



Volleyball

Sport Manual

2026-27 Edition

4.15 Volleyball

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4.15.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.15.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.15.1.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Volleyball Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all regular season matches involving teams participating in the Florida High School State Championship Series as well as FHSAA State Volleyball Series matches.

(a) The following modifications to those rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors.

- **Official Girls Volleyball:** Wilson Nova (**State Series Only**)
- **Official Boys Volleyball:** Wilson Helix (**State Series Only**)
- **Bench Rotation:** Teams shall remain on the same benches and same court side throughout the duration of a match. However, if playing areas are deemed to be unequal, teams shall follow the NFHS Court Protocol (Rule 9-2-2).

4.15.1.1.2 Scoring. All matches shall utilize rally scoring as follows:

- (a) **Varsity Matches** (regular season and Florida High School State Championship Series). Best 3-of-5 games; each game shall be to 25 points with the exception of the fifth game, if necessary, which shall be to 15 points. A game must be won by a two-point margin with no cap.
- (b) **Sub-Varsity Matches** (junior varsity, freshman, middle school, etc.). Best 2-of-3 games; each game shall be to 25 points with the exception of the third game, if necessary, which shall be to 15 points. A game must be won by a two-point margin with no cap.
- (c) **Invitational tournaments.** Best 2-of-3 games; each game shall be to 25 points with the exception of the third game, if necessary, which shall be to 15 points. A game must be won by a two-point margin with no cap. The host school, however, may request to play best 3-of-5 games in its tournament.

4.15.1.1.3 Taping of Fingers and Hands. Taping, at a minimum, is permitted on individual finger(s) and/or across the palm of the hand. It may not be excessive, give an advantage to a player, have any special surface, or include hard objects, plastic or splints around the fingers. No more than two fingers may be taped together at any time. “Skids” are permitted, but no other wrap around the hand or across the palm may be used.

4.15.1.1.4 Suspended Contest. A suspended contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption. Otherwise, NFHS rules regarding the resumption of suspended contests shall apply.

4.15.1.1.5 Pre-match Warm-up. A 15-minute warm-up period (7-7-1) shall precede all matches as follows:

- First seven (7) minutes – Visiting team practices on the full court; the home team may practice ball-handling outside of the six-foot area from the volleyball court sideline on a side court area with volleyballs if the facility permits (this provision does not apply to auxiliary gyms);
- Next seven (7) minutes – Home team practices on the full court; the visiting team may practice ball-handling outside of the six-foot area from the volleyball court sideline on a side court area with volleyballs if the facility permits (this provision does not apply to auxiliary gyms);
- One minute clean up – Both teams clearing the court to play.

Prior to the match officials arrival on the court for the required officials-coaches-captains meeting 20 minutes before the start of the match, teams may warm up on the court with volleyballs. Ball handling and warm-up by both teams on their respective sides of the net will be permitted provided no balls go over the net and the court is ready and supervised by the host.

4.15.1.1.6 Jamborees and Classics Format

- (a) **Jamborees.** Must include four or more varsity teams; each varsity team may play a maximum of two games (not matches), each game against a different opponent. To be held Monday through Saturday of Week 8.
- (b) **Classics.** Limited to a field of four varsity teams; each team may play a maximum of two matches (2/3 or 3/5 is host’s choice). Preseason classics and jamborees exceeding four (4) teams are subject to conditional approval by the Executive Director. To be held Monday through Saturday of Week 8).



4.15.2 Florida High School State Championship Series Procedures

4.15.2.1 District Meeting

4.15.2.1.1 Meeting Agenda. See Administrative Procedure 3.4.1

4.15.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.15.2.2.1 District Tournaments

(a) Time Schedule and Site

- (1) **Tournament Structure.** Each district bracket and seeding will be determined by the FHSAA office, based on the latest FHSAA Ranking.
- (2) **Schedule.** Each district will determine the time schedule for its tournament at the district meeting.
- (3) **Site.** Each district will determine a site for its tournament at the district meeting.

(b) Participants

- Girls: All schools will be competing in the district tournament.
- Boys: All schools will be competing in the district tournament.

No local manager is authorized to change the dates, times or order of matches as determined by the district planning meeting without written permission from the FHSAA Office.

4.15.2.2.2 Open Division and Regional Tournaments.

(a) **Open Division.** The top eight (8) teams in the overall rankings after the conclusion of the district tournaments will be pulled to compete in the Open Division Championship Tournament. All other schools will qualify for regional tournaments based on the criteria listed in FHSAA Administrative Procedure 3.3.1.

(1) **Open Division Complexes.** See Administrative Procedure 3.3.1.1.1.3.

(b) **Regional Tournament Complexes.** Regional competition will be conducted in four (4) regional complexes in each classification as follows:

- (1) Competition will be conducted in four (4) regional complexes in each classification. Districts 1-4 will comprise the Region 1 complex, Districts 5-8 the Region 2 complex, Districts 9-12 the Region 3 complex, and Districts 13-16 the Region 4 complex. One tournament will be conducted in each regional complex.

(c) **Time Schedule.** Times for the Open Division and Regional tournament games must be 7 p.m. local time during weekdays and 2 p.m. local time for games played on Saturdays. **Exceptions must be approved in writing by the FHSAA Office.**

4.15.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championship Tournament

(a) Girls.

- (1) **Dates.** Dates for the State Championship Tournament will be posted on the Girls Volleyball page of the [FHSAA website](#).

(b) Boys.

- (1) **Dates.** Dates for the State Championship Tournament will be posted on the Boys Volleyball page of the [FHSAA website](#).

4.15.2.2.4 Advancement of Winners

(a) See Administrative Procedure 3.3.1.

- (1) **District to Regional.** The champion of the 16 district tournaments and the next 4 highest-ranked teams in each of the 4 regions shall advance to one of the four regional tournaments in each classification to which they are assigned. See Administrative Procedure 3 for additional details.
- (2) **Regional to State Semifinals.** The champion from each of the four regional tournaments in each classification shall advance to the State Semifinals. See Administrative Procedure 3 for additional details.
- (3) **State Semifinals to Florida High School State Championship.** The two champions of the State Semifinals will advance to the Florida High School State Championship.

4.15.2.3 Tournament Regulations

4.15.2.3.1 Squad Size. A school participating in the FHSAA State Volleyball Series may dress up to fifteen (15) players in uniform and seven (7) team personnel on the team bench. Credentials, or complimentary admission, shall be provided to participating school personnel as follows:



- (a) Eligible players in uniform - 15
- (b) Team support (coaches, administration, managers, athletic trainers, etc.) - 7
- (c) School-based media - 2
 - During the State Championship Tournament only, two (2) credentials per team will be available at the pass gate for pickup by the qualifying team's Athletic Director.

4.15.2.3.2 Pre-match Warm-up and Procedures. The following pre-match time schedule shall be followed in all Florida High School State Championship Series matches:

First Match of Session

- 20:00 - Captain/coaches meeting and coin flip (30:00 before match start time).
- 15:00 – Visiting team begins warm-up on full court (7 minutes).
- 8:00 – Home team begins warm-up on full court (7 minutes).
- 1:00 – Both teams clearing the court to play. (1 minute).
- 0:00 – Teams report to sidelines for team huddles.
- (-2:00) – Opening Remarks/Moment of Reflection.
- (-3:00) – National Anthem.
- (-5:00) – Introduction of teams. As player's name is called, he/she runs to end line in front of his/her team bench. Visiting team non-starters, then starters. Home team non-starters, then starters. Head coaches, visitor followed by home; they shake hands in front of official table.
- (-9:00) – Referee whistles for captains and remaining starters to go to center court to shake hands. Players proceed to starting positions.
- (-10:00) – Match begins.

Second and Subsequent Match(es) of Session

- 20:00 - Captain/coaches meeting and coin flip (28:00 before match start time).
- 15:00 – Visiting team begins warm-up on full court (7 minutes).
- 8:00 – Home team begins warm-up on full court (7 minutes).
- 1:00 – Both teams clearing the court to play. (1 minute).
- 0:00 – Teams report to sidelines for team huddles.
- (-2:00) – Opening Remarks/Moment of Reflection.
- (-3:00) – Introduction of teams. As player's name is called, he/she runs to end line in front of his/her team bench. Visiting team non-starters, then starters. Home team non-starters, then starters. Head coaches, visitor followed by home; they shake hands in front of official table.
- (-7:00) – Referee whistles for captains and remaining starters to go to center court to shake hands. Players proceed to starting positions.
- (-8:00) – Match begins.

No participating team, other than the host school's team, shall be permitted onto a tournament floor for practice during the week of the district, regional, and state champion tournaments. Prior to the match officials arrival on the court for the required officials-coaches-captains meeting 20 minutes before the start of the match, teams may warm up on the court with volleyballs. Ball handling and warm-up by both teams on their respective sides of the net will be permitted provided no balls go over the net and the court is ready and supervised by the host. Teams that advance to the Florida High School State Championship Series shall not be allowed practice time on the competition court at State Finals venue other than the 15-minute pre-match warm-up.

4.15.2.3.3 Bands. Bands will not be permitted to play at matches in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

4.15.2.3.4 Cheerleaders. Cheerleaders in uniform, along with their adult sponsors, will be admitted free of charge to Florida High School State Championship Series events (i.e., contests or sessions) in which their school's team participates. The number of cheerleaders permitted will be the same as the number who cheered during varsity contests during the regular season.

4.15.3 Team Information and Up-to-Date Statistics on MaxPreps and Media Information

4.15.3.1 Team Information and Up-to-Date Statistics on MaxPreps. As per Administrative Procedure 3.9.1, schools that advance to the regional round in the Florida High School State Championship Series must update team information and have up-to-date cumulative statistics on MaxPreps or the



FHSAA's designated official scores and statistics provider. The deadline for completion is no later than noon EDT the day of the game for each round participating in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

4.15.3.2 Media Information Form. As per Administrative Procedure 3.9.2, schools whose teams qualify to advance to the Florida High School State Championship Series state semifinals and/or state finals event(s) must report by noon EDT on the Monday following the team's qualifying victory, up-to-date cumulative statistics through the end of the regional tournament and additional information by completing the "Media Information Form."

