



Oregon School Activities Association

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2026 VOLLEYBALL PLAN BOOK

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SEASON DATES

First Practice Date	August 17
First Jamboree / First Contest Date.....	August 27
Rankings Cutoff – Contests vs. teams more than one classification away	September 16
Rankings Cutoff – Contests added after a certain date (Tournaments excluded).....	September 30
6A, 3A, 2A, 1A Rankings Freeze Date	October 21
6A, 3A, 2A, 1A Cutoff Date	October 24
5A, 4A Rankings Freeze Date.....	October 27
5A, 4A Cutoff Date.....	October 27
6A, 3A, 2A, 1A First Round	October 28
6A, 3A, 2A, 1A Second Round.....	October 31
5A, 4A First Round.....	October 31
All Quarterfinals – Finals	November 6-7

Reporting Schedules and Scores – Find Account Instructions on our Help Page at <https://www.osaa.org/help>

NFHS 2026-27 VOLLEYBALL RULES

Order an NFHS Volleyball Rules Book on the [OSAA Corner Store](#) or contact the OSAA (503.682.6722) for more information.

For more information about NFHS Volleyball Rules, visit <http://www.nfhs.org/activities-sports/volleyball/>.

2026-27 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 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 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Referee's Platform Safety

Student-participants' and officials' safety continues to be the top priority of the Volleyball Rules Committee. Often overlooked, referee platforms can be incredibly dangerous if they are old, broken, improperly set up, etc. It is critically important that these platforms are safe and secure and provide the correct line of sight for our referees to confidently climb the ladder, stand on the platform and officiate without fear of injury.

By rule, hosts must provide a safe, stable platform. The first referee (R1) should carefully examine the stand prior to the match, and if the first referee determines that the platform is unsafe, the match will still go on, and the R1 will work from the floor. When evaluating the referee stand, ensure the platform is secured over top of the top ladder rung. Never step onto a platform where the platform is simply touching the top ladder rung. Referees should not use ladders, chairs, boxes, trash cans or similar substitutes that could endanger the well-being of the official. Additionally, to appropriately officiate a match, it is preferred that the referee stand be adjustable to ensure that the R1's head is 2-3 feet above the height of the net. If there are any issues, the referee should notify the host school and the state association.

Equipment Evaluation

Regularly evaluate volleyball equipment for signs of wear like frayed nets or cables, posts that are bending inwards, and padding that no longer protects or fits tightly—plus any parts that no longer hold proper tension. If a post or net has been taped or improvised to keep it working, it is a sign the system is not performing—or protecting athletes and officials—the way it was designed to and should be replaced.

Also check equipment for safety and playability. Systems that have loose tension within the net or can no longer meet current net height rules are strong replacement candidates. As a rule of thumb, heavily used school systems often need major components refreshed every 8–12 years, sooner if usage is high or maintenance has been inconsistent. Check with the equipment manufacturer for recommendations regarding replacement timelines.

Prematch Readiness

To set the match up for success, it is imperative that assistant officials (scorer, libero tracker, timer and line judges) are secured by host management and have reported to the first referee no less than 20 minutes prior to the starting time. This allows assistant officials the time necessary to complete their prematch duties as outlined in Rule 5. Host management's prematch readiness creates a smooth prematch for all officials and allows the match to begin without delay.

Electronic Devices

As our society continues to increase its use of electronic devices in all aspects of our lives, it is important to remember that when on the court, there are specific rules governing their use.

1. At no time during the match may an official use an electronic device to review a decision of the referee. (11-3-2)

2. At no time shall the first or second referee consider replay. (5-1-2)
3. A team may use electronic devices during the match as long as they are not in restricted areas as determined by the host (9-2-1a) and as long as the first referee determines that they are not interfering with the contest. (9-2-1b)
4. No player shall wear any audio (microphone) or video (camera) device during the match. (9-2-1 NOTES 1)
5. Referees are permitted to wear headsets for communication purposes. An excellent free resource is the NFHS course; Officiating Volleyball: Using Wireless Communication on the NFHS Learn platform.
6. State associations may have policies to further address the allowance and/or restriction of electronic device use during matches. (9-2-1 NOTES 2)
7. Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities or unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage (4-1 NOTES 2).

Bench Personnel – Non-Playing Teammates

High school volleyball allows student-athletes to compete with their friends representing their school and community in an environment that serves as the extension of the classroom. As part of the experience, non-playing teammates (bench players) and other bench personnel have a role to positively support their teammates by celebrating and encouraging those playing on the court with spontaneous cheers. It is not legal for anyone on the bench to use props. A towel is athletic equipment and is not considered a prop if used in conjunction with a spontaneous celebration.

State associations may require a sportsmanship message to be read by public-address announcers prior to the match encouraging good sportsmanship. Game officials shall not address spectators at any time; however, referees have the responsibility to notify game management of any spectator misconduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct by spectators is the responsibility of the host management. In the absence of host management, the responsibility for addressing spectator behavior shall revert to the host head coach.

Identification of the NFHS Authenticating Mark on Game Balls

The NFHS Authenticating Mark ensures easy identification of inflated and non-inflated balls used in interscholastic competition for which the NFHS writes playing rules. All such balls are required to display the NFHS Authenticating Mark. The use of conforming equipment is essential to the integrity of contests played under the NFHS rules. This mark helps to promote a level playing field by ensuring consistency in the equipment being used. The mark allows for the development of more sophisticated standards in balls and clearly communicates to administrators, coaches, and officials that these standards are being met.

Non-compliance with these requirements will be reported to the state association for potential penalties following the contest. Administrators and coaches play a pivotal role in making sure all inflated and non-inflated balls meet these specifications. They must instill the importance of proper equipment use through consistent reinforcement during the pre-competition certification meeting and throughout the season. Game officials must also remain vigilant and report any non-compliant balls to the state association office.

2026-27 RULES INTERPRETATIONS

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2026-27 COMMENTS ON THE RULES

4-2-1a, 4-2-1i(3) (NEW), 4-2-2	The libero must be easily distinguishable from their teammates on the court. Permitting liberos to wear any color uniform bottom allows flexibility for teams while maintaining the integrity of the contrasting uniform.
5-5-3b(21)	Providing 15 additional seconds to the second referee for the administration of lineup checks before the final audio signal and resumption of play improves the pace between sets. Teams will still have 3 minutes (5 minutes when intermission is used) between sets before the final audio signal.
6-4-2, 10-4-3a, 10-4-3d	Allowing up to two liberos to be designated for each game increases the opportunity for more student-athletes to participate. A team may designate zero, one or 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.

6-4 PENALTIES 1c (NEW), 12-2-8b NOTE (NEW)	When a non-playing teammate(s) (bench player) enters the court during play it is illegal alignment (loss of rally/point awarded to the opponent) unless the non-playing teammate(s) enters to engage in behavior that would facilitate a conduct violation (disconcerting acts, disrespectful language, etc.). It remains a conduct violation if a coach or team attendant (anyone not in uniform) enters the court while the ball is in play.
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. There is no game-playing need for players to raise their hands above their head during service. This positioning has been used to disguise potential screening making it harder for officials to adjudicate the rules.
9-2-1 NOTE 1 (NEW)	Clarifying the prohibition of the use of audio and video equipment by on-field players, reinforces fair play and ensures that electronic communication is not used during competition. This language aligns with other NFHS sport codes.
12-2-8m (NEW)	The use of props by bench personnel as a part of bench celebrations is an unsporting conduct violation as their use has the potential to create disruptions and present safety concerns.

2026-27 UNIFORM RULES

RULE 4 Player Equipment and Uniform **SECTION 2 LEGAL UNIFORM**

ART. 1 . . . All uniforms shall adhere to the following:

- a. Uniform tops[with the exception of the libero (4-2-2a)]shall be like-colored and uniform bottoms [with the exception of the libero(4-2-2b)] shall be like-colored;
- b. Uniforms shall be worn as the manufacturer intended;
- c. Uniforms shall be free of hard and unyielding items(buttons, zippers, snaps, fasteners, etc.);
- d. A single, visible manufacturer's logo and/or single school name or insignia no more than 2¼ inches are permitted on each visible undergarment;
- e. The school's name, nickname, logo, mascot and/or team member's name are permitted on the uniform top and/or bottom;
- f. A single partial/whole manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference, no more than 2¼ square inches with no dimension more than 2¼ inches, is permitted on each piece of the uniform provided placement does not interfere with the visibility of the player's number. Manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference restrictions do not apply to waistbands on uniform bottoms;
- g. One American flag, not to exceed 2 inches by 3 inches, may be worn or occupy space on each item of uniform apparel. By state association adoption, to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform without compromising its integrity.
- h. Uniform top:
 1. Bare-midriff tops are not allowed.
 2. The uniform top shall hang below or be tucked into the waistband of the uniform bottom when the player is standing upright.
 3. Any visible garment (t-shirt, body suits and other similar garments) worn underneath the uniform top shall be unadorned and of a single, solid color that is similar in color to the predominant color of the uniform top or be solid black, white or gray. All team members, other than the libero, must wear the same color undershirt.
- i. Like-colored uniform bottom:
 1. Multiple styles of uniform bottoms may be worn by teammates and may include :shorts, spandex, pants or skirts.
 2. A visible undergarment may be worn under the uniform bottom. It shall be unadorned and of a single, solid color similar to the predominant color of the uniform bottom or be solid black, white or gray and may extend below the uniform bottom. All team members must wear the same color undergarment.
 3. The libero may wear any color uniform bottom.

ART. 2 . . . The libero uniform:

- a. The libero uniform top must clearly contrast from the predominant color(s) of the team uniform top, excluding

trim. The libero's uniform top cannot be made solely of the same predominant color(s) of the team's uniform top, even if the like color(s) are placed differently on the uniform top. Numbers shall meet all specifications in Rule 4-2-4.

b. The libero uniform bottom may be any color while adhering to all other uniform rules.

ART. 3 . . . Each player, including the libero, shall be identified by a number on the uniform top which is not a duplicate of a teammate's number.

NOTE: When a player's number changes due to blood on or damage to the uniform, the roster is corrected, and no penalty is assessed.

ART. 4 . . . The number shall be:

- a. Permanent and clearly visible;
- b. Not more than two digits(0-99). Beginning July 1, 2028, numbers with a leading zero are not legal (01, 02, etc.);
- c. A plain, Arabic numeral of a solid color, where the body of the number (measuring not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in width at its narrowest point) is a color that clearly contrasts to the color of the uniform top. A trim (contrasting border not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in width at its widest point) or a shadow on part of the number not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at its widest point is permitted but shall not be used to make the number clearly visible;
- d. Located on the upper front and back of the uniform top. Beginning July 1, 2029, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top and the requirements in item f. will be eliminated;
- e. At least 4 inches tall on the front of the top and at least 6 inches tall on the back of the top;
- f. Placed so the top of the number on the front of the uniform is no more than 5 inches down from the shoulder seam; or placed so the number is centered no more than 5 inches below the bottom edge of any neckline ribbing, placket or seams on the uniform top.

ART. 5 . . . If a visible number is worn on the uniform bottom, it shall be the same number as on the uniform top.

ART. 6 . . . Appropriate playing shoes shall be worn.

ART. 7 . . . Removal of any part of the uniform, top or bottom, while in the playing area is unsporting conduct (yellow card for first offense or red card for subsequent offense) and shall be assessed to the coach.

PENALTIES:

1. Discovery of non-compliant jewelry on a player(s) during warm-up shall result in a referee directing that player, by way of a coach, to remove the jewelry. A player(s) who does not comply shall be charged with unsporting conduct.
2. When a player, not legally equipped, attempts to enter the set, unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card for the first offense or administrative red card for subsequent offense in that set) shall be assessed to the team. The player shall not enter set until the illegal uniform/equipment is replaced or made legal.
3. When a player, not legally equipped, is discovered in the set, unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card for the first offense or administrative red card for subsequent offense in that set) shall be assessed to the team. The player shall be removed until the uniform/equipment is replaced or immediately made legal. Following the administration of unnecessary delay, if the team has a timeout remaining it may be taken, and the player may remain in the set provided the illegal uniform/equipment is replaced or made legal during the time-out period.
4. For subsequent violations by the same team during the set, a loss of rally/point shall be awarded to the opponent. The player(s) shall be removed unless the illegal uniform/equipment is removed or made legal immediately. Following the administration of unnecessary delay, if the team has a timeout remaining, the player may remain in the set provided the illegal uniform/equipment is replaced or made legal during the time-out period.
5. When a team cannot begin the match with six players wearing legal uniforms or without body paint or glitter, a loss of rally/point shall be awarded to the opponent at the beginning of the match, and the state association shall be notified to determine further action or penalty, as deemed necessary.

Requests for rule interpretations or explanations should be directed to the OSAA. The NFHS will assist in answering rules questions from the state associations whenever called upon.

OSAA ADOPTED VOLLEYBALL RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS

The 2026-27 NFHS Volleyball Rules Book will be used with the following clarifications:

A. **Team.** A school team shall not compete on more than 18 playing dates / 36 matches, at each level of competition, exclusive of the varsity district playoffs and state championships.

B. **Individual.** A student shall not compete on more than 18 playing dates / 36 matches, exclusive of varsity district playoffs and state championships. Additionally, a student shall not compete in more than six total sets per day at different levels. If a student exceeds the limit, the match in which the limit is exceeded shall be forfeited. A student may participate in more than one jamboree in a day but is limited to not more than four sets total.

EXCEPTION: The individual limit of six total sets per day at different levels does not apply to double duals or tournament play. In tournament play, a student may participate in only one level of competition during that day. Double duals involve two or three schools competing on one day. In double dual play, a student may participate in a maximum of ten sets at the same level during that day.

Rule 11-5-1, 2 – Provides that a two-minute intermission, for promotional or special recognition activities only, may be used between sets two and three in addition to the regular three-minute interval for a total of five minutes.

OSAA Adoption – This intermission may be used at the varsity level only.

Warm-Up Safety. Risk minimization continues to be a priority for the NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee and the OSAA. Though volleyball continues to have one of the lowest injury rates of the 22 high school sports under surveillance, the growing number of concussions occurring during warm-ups as reported annually by the National High School Sports-Related Injury Surveillance System (High School RIO) has increased awareness regarding warm-up procedures before and during the match.

With the risk of injury being highest during shared net warm-up time, no shared net warm-up time is allowed. Teams can warm up on either side of the net without attacking or serving over the net. Required warm up procedures are as follows:

Match Warm-Up Required Protocol: Minimum amount of warm up time is 20 minutes.

- 20-minute warm-up time: 4 minutes shared court time, each team stays on their chosen or assigned side of the net. Then the visiting team takes the full court for 8 minutes, followed by the home team taking the full court for 8 minutes.
- Double Dual Warm-Up Required Protocol: Minimum amount of warm-up time is 16 minutes.
 - 16-minute warm-up time: Two minutes shared court time, each team stays on their chosen or assigned side of the net. Then the visiting team takes the full court for seven minutes, followed by the home team taking the full court for seven minutes.

Tournament Match Warm-Up Required Protocol:

- 10-minute warm-up: The visiting team has the full court for 5 minutes followed by the home team taking the court for 5 minutes.
- 5-minute warm-up: Visiting team has the full court for 2.5 minutes, followed by the home team taking the full court for 2.5 minutes.

Some things to consider when establishing best practices for implementing this warmup protocol include facility space, shared court time, placement of athletes and those assisting with warm-ups, and familiarity of all team members with the warm-up procedures for the match. In addition to pre-game warm-ups, it should be noted that warming up between sets is allowed. Rule 11-5-3 clarifies that teams must remain on their side of the net, in their playable area. No hitting or serving is allowed and volleyballs may be used only on their own side of the playing area.

State Association Adoptions – Team Benches

The NFHS Volleyball Rules Book, like many other NFHS rules books, includes specific rule modifications that are allowed by state level adoption. These specific rules are found throughout the rules book and address match format, forfeit protocol, uniform and equipment accommodations, line judge flags, electronic devices and even bench rotation. These adoptions allow for decisions to be made at a local level regarding rules that have local implications or have no impact on play. For example, states with more rural competition – long bus rides – might opt to have their schools play best two-of-three sets to allow for shorter competition times.

One accommodation of note is the ability for a state association to authorize permission for teams to remain on the same benches throughout the match. A rules consideration for the 2020-21 season due to the spread of COVID-19 – the elimination of rotating benches between sets – was universally well received.

OSAA ADOPTION: In Oregon, we will continue to eliminate the rotating of benches between sets unless there is a significant advantage on one side of the net which may include hoop heights, lights, or reflections. The officiating crew of the contest will

determine if there is an advantage or not. In a deciding set situation, benches shall remain the same if they have not been rotated between sets, and the deciding set coin toss would only have the options of serve or receive.

Rule 5-9-2b-Line Judges will switch sides of the court between sets when, by state association adoption, teams remain on the same benches throughout the match.

Rationale: Align with the original intent of the rule allowing judges to alternate between each set to promote fair officiating.

OSAA ADOPTION: Varsity level required sub-varsity encouraged.

OSAA VOLLEYBALL POLICIES

Effective outside Association Year.

1. SUMMER POLICY

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "SUMMER POLICY" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2017.

Effective during Association Year, outside the designated OSAA sport season.

2. PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (6A, 5A, 4A)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (6A, 5A, 4A)" in the OSAA Handbook, revised September 2025.

3. PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (3A, 2A, 1A)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (3A, 2A, 1A)" in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2022.

Effective First Practice Date through End of HS Season.

1. PRACTICE MODEL

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "PRACTICE MODEL" in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2021.

2. PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS" in the OSAA Handbook, revised May 2025.

3. OFFICIALS – CERTIFIED REQUIREMENT

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "OFFICIALS-CERTIFIED REQUIREMENTS" in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2026.

4. INTERRUPTED CONTESTS

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "INTERRUPTED CONTESTS" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2015.

5. ENDOWMENT GAMES

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "ENDOWMENT GAMES" in the OSAA Handbook, revised September 2022.

[\(Endowment Game Application\)](#)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS INFORMATION

1. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS POSTING TIMELINES <https://www.osaa.org/activities/vbl>

- A. **Athletic Directors, Coaches and Spectators:** Detailed information regarding the Volleyball State Championships will be posted on the OSAA website on Thursday, **October 15**. It is essential that participating teams and individuals access this information prior to the state championships. Included will be information regarding ticket prices, parking, maps, how to submit souvenir program information, souvenir merchandise, etc.
- B. **Event Management Information (EMI):** Beginning Thursday, **October 15**, schools that host state championship games must download Event Management Information from the OSAA website. Included will be information regarding expenses, admission policies, game management & ticket report, ticket booth signs, PA script, etc.

2. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS LOCATIONS AND TIMES

- A. **First and Second Rounds:** Refer to bracket for locations and home team designation. Matches are to be played on the dates indicated on the brackets. Schools have the option, by mutual agreement, to change Saturday matches to Friday. If schools cannot mutually agree, the match will remain as scheduled on the OSAA calendar. Match times are

by mutual agreement of both participating schools. If schools cannot mutually agree, the OSAA will make the final decision.

- B. **Quarterfinals – Finals**: All final site matches will be held on November 6-7. OSAA will determine times for all final site matches.

- 1) 6A – Forest Grove HS, 1401 Nichols Lane, Forest Grove, OR 97116
- 2) 5A -- TBD
- 3) 4A, 3A – Marshfield HS, 972 Ingersoll Ave, Coos Bay, OR 97420
North Bend HS, 2323 Pacific Ave, North Bend, OR 97459
- 4) 2A, 1A – Eastern Oregon University, One University Blvd, La Grande, OR 97850
La Grande HS, 708 K Ave, La Grande, OR 97850

3. **PLAYOFF QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. **6A – 24-Team OSAA Bracket**

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – *Seven* teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 24-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before **Wednesday, October 21**. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.
- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at **the conclusion of all contests** on **Wednesday, October 21**.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – Nine additional teams qualify for the OSAA's 24-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings.
 - a) Once the rankings are frozen, the 9 highest ranked teams not already an automatic league qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) **Qualification Round Model** - Sixteen teams will qualify as Qualification Round teams based on the frozen OSAA rankings.
 - a) Once the seven automatic qualifiers and the nine At-Large teams are determined, the next sixteen highest ranked teams will compete in eight Qualification Round contests on Saturday, October 24 or earlier.
 - b) The sixteen teams will be ranked 1-16 with the highest ranked team hosting the lowest ranked team. Same league matchups will be avoided, if possible. When a matchup of two league opponents exist, there will be TWO attempts to move the lower ranked team to avoid the match up. If this doesn't solve the problem then the matchup of the two opponents from the same league will take place. Winners advance to the OSAA 24-team bracket.
- 5) **Rankings** – Once the 24 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy **"State Championships – Rankings."**

- B. **5A – 16-Team OSAA Bracket**

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – 11 teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before **Tuesday, October 27**. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Northwest Oregon – 2; Greater Metro -- 2; Midwestern Hybrid – 2 ; Mid-Willamette – 2; Intermountain – 2; Southern Oregon Hybrid -- 1
- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at **the conclusion of all contests** on **Tuesday, October 27**.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – Five additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the five highest ranked teams not already an automatic league qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy **"State Championships – Rankings."**

- C. **4A – 16-Team OSAA Bracket**

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – Twelve teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before Tuesday, October 27. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Cowapa – 2; Tri-Valley – 2; Oregon West - 2; Sky Em – 2; Skyline - 2; Greater Oregon – 2

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at the conclusion of all contests on **Tuesday, October 27**.
- 3) **At Large Qualifiers** – Four additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the highest ranked third place team between the Sky Em and Skyline is guaranteed as an At-Large qualifier along with the three highest ranked **third place teams** from the other five leagues will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

D. **3A** – 18-Team OSAA Bracket

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – Fifteen teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 18-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before **Saturday, October 24**. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Lewis & Clark – 2; Coastal Range – 2; PacWest – 2; Mountain Valley – 2; Far West – 3; Eastern Oregon – 2; West Valley - 2
- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at the conclusion of all contests on **Saturday, October 24**.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – Three additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 18-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the three highest ranked teams not already an automatic league qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the 18 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

E. **2A** – 22-Team OSAA Bracket

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – Sixteen teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 22-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before **Saturday, October 24**. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Northwest – 2; Tri-River – 2; Valley Coast – 2; Blue Mountain – 2; Sunset – 2; East Cascades – 2; Metro East -- 2; Wapiti – 2;
- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at the conclusion of all contests on **Saturday, October 24**.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – Six additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 22-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the six highest ranked teams not already an automatic league qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the 22 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

F. **1A** – 28-Team OSAA Bracket

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – Sixteen teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 28-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before **Saturday, October 24**. Each league determines how they will select their two allotted playoff spots.
- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date** – The rankings will freeze at the conclusion of all contests on **Saturday, October 24**.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – Twelve additional teams qualify for the OSAA's 28-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the twelve highest ranked teams not already an automatic league qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings** – Once the final 28 teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

4. **[STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - HOME TEAM DESIGNATION](#)** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Fall 2018)

During all rounds of each OSAA State Championship bracket, the team with the better Adjusted Playoff Ranking (APR) shall be the designated home team.

5. **[STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – TEAM SIZE](#)** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Fall 2024)

- A. The following limitations shall apply to replacement players and maximum team sizes for team sport State Championship events, first round through championship final. **NOTE:** Only players in uniform are allowed to participate in pre-game warm-ups.
- B. **Penalties for excessive team size:** Suiting up, warming up, or playing too many players shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct and may be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.
- 6) **Volleyball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each match. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent matches. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 16; All other classifications – 14.
6. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – ADOPTED BALL** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (Fall 2010)
- The OSAA shall require that the officially adopted ball for that sport be used in all state championship contests, first round through final sites.
- A. **State Championship Contests at Home Sites.**
- 1) **Team sports (other than football).**
- a) **Procedure.** Officials shall confirm that the game balls provided by the home team are the officially adopted balls (Wilson Nova; white or multi-colored). If the home team does not have the officially adopted ball, officials shall inquire if the visiting team has the officially adopted ball and use them if they are available. If neither team has the officially adopted ball, the contest shall be played, and officials shall report the violation by the host school to the OSAA.
- b) **Penalty.** If no officially adopted balls are available for use at an OSAA state championship contest, the host school shall be subject to fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.
- B. **State Championship Contests Administered by OSAA Staff.** Officially adopted balls (Wilson Nova; OSAA will provide multi-colored balls in white/navy/red) shall be provided by OSAA staff administering the contests.

OSAA GENERAL POLICIES

RULES

Rule 3 – Contests – Sportsmanship – Crowd Control (*OSAA Handbook, Rules*)

See RULES - Athletic, Cheerleading and Dance/Drill “Rule 3-Contests-Sportsmanship-Crowd Control” in the OSAA Handbook.

Rule 7 – Out-of-Season and Non-School Activities (*OSAA Handbook, Rules*)

See RULES - Athletic, Cheerleading and Dance/Drill “Rule 7-Out of Season and Non-School Activities” in the OSAA Handbook.

EXECUTIVE BOARD POLICIES

1. **ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS / AREA-WIDE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS/AREA-WIDE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised May 2020.

2. **AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised **July 2026**.

3. **ATTACHED AND UNATTACHED COMPETITION / EXHIBITION**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “ATTACHED AND UNATTACHED COMPETITION/EXHIBITION” in the OSAA Handbook, revised August 2012.

4. **CERTIFICATION – ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “CERTIFICATION-ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised May 2024.

5. **CHARITABLE CAUSES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “CHARITABLE CAUSES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2012.

6. [CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT](#)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT” in the OSAA Handbook, revised September 2025.

[\(Medical Release – Return to Participation Following a Concussion\)](#) [\(Medical Release – Return to Learn Following a Concussion\)](#)

7. [HAIR DEVICE / ADORNMENT](#)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “HAIR DEVICE/ADORNMENT” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2022.

8. [HEAT INDEX](#)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “HEAT INDEX” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2014.

[\(Heat Index Calculator\)](#) [\(Heat Index Record\)](#)

9. [MORATORIUM WEEK](#)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “MORATORIUM WEEK” in the OSAA Handbook, revised September 2024.

10. [NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY](#)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY” in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2019.

[\(Complaint Form\)](#)

11. [SHARED FACILITIES](#)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “SHARED FACILITIES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2015.

[\(Shared Facility Request\)](#)

12. [WITHDRAWAL DURING A COMPETITION](#) *(OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies)*

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “WITHDRAWAL DURING A COMPETITION” in the OSAA Handbook.