



2026-27 NJSIAA Girls Volleyball Tournament

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times, and locations for any round of competition during NJSIAA state tournaments. Schools entering the tournament will not be granted a change of date/time due to any conflicts with school trips, proms, banquets, SATs, unless agreed upon by both schools. During the spring tournament season, we will make every effort to accommodate schools that have a conflict with their graduation.

Member schools will not be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Tournaments if it has violated the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Policies, or Procedures. Any student-athlete who transfers after the competition start date will not be eligible for this tournament.

State tournament sites will not be declared unsuitable merely because conditions are less than perfect unless Leagues or Conferences have ruled such sites unsuitable for League or Conference play. However, NJSIAA reserves the right to move an event to another facility if the playing conditions are not considered suitable for that competition, or if the facility will significantly limit anticipated attendance at the event.

Schools are to be reminded of the 3-team DQ rule for state tournament eligibility, which states "Any varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the team's participation in the state tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament. The 3-team DQ rule is not applicable during participation in the state tournament.

The NJSIAA will follow the procedure below for schools that are disqualified from state tournament competition:

1. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded but prior to the bracket being final, then the bracket will be reseeded and the next ranked school who entered the tournament will be included.
2. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded and after the bracket is final, then the bracket will not be reseeded, and no additional school will be included.
3. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition due to the use of an ineligible player during the state tournament, then the school will be removed from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place.

Schools participating in any NJSIAA tournament are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their spectators. Schools are required to provide adequate staff security to ensure there is proper oversight of their spectators. In addition, schools are financially responsible for any damage to the property or premises caused by their student-athletes, staff, or spectators (spectators include, but are not limited to, cheerleaders, marching band participants, students, and other fans).

NJSIAA requires Certified Athletic Trainers at all its tournament events. The ATC must document all injuries on an injury report form. This form must be available to the NJSIAA upon request.

Member schools that are not willing or able to comply with NJSIAA tournament regulations and any relevant procedures found in the state tournament operating procedures handbook should not enter the tournament. Member schools are encouraged to review NJSIAA tournament regulations with the school administration. Coaches must have a copy of the tournament regulations as well as a copy of the rule modifications (if any) available at all contests. Copies of these documents are available on the NJSIAA website.

NJSIAA Girls Volleyball Tournament Staff

NJSIAA Director of Volleyball

Derryk Sellers
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Tournament Director

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NJSIAA Rules Interpreter

Paul Aiello
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State Tournament Assignor

Ken Reynolds
(609) 915-5254
Kenny4155@yahoo.com

Regional Assignors

The following regional assignors will assign the first three (3) rounds of the tournament. If you are the home team, please reach out to the appropriate assignor as to the game date, time and location ASAP.

North I, North II & NP-North Schools

Paul Aiello
(201) 232-7613
paulaiello2@aol.com

Central, South & NP-South Schools

Ken Reynolds
(609) 915-5254
Kenny4155@yahoo.com

Sectional Assignor

The following sectional assignor will assign all sectional finals, please reach out to the assignor as to the game date, time and location ASAP.

All Sections

Ken Reynolds
(609) 915-5254
Kenny4155@yahoo.com

New for This Year's State Tournament

1. Girls Volleyball has moved to a north/south configuration. The classifications will represent 4 groups in the north and 4 groups in the south for the public schools. The non-public schools will have 2 groups (A & B) in the north and 2 groups (A & B) in the south. The restructuring of the tournament will nullify the need for the public semifinals.
2. Because of the disparity in group 1, we will be qualifying 20 teams from north 1 & South 1. All other groups we will be qualifying 16.
3. As a result of taking 20 group 1 teams, there will need to be 4 play-in games for both the north and south brackets. The play in games will be the following seeds: 16 vs 17, 13 vs 20, 15 vs 18, 14 vs 19. The play-in games will need to complete by the date listed on page 3.
4. All state tournament games will be the best of 5 games.
5. The power points for volleyball will increase to the 17 best power-pointed games from opening day to the cutoff date regardless of how many games were played.
6. For contests against out-of-state or non-member opponents, we will use the actual record of the opponent as of the cutoff date. It is imperative that coaches continue to update their out of state/non-member opponents records in highschoolsports.com throughout the season.

Volleyball Important Dates

Event	Date
First Practice:	August 17, 2026
Competition May Begin:	August 24, 2026
Entry Form Opens:	October 1, 2026
Entry Form Closes:	October 15, 2026
Conflict of Interest Form Due:	October 15, 2026
Cutoff:	October 24, 2026
PowerPoints Close at 11:59 PM:	October 25, 2026
Tournament Seeding:	October 27, 2026
Regular Season Competition Ends:	November 22, 2026

Girls Volleyball Tournament Dates

Public Tournament	Date	Location
Play-in Round (Group 1 Only)	By October 31, 2026	Higher Seed
Round 1 – Groups 1 & 3:	November 2, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 1 – Groups 2 & 4:	November 3, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 2 – Groups 1 & 3:	November 4, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 2 – Groups 2 & 4:	November 5, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 3 – Groups 1 & 3:	November 6, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 3 – Groups 2 & 4:	November 7, 2026*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals – Groups 1 & 3:	November 11, 2026*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals – Groups 2 & 4:	November 12, 2026*	Higher Seed
State Finals-Groups 1 & 3:	November 14, 2026	Franklin
State Finals-Groups 2 & 4:	November 15, 2026	Franklin
Non-Public Tournament	Date	Location
Round 1 – Non-Public B:	November 2, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 1 – Non-Public A:	November 3, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 2 – Non-Public B:	November 4, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 2 – Non-Public A:	November 5, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 3 – Non-Public B:	November 6, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 3 – Non-Public A:	November 7, 2026*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals – Non-Public B:	November 11, 2026*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals – Non-Public A:	November 12, 2026*	Higher Seed
State Finals – Non-Public B:	November 14, 2026	Franklin
State Finals – Non-Public A:	November 15, 2026	Franklin

*The tournament dates listed above can be moved only upon mutual agreement by both schools. If schools do not agree, then it must be played on the date listed. If any date is moved by mutual agreement, the potential next round opponent must be notified ASAP. Schools may play on Sunday only if both schools agree. Schools that did not qualify for the tournament, have been eliminated or have a bye should avoid scheduling any non-tournament games on the dates listed above.

Teams will rotate sides and bench after each set for all rounds of the tournament. There will be no mutual agreement not to rotate.

State Finals		State Finals	
Franklin High School		Franklin High School	
November 14, 2026		November 15, 2026	
Group 1	11:00 AM	Group 4	11:00 AM
Group 3	1:00 PM	Non-Public A	1:00 PM
Non-Public B	3:00 PM	Group 2	3:00 PM

Home Teams

For the state finals, all non-public north teams and all public north teams will be declared the home team for this year. The home team will choose the team bench for the first set, and the visiting team calls the coin toss.

Teams will rotate sides and bench after each set for all rounds of the tournament. There will be no mutual agreement not to rotate.

Tournament Eligibility

1. Teams must be competing on a varsity interscholastic basis.
2. Sixty percent (60%) of the games played on or before the cutoff date must be against New Jersey schools.
3. Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of the tournament, will be unable to compete in the state tournament.
4. Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the start of the tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament.

Tournament Qualifications

1. The top 16 teams from each section and each group (except group 1) will qualify for this tournament using the PowerPoint system.
2. The top 20 teams from north group 1 and south group 1 will qualify for this tournament.
3. Games played after the cutoff date will not count toward the PowerPoint calculation even if they were started before the cutoff date.
4. The minimum number of games to be played by the cutoff date is 17.
5. Teams that play less than the minimum number of games will still be eligible for the tournament based on their total power points achieved at the cutoff divided by 17.
6. If there is a tie in power points, the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure will break all ties.

Entry Procedure

1. The entry form must be completed online by the date listed above.
2. All varsity schedules & rosters must be entered in njschoolsports.com by the start of the season. Rosters must be checked and updated, if necessary, by the start of the tournament. We cannot guarantee any roster changes made after the start of the tournament will make it into the tournament program.
3. All varsity scores must be reported to www.njschoolsports.com as soon as possible after each contest. If you encounter problems, please contact hssupport@nj.com.
4. PowerPoints will be downloaded from the [njschoolsports](http://njschoolsports.com) website on the date listed above at noon. Coaches are reminded that all team information must be totally up to date and checked for accuracy.
5. The officials conflict of Interest form must be completed by the date listed above. If there is no conflict of interest, you do not have to complete this form.

Entry Fee

\$90.00 per team, Payable to the NJSIAA (Please note Girls Volleyball Tournament).

Forward all entry fees to: NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Withdrawal Policy for Tournament Participation

1. Schools that withdraw from the tournament before seeding will not be subject to any penalty.
2. Schools that withdraw from the tournament after having been seeded will be subject to a fine, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present.
3. Schools that withdraw from the tournament after the brackets have become official will be subject to a fine, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present. In addition, the program will be placed on probation for one year.
4. Schools that withdraw from the tournament at any point while on probation will be fined and barred from participating in the tournament for the following school year, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present. In addition, the program will be placed on an additional year of probation.
5. Schools that repeatedly withdraw from tournaments across multiple sports may be referred to the NJSIAA for review and may be subject to Athletic Department probation.

Tournament Seeding

1. The qualifying schools in each group and each section will be seeded using the NJSIAA power point system.
2. Teams will be seeded based on their PowerPoint totals.
3. If there is a tie in power points for seeding, we will use the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure.
4. Seed jumping will be used, please see the procedure below.

The media may post brackets following the completion of the seeding meeting. Brackets do not become official until 12:00pm on the day after seeding.

Seed Jumping Procedure

1. The seed jumping procedure will start from seed # 1 and work downward.
2. Seed jumping will take place when a lower-ranked team has defeated the team ranked immediately above them.
3. Any split of head-to-head matches will be dropped from the discussion.
4. Movement in the seed may occur one step at a time on the basis of the head-to-head criterion (i.e., If 6th in rank has defeated 5th in rank/seed, then they switch positions; if 6th in rank defeats both #5 and #4 then a double jump.

Tournament PowerPoint Procedure

The NJSIAA power point system will be used for all qualifying purposes.

1. The PowerPoint procedure for this tournament will be using the 17 best power-pointed games from opening day to the cutoff date regardless of how many games were played.
2. The residual points earned from opponents will be calculated using your opponent's first 17 games played.
3. Teams that play less than the minimum number of games will still be eligible for the tournament based on their total power points achieved at the cutoff divided by 17.
4. In League, Conference, County or Cup tournament games that require a team to advance, regardless of the overtime procedure used, the winning team will receive all the PowerPoints.

Out of State / Non-Member Opponents (OOS / NM)

Contests against out-of-state or non-member opponents will count for power points and will follow the same calculation procedure as games against member schools. We will use the actual record of the OOS/NM opponent as of the cutoff date. It is imperative that coaches continue to update their OOS/NM opponents records in highschoolsports.com throughout the season.

PowerPoint Tie Breaking Procedure

1. Head-to-Head Competition. Any ties involving 3 or more teams, move to step #2
2. Average quality points per game.
3. Average residual points per game.
4. Average OOWP for all opponents.
5. Common opponent winning percentage
 - a. Example: Team A is 3-0 (100%) vs. team C and team B is 2-0 (100%) vs. team C, go to #6
 - b. Example: Team A is 2-1 (.667%) vs. team C and team B is 1-1 (.500%) vs. team C, Team A wins Tiebreaker
6. Team total winning percentage
7. Coin Toss

The tie breaking procedure above includes all contests from the competition start date to the cutoff date.

Tournament Rules & Information

1. The NFHS volleyball rules along with any NJSIAA volleyball rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. All tournament rounds are **PLAY ON** dates. Schools can mutually agree to move tournament dates except for the state finals. If schools do not agree, then it must be played on the date listed. If any date is moved by mutual agreement, the potential next round opponents must be notified ASAP.
3. Match times for all rounds up to and including the sectional finals will be designated by the higher-seeded team. The recommended start time is 4:30 on school days. For non-school days, times will be established by the home team.
4. The NJSIAA may need to establish the start times if there is any disagreement between schools.
5. All match times are pending the official's availability. Athletic Directors must communicate consistently throughout all rounds up to and including the sectional finals regarding start times and field locations.
6. Match times for the state finals will be established by the NJSIAA.
7. If any circumstance causes postponement, the match must be played on the next day. If the next day is a Sunday, the match may be played if both schools agree; otherwise, the match must be played on Monday. Teams must adhere to the deadline of the succeeding round, even though matches may be played on consecutive days. Non-NJSIAA tournament games must be moved.
8. When conditions prevent a match from being played at the site of the higher seeded team in a reasonable amount of time, the tournament director may choose an alternate site, which may include the lower seeded teams' gym.
9. Higher-seeded schools hosting tournament games must provide an athletic trainer for both teams. Each school will be asked to provide its own athletic trainer when tournament games are not held at a higher-seeded school.
10. The winning school must notify njschoolsports.com immediately after each match, and the competing schools must notify the local newspapers to keep the media informed as to the tournament progression.
11. Participating schools must assign adequate supervision for all matches, home and away.
12. All matches in the tournament will be three (3) out of five (5) sets and will be determined by rally scoring.
13. Warm-up times have been revised to a 5-6-6-5 format. The home team will start the first 6 minute session.
14. The higher seeded team chooses the team bench, and the visiting team calls the coin toss.
15. Only players who are on the submitted roster will be allowed in with the team(s).
16. Only uniformed players and/or team personnel are allowed on the playing court during the team warmups
17. The higher seeded team will provide an NFHS regulation match ball.
18. The Wilson NOVA volleyball is the official ball of the NJSIAA tournament. The NJSIAA will provide Wilson volleyballs to be used in all state finals games.
19. All bench personnel for this tournament must be approved by the school district. Fans, private coaches or club coaches are not permitted on the sidelines.

Officials Assignments

The NJSIAA will assign all officials for all rounds of the tournament.

Rounds 1, 2 & 3

- Two (2) game officials will be assigned by NJSIAA.
- Higher seeded schools will pay all officials for the first three (3) rounds (see fees below).
- Two (2) certified official line judges are recommended but not required for these rounds. If assigned, the line judges will be paid \$62.

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
\$115	\$115	\$115

Sectional Finals

- NJSIAA will assign two (2) game officials & two (2) line judges for each game.
- NJSIAA will pay for all four (4) officials.

State Finals

- NJSIAA will assign two (2) game officials, two (2) line judges & one (1) libero tracker for each game.
- NJSIAA will pay for all five (5) officials.

Awards

Sectional Champions:

A team trophy and twenty-five (25) certificates to each Sectional Champion.

State Champions:

A team trophy and twenty-five (25) certificates to each State Champion.