



Idaho High School Activities Association

2025-2026

Volleyball Coaches Packet

unbottled.

2025 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

2025 Volleyball Season

First Day of Practice	August 11
First Match	August 22
District Tournament Completion	October 25
State Play-ins	October 25
State Tournament	October 30-November 1

- 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.

2025 Volleyball Representation

<u>6A</u>		<u>5A</u>		<u>4A</u>	
I	1	I-II	1.5	I	.5
III	5	III	2	III	2.5
IV-V-VI	2	IV	2	IV	1.5
		V	.5	V	2
		VI	2	VI	1.5
<u>3A</u>		<u>2A</u>		<u>1A</u>	
I-II	2	I	1	I	1
III	2.5	II	2	II	1.5
IV-V	2	III	2.5	III	1.5
VI	1.5	IV	2	IV	1.5
		V-VI	.5	V-VI	2.5

State representation is based on the percentage of schools in each district to create equality over a two-year period.

State Play-in Matches

5A Play-in

1-2B	Mt. View HS
	1:00 p.m. Mountain
5A	October 25

4A Play-in

1A	Grangeville HS
	1:00 p.m. Pacific
3C	October 25

4A Play-In

4B	Pocatello HS
	1:00 p.m. Mountain
6B	October 25

3A Play-In

3C	Canyon Ridge HS
	1:00 p.m. Mountain
6B	October 25

2A Play-in

3C	Canyon Ridge HS
	3:00 p.m. Mountain
5-6A	October 25

1A Play-in

2B	Grangeville HS
	3:00 p.m. Pacific
3B	October 25

1A Play-in

4B	Pocatello HS
	3:00 p.m. Mountain
5-6C	October 25

State Tournament

Dates: October 30-November 1

Sites:

- 6A Capital High School, Boise
- 5A Timberline High School, Boise
- 4A Mt. America Center, Idaho Falls
- 3A Mt. America Center, Idaho Falls
- 2A Post Falls High School, Post Falls
- 1A Coeur d'Alene High School, Coeur d'Alene

2025 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.

#1 Seed

#8 Seed

#4 Seed

#5 Seed

#3 Seed

#6 Seed

#2 Seed

#7 Seed



2025-26 VOLLEYBALL RULES CHANGES

3-2-1 NOTE (NEW): Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, state associations may adopt the use of a non-smooth or textured volleyball.

Rationale: Allows either boys or girls to adopt a textured volleyball with no restrictions on color or shape of panels to be inclusive of all current textured volleyballs on the market.

4-2-1h(3), 4-2-1i(2): Team members may wear black, white or gray undergarments in addition to undergarments that match the predominant color of the uniform top/bottom under the uniform top and/or bottom. All team members, other than the libero, wearing an undergarment must wear the same color.

Rationale: Aligns with other NFHS rules codes allowing athletes to wear more commonly found colors of undergarments.

4-2-4d, f: Beginning July 1, 2029, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top eliminating the measurement requirements from the shoulder seam and neckline.

Rationale: Removes officials from the position of measuring uniforms to verify the legal distance of the number from the shoulder or neckline, creates consistency in number placement, and allows for number placement variances due to player body types.

5-3-2b, 5-5-3b(9): Eliminates the requirement for the second referee to carry and use a lineup card to check the starting lineups.

Rationale: Allows veteran officials to use each coach's submitted lineup sheet to check the starting lineup while allowing the use of the lineup card as a training tool for newer officials to assist with tracking rotations during the match.

9-4-8c (NEW): Eliminates the judgment call of a multiple contact fault in a single attempt to play the ball on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

Rationale: Allows for play to continue when multiple contacts on the second contact does not create an advantage for the offending team.

10-4 PENALTIES 1: Changes the penalty administration for an illegal libero replacement to an unnecessary delay if identified before contact of serve and an illegal alignment if identified after contact for serve.

Rationale: Aligns the penalty for an illegal libero replacement with the definition of illegal alignment which occurs on contact of serve.

2025-26 Volleyball Editorial Changes

4-1 & 4-2 PENALTIES; 4-2-4c; 7-2a; 7-4; 7-1-4 PENALTIES 1 & 2; Signal 1

2025-26 Volleyball Points of Emphasis

1. Lineup Card
2. Ball Handling
3. First Referee Assigning Line Judges
4. Uniforms - Contrasting Colors

IHSAA Coaches Code of Ethics

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. Interscholastic programs should be designed to promote citizenship and enhance the academic mission of the school.

The Coach Will

- Be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- Uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. The coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. The coach/school will honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.
- Master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- Demonstrate respect and support for officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct, which would incite players or spectators against the officials. The coach will not make statements concerning officials' decisions after a game.
- Work with school faculty to promote overall educational growth of the student. The coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student-athletes special consideration.
- Honor the commitment to student based programs that supplement the educational growth of each student-athlete.
- Be professional in association with other coaches. The coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.
- Exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship of all extracurricular activities.
- Cooperate with different media sources in an appropriate manner that promotes all aspects of the sport, school and community. Public criticism of officials, opponents or players is unethical.
- Uphold all policies and procedures of the school, district, IHSAA and the National Federation.



Safety courses are required for all coaches on even numbered years. Courses must be taken after May 1, 2024. Submit certificate of completion to your administration.

Required Safety Courses:

- *Student Mental Health & Suicide Prevention**
- *Sudden Cardiac Arrest**
- *St. Luke's Concussion Course**

Instructions to access the free, courses.

- ✓ Go to the IHSAA website - www.idhsaa.org
- ✓ Click school / Coaches
- ✓ Fill in required information to sign-in or create account
- ✓ Follow instructions to start course
- ✓ At the conclusion of the course, **PRINT / SAVE CERTIFICATE.**

NFHS Learn Help Desk
(317) 565-2023



IHSAA Coach Education

The Idaho High School Activities Association is committed to the promotion of coaches' education programs as well as providing resources toward continuing education for all of Idaho's coaches.

✓ **Requirements for Idaho Interscholastic Coaches**

ALL COACHES

- CPR/1st Aid Certification (current certification)
- St. Luke's Concussion Course (fall of even numbered years)
- NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course (fall of even numbered years)
- NFHS Student Mental Health & Suicide Prevention (fall of even numbered years)

NON-CERTIFIED TEACHER

- NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching (Head Coaches Only)
- NFHS Teaching & Modeling Behavior

CHEER/DANCE/MUSIC/DRAMA/ADMINISTRATION

- NFHS Understanding Copyright & Compliance

POLE VAULT COACHES

- NFHS Coaching Pole Vault

✓ **NFHS/IHSAA Educational Recommendations for Idaho Interscholastic Coaches**

- Complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course (prior to coaching)
- Complete necessary courses to become an NFHS LEVEL 1 Coach within the first year
- Maintain current certification in AED and 1st Aid Safety
- Complete online courses or professional development specific to the sport in which they are an interscholastic coach
- Know the playing rules of their sport(s) and understand state association rules and policies governing their sport
- Pursue NFHS Certified LEVEL 3 credential within two years
- Read, understand and agree to the national and state Coaches Code of Ethics



4-3 EJECTIONS

4-3-1 In any athletic contest, including jamborees, any coach or player ejected for an unsportsmanlike or flagrant act will be suspended for the remainder of the contest/game/jamboree – and, will be suspended for the next regularly scheduled contest at that level of competition, and all other games/meets/matches in the interim, in any sport, at any level of competition. Any staff or parent/fan/spectator associated with a member school ejected for an unsportsmanlike or flagrant act will be suspended for the remainder of the contest/game/jamboree – and, will be suspended for the next two regularly scheduled contests at that level of competition, and all other games/meets/matches in the interim, in any sport, at any level of competition.

Note: Jamborees shall not be considered a regularly scheduled contest.

- a. At the time of ejection, the person/s must leave the field of play and assume a position that will not enable him or her to see or be seen.
- b. During the suspension of the next regularly scheduled contest, the player is permitted to watch the contest, but may not participate. The coach is not allowed at the contest. The parent/staff/fan/spectator is not allowed at the next two contests.
- c. Players will also be required to take the NFHS free, online sportsmanship course and submit a certificate of completion to school administration prior to reinstatement. The course must be completed between ejection and reinstatement.
- d. Coaches will also be required to take the NFHS online Teaching and Modeling Behavior course and submit a certification of completion to school administration prior to reinstatement. The course must be completed between ejection and reinstatement.
- e. Parents will also be required to earn the NFHS National Parent Credential which includes the free, online Positive Parenting Within School Programs course and The Parent Seat. Credential Certificate must be submitted to school administration prior to reinstatement. The credential must be completed between ejection and reinstatement.
- f. Other Persons (staff/fan/spectators that are not parents) will also be required to take the NFHS free, online sportsmanship course and submit a certificate of completion to school administration prior to reinstatement. The course must be completed between ejection and reinstatement.

4-3-2 A second violation will result in being suspended for the next two (2) regularly scheduled contests. The third ejection will result in suspension for the remainder of that season. If penalties are imposed at the end of the sport season and no contest remains, the penalty is carried over to that particular sport until the next school year. In the case of a senior student, the penalty will continue to the next IHSAA sponsored sport.

4-3-3 The procedure for suspension and notification is:

- a. The officiating crew must approve any additional suspension by a majority vote at the conclusion of the contest.
- b. The officials shall issue a card to the coach or school administrator when a player/ coach/staff/parent/fan/spectator is ejected from competition. The card must be issued at or prior to the conclusion of the competition in which the infraction occurred.
- c. The official must notify the ejected person/s' school administration/coach of the suspension for the next contest at or prior to the conclusion of the competition in which the infraction occurred.
- d. The game official that disqualifies an individual for an unsportsmanlike act must notify the District Commissioner with a written report by the conclusion of the next day.
- e. The District Commissioner, upon receipt of the report, shall notify the District Secretary, President of the District Board of Control, the school, and the IHSAA with a written report of the incident by the conclusion of the next school day.

4-3-4 The responsibility to enforce the penalty for being suspended lies with the school principal. Any dialogue concerning the suspension should come from the school principal and be directed to the President of the District Board of Control of the region in which the contest took place. The President of the District Board of Control (of the region in which the contest took place) may appoint a hearing committee to hear any appeals within 48 hours of the receipt of a complete report of the incident. It is the responsibility of the secretary of the District Board of Control in which the hearing took place, to notify the district Board of Control secretary in which the student athlete or coach resides. Appeals may not deal with decisions made by contest officials.

4-3-5 When an individual is suspended for the next contest, the interpretation of "contest" is as follows:

Football: next game	Volleyball: next match
Basketball: next game	Cross Country: next meet
Wrestling: next contest	Softball: next game
Baseball: next game	Track: next meet
Tennis: next match	Golf: next match
Soccer: next match	Swimming: next meet

4-3-6 Any ejection that is the result of physical contact or excessive verbal abuse by a player/coach on a game official will be referred to the local District Board of Control for review to determine if any additional reprimand or suspension is warranted.

4-3-7 If a coach is ejected from an IHSAA contest, the designated school administrator must appoint an appropriately qualified adult to supervise the remainder of the contest or forfeit the contest.



IHSAA

IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

IHSAA and MaxPreps Partnership FAQ

IHSAA and MaxPreps Partnership Background

The IHSAA has partnered with MaxPreps to efficiently collect schedules, scores, rosters and team photos, to highlight member school information. MaxPreps' industry leading platform provides schools with various desktop, tablet and mobile options to keep their team information accurate. Once team information is submitted to MaxPreps it will be automatically made available to the IHSAA.

--- Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What do coaches need to do?** In order to accurately manage important IHSAA initiatives, coaches are required to enter their team rosters and team photos on MaxPreps. Coaches are also required to enter their scores into MaxPreps immediately after each game throughout the season to help compile accurate regular-season standings and statewide leaderboards and post-season seeding.
2. **How do coaches sign up to get free access to their administrative account on MaxPreps for the first time?** Coaches or Athletic Directors can follow [this link](#) to become a MaxPreps member and follow the prompts to request their unique access code. Your one-time access code will identify you as the coach or AD with permission to your team/school account. You can enter this access code in the "Set up Admin Accounts" link of your member account profile page.
3. **Can coaches allow a team statistician or assistant coach to help manage their team information?** Yes! Once the coach has access to their team admin page, they can give other individuals access to their page to help keep their team information accurate.
4. **What if I already have a MaxPreps account?** Coaches and ADs with an existing account will simply need to continue submitting information.
5. **What do Athletic Directors need to do?** Athletic Directors simply need to clearly communicate with coaches to keep their scores and other team information updated on MaxPreps. ADs should direct any new coaches or coaches currently not using MaxPreps to contact MaxPreps at 800-329-7324 x1 or support@maxpreps.com, to sign up immediately.
6. **Can Athletic Directors control their MaxPreps team pages, if desired?** Yes. Athletic Directors can control every single team page from their free "School Administration" page on MaxPreps. While MaxPreps recommends coaches are responsible for their own team information, MaxPreps provides 100% free reporting, communication and school management tools for athletic directors, if desired. In order to gain access to your school administration page, please contact MaxPreps at support@maxpreps.com, to sign up today.



IHSAA

IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

7. **Which sports are included in the partnership?** At this time, football, girls' volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' soccer, baseball and softball are included for score and statistics entry. All sports are required to enter team rosters and team photos.
8. **What about other sports?** Coaches from any other sports may still choose to use MaxPreps' free platform.
9. **Is MaxPreps compatible with other stat programs?** In addition to MaxPreps' own mobile, tablet and desktop tools, MaxPreps is compatible with more than 80 different stat companies across multiple sports.
10. **Does MaxPreps have an app to manage team information?** Yes! An app called Teams by MaxPreps is coming soon and will be available to download for both iPhone and Android devices. ADs and Coaches will be able to communicate directly with athletes and parents, sync their game schedule to their phone's calendar, enter complete schedules, rosters, scores, stats and more. Visit maxpreps.com/teams for more information.
11. **How can fans participate with their teams?** This season the IHSAA is encouraging all teams to assign Official Team Reporter responsibilities to a trusted program volunteer. The **MaxPreps fan app** allows the program volunteer to provide live scoring updates on their mobile device during the game, to keep your high school community engaged and informed. All scores and updates will be available statewide on the IHSAA Scoreboard. The app is available for [iOS devices](#) and [Android devices](#).
12. **What do I label my game type as?** All games should be labeled as conference, non-conference, conference tournament or tournament. **Do not label games as "playoff". In Idaho, the state tournament games are considered "playoffs".**
13. **What is the consequence for school's that do NOT enter game results/scores?** All regular season and district tournament game scores must be entered by each member school on MaxPreps by midnight, Pacific Time, on the Saturday preceding the state tournament. Schools that fail to meet this deadline will be fined \$1,500 per sport. Any scores submitted or modified after the deadline will not be included in the final rankings.
14. **Who can I contact with additional questions?** Coaches and ADs may contact MaxPreps Idaho representative Alisa Dancer at alisa.dancer@playonsports.com, or may direct questions to MaxPreps coach support at support@maxpreps.com, or 800-329-7324 x1. MaxPreps also has a support website at support.maxpreps.com that can help answer specific questions such as how to enter a schedule or a roster, or how to upload a team photo, etc.



MaxPreps Rankings

IHSAA State tournament brackets for girls' soccer, boys' soccer, volleyball, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, baseball and softball will be seeded using MaxPreps Final Idaho Rankings.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do playing out of state school effect the rankings?

- There is no difference in playing a team from your state or an out of state opponent. We do not use the state played for in the calculation. You will want to make sure that the opponent school has an up to date schedule on MaxPreps but that goes with any team you play. If an opponent's schedule is not up to date, reach out to Alisa Dancer, alisa.dancer@playonsports.com or 530-957-1575 to get the schedule fixed.

Does playing a lower or higher division team have any impact on the rankings?

- MaxPreps rankings does not take into account the division or league a team is playing in. Playing a 5A school is the same as playing a 2A. Playing a school **ranked** lower than you and losing could hurt your ranking.

What is the rating?

- Calculated using your win/loss and quality of win. Quality of win is based on where your opponent is ranked and if you won or lost.

What is the strength of schedule?

- Is the average rating of all your opponents.

Is there a Margin of Victory?

- Yes, each sport has a small margin of victory. Should you run up the score? No, it is capped and does not have a high impact on your rating.
- Margin of Victory maximums for each sport:
 - Baseball – 10 runs
 - Basketball – 20 points
 - Football – 21 points
 - Soccer – 5 goals
 - Softball – 10 runs

Do forfeits count?

- **“No-Fault” Forfeits** (both school administrations agree that the game can’t be played) do NOT count in the rankings. **Do not select the forfeit button.** Game can be deleted from schedule.
- **“At-Fault” Forfeits** (one school violates a rule and/or contract to participate) count in the rankings and should be entered with a game score that is the maximum margin of victory per sport. If you do win as an “At-Fault” forfeit mark the score as – Football 21-0, Volleyball 3-0, Soccer 5-0, Basketball 20-0, Softball and Baseball 10-0. If the District Board of Control determines a breach of contract has occurred, schools will enter a “forfeit” into MaxPreps or Track Wrestling, whichever is applicable.

What is the consequence for school’s that do NOT enter game results/scores?

- All regular season and district tournament game scores must be entered by each member school on MaxPreps by midnight, Pacific Time, on the Saturday preceding the state tournament. Schools that fail to meet this deadline will be fined \$1,500 per sport. Any scores submitted or modified after the deadline will not be included in the final rankings.

MaxPreps rankings are run twice a week. Each time it is run, it starts from the beginning of the season. If a team you played is ranked high at the beginning of the season and they lose their best player and start losing games, their rating could drop along with yours if you played them.

The more games you play helps but you can still be ranked high even if you are playing less games than your opponents. Especially if you are winning the games you do play.

Coaches and ADs may contact MaxPreps Idaho representative Alisa Dancer at alisa.dancer@playonsports.com or 530-957-1575