C-Squad) that do not exceed 25.
Official's Uniform	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloth face coverings are required. • Officials must enter the school wearing face coverings. • In addition to the gray polo shirts, short or long-sleeved, all-white collared polo shirt/sweater are permissible. (Rule 5-3-1 NOTES 2) • Electronic whistles are permissible. (Rule 5-3-2a, b) Electronic whistles are recommended but not required. • Whistle must be utilized under the mask if an electronic whistle is not used. • Whistle coverings are permissible and recommended. • Gloves are permissible.

Site Set Up	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bench personnel should observe social distancing of 6 feet. Recommend to place tape or other marks 6 feet apart on the floor • Benches and chairs may be utilized if social distancing is possible. • Teams will remain on their side of the court and will not switch sides between sets. Home team will select the side for their match. • The scorer's table is limited to essential personnel. Social distancing must be adhered to by all personnel and masks must be worn at all times. • Essential personnel are defined by the host school. More information is included in the MDE Guidelines. • Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and may not sit at the official scorer's table. An alternative location should be provided by the home team.
Pre-competition	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit attendees at pre-match conference to one coach from each team, first referee and second referee. • Move the location of the pre-match conference to center court with one coach and one referee positioned on each side of the net. • Handshakes may not occur prior to and following the pre-match conference. • All four individuals will maintain a social distance of 3 to 6 feet. • The coin toss will be conducted by the official who is the owner of the coin. This individual will handle the coin. • Roster submission will not take place at the pre-match conference. Rosters will be submitted directly to the officials' table before the 10-minute mark. • Teams will remain socially distanced on their sideline for the playing of the National Anthem. • Starting student-athletes will take their place on the court immediately following the national anthem. • Team introductions may take place and should look different, i.e. starting line-ups only. Social distancing must be maintained. • Game balls should be sanitized between games. It is the home team's responsibility.

Competition	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officials work together to limit the use of the whistle when recognizing a request for a substitution. Use when necessary. • Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet between the second referee, the student-athlete and the substitute by encouraging substitutions to occur within the substitution zone closer to the attack line. Student-athletes should not come in contact with one-another during the substitution process. • Face coverings are permissible on the court during play. (Rule 4-1-4) • Gloves are permissible. (Rule 4-1-1) • Teams should not huddle between points during the set. • Social distancing must be maintained during time-outs. • Line judges may be utilized at all levels and are considered essential staff and do not count toward the maximum number of occupants if they remain separate from the spectator community. • Masks must be worn by line judges and social distancing must be maintained. It is recommended that the same adult line judges work both the varsity and JV matches on a given day. • Competitive pods (Varsity, JV, B-Squad, C-Squad teams) may remain in the gym for other competitive pod matches as long as masks are worn and they are separated from spectators by a minimum of 12 feet.
Post-Match	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-game handshakes may not occur. • <u>Teams should remove trash and belongings from their bench area.</u> • Team post-game meetings should be brief and should observe social distancing. • Masks must be worn during post-match conversations by all. • Referees' post-game meetings should be brief.
Recommendations and Considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches and student-athletes should consider other ways to show post-game appreciation for opponents and officials.