



Idaho High School Activities Association

2026-2027

Volleyball Officials Packet

dairy west®

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 teams – 1 Matches**

*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

2026-28 VOLLEYBALL CLASSIFICATION & ALIGNMENT

District	6A 1400 & Above	5A 1399-700	4A 699-350	3A 349-175	2A 174-90	1A 89 & below
I (17)	Coeur d'Alene Lake City Post Falls	Lakeland Sandpoint	Bonniers Ferry Timberlake	Kellogg Priest River St. Maries	Genesis Prep Lakeside Wallace	Clark Fork Coeur du Christ Kootenai Mullan
II (19)		Lewiston Moscow		Grangeville Orofino	Clearwater Valley Kamiah Lapwai Logos Poflatch Prairie Troy	Culdesac** Deary Genesee Highland-C** Kendrick Nezperce St. John Bosco Timberline-W
III (54)	Boise Borah Capital Centennial Eagle Kuna Meridian Middleton Mountain View Owyhee Ridgevue Rocky Mountain Skyview Timberline-B	Bishop Kelly Caldwell Columbia Mountain Home Nampa Vallivue	Cole Valley Christian Emmett Fruitland Homedale McCall-Donnelly** Weiser	Ambrose Compass Charter Marsing Melba Nampa Christian New Plymouth North Star Charter Parma Payette Vision Charter	Centennial Baptist Garden Valley Gem State Idaho City Liberty Charter Notus Rimrock Riverstone Int'l TV Classical Academy Tri-Valley (Cambridge/Midvale) Victory Charter Wilder	Cascade Council Greenleaf Friends Horseshoe Bend Meadows Valley** Salmon River
IV (29)		Burley Canyon Ridge Jerome Minico Twin Falls Wood River	Filer Gooding Kimberly	Buhl Declo Wendell	Glenns Ferry Hagerman Murtaugh Oakley Raft River Shoshone Sun Valley Valley	Bliss Camas County Carey Castleford Dietrich Hansen ISDB Lighthouse Christian Richfield
V (17)	Highland - P	Century Pocatello	American Falls Bear Lake Preston Snake River	Aberdeen Malad Marsh Valley Soda Springs West Side	Grace	Grace Lutheran North Gem Rockland Sho-Ban
VI (26)	Madison Rigby Thunder Ridge	Blackfoot Bonneville Hillcrest Idaho Falls Shelley Skyline	South Fremont Sugar-Salem Teton	Alturas Prep Firth North Fremont Ririe Salmon West Jefferson	Butte County Challis	American Heritage Clark County** Leadore Mackay Taylors Crossing Watersprings
(162)	(21)	(24)	(18)	(29)	(33)	(37)

** Was previously in a Co-op



2026-27 VOLLEYBALL RULES CHANGES

4-2-1a, 4-2-1i(3) (NEW), 4-2-2: Libero uniform bottoms may be any color and no longer must match the team uniform bottoms.

Rationale: Allows more flexibility in the libero uniform bottoms while ensuring that the libero uniform top continues to contrast with their teammates.

5-5-3b(21): The second referee will provide a double whistle warning between sets at two minutes, 30 seconds (4:30 when intermission is used) instead of 2 minutes, 45 seconds.

Rationale: Improves pace of play between sets by notifying teams earlier to make their way onto the court for the officials to administer lineup checks before the final audio signal and resumption of play.

6-4-2, 10-4-3a, 10-4-3d: A team may designate up to two liberos, but only one libero can be in the game at a time. When a team designates two liberos and one is injured/ill, a new libero may be re-designated. When a team designates two liberos and one is disqualified; the team must continue with one libero.

Rationale: Allows more student-athletes to participate by creating an additional opportunity for coaches without having to utilize a substitution.

6-4 PENALTIES 1c (NEW), 12-2-8b NOTE (NEW): If non-playing teammate(s) (bench players) enter the court during play it is illegal alignment. It remains a conduct violation if a coach or team attendant (anyone not in uniform) enters the court while the ball is in play.

Rationale: More appropriately assesses illegal alignment (loss of rally/point awarded to the opponent) to non-playing teammates who enter the court while the ball is in play. A player who enters the court during play may still receive a conduct violation if they engage in disconcerting acts, disrespectful language, etc. This penalty realignment allows officials to appropriately penalize teams based on participant actions.

6-5-1: Players on the serving team are not permitted to raise their hands above their heads during service until the ball has passed beyond the net.

Rationale: Discourages player positioning during the serve that prevents the receiving team from viewing service contact and/or the flight of the ball and assists officials when evaluating the existence of screening. This change aligns with all other volleyball rules codes.

9-2-1 NOTE 1 (NEW): Players shall not wear any audio or video devices during the match.

Rationale: Clarifies the prohibition of electronic communication with and by players during the match and aligns with other NFHS rules codes.

12-2-8m (NEW): It is an unsporting conduct violation if coaches, non-playing teammates or team attendants use props on the bench during celebrations.

Rationale: Clarifies appropriate bench conduct for consistent enforcement by eliminating the use of props in bench celebrations while promoting sportsmanship and preventing disruption and potential safety concerns.

2026-27 Volleyball Editorial Changes

1-5-1, 5-2-1b, 5-4-3c(1), 5-4-4a, 7-1-1a, 7-1-1 PENALTIES 3, 7-1-2a, 7-1-4 PENALTIES 1, 9-9-1h

2026-27 Volleyball Points of Emphasis

1. Host Management Best Practices
2. Electronic Devices
3. Bench Personnel – Non-Playing Teammates
4. NFHS Authenticating Mark



Becoming an Official

We are so excited to hear about your interest in becoming an official. There is a great need for officials across Idaho so thank you for reaching out. The friendship and camaraderie are hands down one of the greatest reasons to officiate. Here is what you will need to become a high school official.

Registration is through Dragonflymax.com our assigning platform

1. <https://www.dragonflymax.com/module-1-signing-up>
2. Once you are registered you will complete your Sudden Cardiac arrest course and St. Luke's Concussion course. The courses can be found in your dragonfly account once created. You can also go to <https://idhsaa.org> and the two links are found under the "Officials" tab under courses.
3. There will be a NFHS test per sport that your commissioner will go over with you. It is 50 questions, you can take the test up to 5 times and it is open book.

You must attend a Rules Clinic per year

Rule clinics are posted on our website at the beginning of every year on July 1st.

There will be rules clinic in your area, these meetings are required to attend in person or on-line. You will get all information from your commissioner that you will need for the season as well as your hard copy of the rule books.

Uniform and equipment

The IHSAA will contact you with commissioner contact information. Your district commissioner will let you know all you need to get the year started. It is important to reach out to your commissioner to let them know you are ready to officiate or with any questions.



Safety courses are required for all officials on even numbered years. Courses must be taken after May 1, 2026.

Required Safety Courses:

- *Sudden Cardiac Arrest**
- *St. Luke's Concussion Course**

Follow these instructions to access the free, courses.

- ✓ Go to the IHSA 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 Help Desk
(317) 565-2023

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 official/ commissioner shall report an ejection to the school's principal and athletic director when a player/coach/staff/parent/fan/spectator is ejected from a competition.
- c. The report must be submitted within a 24-hour period of 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.



Completing an Ejection Report in Dragonfly

1. In the “Assignments” screen, select the game where your ejection report took place.
2. At the bottom of the page, select the “Add Document”, “IHSAA Ejection Report”

A screenshot of the Dragonfly software interface. The top section has two rows: "Officials" with "No Officials found" and "Workers" with "No Workers found". Below this is a "Key People" section featuring a profile icon and the name "Clint Sanders" with his title "Athletic Director | ID Test School 1" and email "clint@idtest1@dragonflyathletics.com". The bottom section is titled "Game Documents" and contains an "Add Document" button. A dropdown menu is open from this button, showing three options: "IHSAA Ejection Report", "Incident Report", and "Yellow Card Report". To the right of the dropdown, the text "0 game documents to show." is visible.

3. Complete all fields (all required). **Be aware that once you have submitted, it cannot be edited. It will also be viewable to all ADs and Commissioners at that time.**

Please ensure when completing the report please do the following:

- **Use language from the rule book in your sport that constitutes an ejection.**
- Be clear and concise and only report information relevant to the ejection.
- Do not include editorial comments or opinions, just facts.
- If the ejection is for language, please use the language that the player/coach used without paraphrasing or characters to replace letters.