

Middle School Volleyball Handbook

Philosophy

School District #11's Middle School Interscholastic Athletic Program strives to provide an opportunity for all interested students to discover and grow within the offered sports. Students will compete at a level that is developmentally appropriate for most and in an atmosphere that strives for an overall positive experience for the student.

Participation

- Participation is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Students.
- All participants must turn in a valid Sports Physical and Emergency Contact form to the front office prior to the first practice.

Team Division

- Teams will consist of one A-squad and one B-squad of 14 players each. A-squads may include 7th, 8th and exceptional 6th graders.
- Special circumstances that are approved through the District Athletic office may allow 8th graders on B-squad.
- Teams must be established by the first competition and no movement between squads is allowed after that.
- If a school cannot meet the minimum number of players to field two squads they may swing players between the two squads with approval from Athletic Office.

Rules

National Federation rules will be followed.

Match

A match will consist of the best of a 3-game series using rally scoring (every serve scores a point.) Games one and two are played to 25 points with a team winning by two points. Game three A-squad will play to 25, B-Squad will play to 15.

Pool Play

When there are 3 teams in a pool games will be played to 25, 25 & 15.

When there are 4 teams in a pool games will be played to 21, 21 & 15.

Workers

The scorekeeper and the two linespersons should be district employees. Where it is not possible, capable volunteers may be used.

Pre-Season Scrimmage

- Teams may choose to wear uniforms or t-shirts/shorts.
- Parents and spectators will not be invited to attend.

Pool Play

- During regular season middle school site pool play games the first pool of the season will be based on the previous season results.

Pool Play Round One

- With 9 teams the pools will consist of;
 - Pool One – Teams 1-3, Pool Two - Teams 4-6, Pool Three – Teams 7-9
 - Teams 1vs2, 2vs3, 3vs1; 4vs5, 5vs6, 6vs4 & 7vs8, 8vs9, 9vs7.
- With 10 teams the pools will consist of;
 - Pool One – Teams 1-3, Pool Two - Teams 4-7, Pool Three – Teams 8-10
 - Pool one and Three will play accordingly: Teams 1vs2, 2vs3, 3vs1 & 8vs9, 9vs10, 10vs8.
 - Pool Two games will play accordingly: Teams 4vs7 & 5vs6.
 - Then winners of teams 4vs7 and 5vs6 play and losers of teams 4vs7 and 5vs6 play.
- Top seeded team in each pool will host in the first round.
- Second round of pool play the top seed will host unless they hosted the previous week.
 - Host will then defer to the next seed.

Action of Results

- Bottom teams in pool one and two will move down a pool.
- Top teams in pool two and three will move up one pool.

Pre-Game

- The toss for side/serve for both A & B-squad matches will be prior to each match.
- *After the coin toss, all teams will line up on their respective sidelines so that the referees can check each team member's jersey number with the team's roster.*
- *After this procedure, the referees will notify the timekeeper to begin the two-minute shared warm-up.*

Switching sides

- Teams will not switch sides unless there is a clear advantage to being on one side based on the configuration of the gym and obstructions.

Warm Up

The net divides the court once the opponents arrive for competition.

- *Teams shall not be allowed to run onto the opposing team's half court.*
- Warm-up time will begin after the coin toss/captains' meeting/roster check.
- A maximum of 12 minutes will be allotted for warm-ups prior to the match
 - Each team gets 6 minutes on the court including serves. (Stretching should be completed prior to the designated warm-up period.)
- *During a team's warm-up time on the net, the opposing team may not ball handle off the court.*
- Prior to the second game the warm-up times will be 4 minutes total
 - Passing for 3 serving for 1.
- If necessary, there will be 3 minutes between the 2nd and 3rd games.

Player line-up

- The coach will turn in a line-up prior to each game and in accordance with the Federation rules.
- All players must play in either game one or two but those who play and sub in the first game cannot play or sub in the second game.
 - Should a team be short of players for any reason, we trust the coaches' discretion in determining who plays and subs in games 1 & 2.
 - Coaches should be governed by integrity in their effort to maintain fair, equitable play, and not create an imbalance through this flexibility.
- The third game, if needed, is at the coach's discretion (i.e. anyone listed can play or sub during these games).

Tie Break Procedures

- Regular Season
 - Set percentage
 - Point Differential
 - Head to head if necessary
 - Existing seed if tie cannot be broken
- Post Season
 - Set Percentage
 - Point differential
 - Head to Head
 - Play off game to 15

Post Season Seeding

All teams will be seeded for tournament play using the following criteria for placement:

- *Record and Strength of Schedule*
- *Record of play against common opponents*
- *Vote of Coaches*
- *Coin Toss*

Classics

- The District Classic will consist of A-squad teams only.
- Teams will be seeded based on regular season results.
- For the District Classic only, if a team does not have 14 players, they must move up enough players from the B-Squad to have a total of 14 athletes to participate in the District Classic.
- The coach must submit in writing the number and names of players moved up and file it with the Assistant District Athletic Director at least 24 hours prior to the date of the District Classic.

Post Season Brackets

Pool Play

| Court 1 | Court 2 | Court 3 |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| A 1 (1) | B1 (2) | C 1 (3) |
| A 2 (6) | B2 (5) | C 2 (4) |
| A 3 (9) | B3 (8) | C 3 (7) |

Champ Pool Play

| Court 1 | Court 2 | Court 3 |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| A1 vs C2 | B1 vs A2 | A3 vs B3 |
| C2 vs B2 | A2 vs C1 | B3 vs C3 |
| A1 vs B2 | B1 vs C1 | A3 vs C3 |

Final Round

| Court 1 | Court 2 | Court 3 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Champ Pool Semi Final | Champ Pool Semi Final | 5 th Place Game |
| 3 rd Place Game | | |
| 1 st Place Game | | |