

2024-2025 HCAL Volleyball Sports Plan

Volleyball Dates:

Date	Event	Location-Address
Week of 11/04*	Houston Regional Championship	St. Thomas University – 3800 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX 77006
Week of 11/11	Austin Regional Championship	St. Edward’s University – 3001 S. Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704 (MS – 11/11), (HS- 11/12)
11/16	HCAL State Championship	Southwestern University- Georgetown, TX 77005

*tentative

Rules/Deadlines/District Alignments/Schedules & Standings:

- Please review all of this key information directly from our [HCAL Website](#)
- The *NFHS Volleyball Officials Manual* will govern all rules not stated in this sport plan.

Game Day Logistics:

- Game Time
 - Review Official Game Schedule published on the [HCAL Website](#)
 - Any request of game time changes must be approved & communicated by only the HCAL Director
 - A 15-minute grace period will be allowed before a game is called a forfeit (if no prior communication is not received)
 - If communication is provided by the away team, then there will be no forfeit and adjustments will be made by officials to ensure games stay on time. (warmups will be limited and no more than a 30-minute grace period will be allowed)
 - Arrival more than 30 minutes with communication will be considered a forfeit.
- Game Play
 - HS Varsity will follow NFHS Guidelines - Matches will be Best out of 5 sets
 - Sets 1-4 will be played up to 25 pts. (win by 2) & capped at 30 pts.
 - Set 5 will be played up to 15 pts. (win by 2) & will not have a cap
 - MS & JV Games will be best out of 3 sets
 - Sets 1-2 will be played up to 25 pts (win by 2) & capped at 30 points.
 - Set 3 will be played to 15 pts. (win by 2) & will not have a cap
 - Uniforms Expectations
 - Individual Jersey Numbers must be on the front and the back of all the players’ jerseys.
 - Libero Position – must follow the NFHS Standards by wearing a uniform of a different color to differentiate themselves from the rest of the team.
 - Administrator on Duty
 - The home team must provide an administrator
 - Teachers, School Admin, Athletic Director/Coordinators, Counselors, or Coaches could all be the Administrator on Duty – Individual must not be directly involved in the game.



- They present themselves prior to the start of the game.
 - Admin should support officials with safety concerns/logistics and should NOT interact with officials about calls or game management.
 - Failure to so will incur in an infraction & possible forfeiture
- Net Height Requirements
 - Women's Division – 7 ft., 4 1/8 inches
 - Men's Division – 7 ft., 11 5/8 inches
 - Coaches may ask the official to measure the net height prior to the start of the game.
 - All adjustments must be made by the home team and agreed upon by both coaches prior to the start of the game (improper net height or conditions does not merit an automatic forfeit)
 - Officials have the final decision
- Warm-Up
 - MS: 3-3-2 Time Format (Visiting Team taking the net first)
 - HS: 4-4-2 Time Format (Visiting Team taking the new first)
 - HCAL Official will conduct a coin flip at the start of every match to determine service
- Bench Expectations
 - Teams will not switch between sets unless the officials determine one side has an unfair advantage.
 - Only coaches and players listed on the HCAL roster will be allowed to be on the bench.
 - Review HCAL rosters and deadlines in calendar of events and manual
 - During live play, only the 1 coach may stand on the sideline. During dead play, any coach can stand.
 - Players can stand on the sideline during play if there is not enough seating on the bench (must be behind the bench) If there is enough seating, players must be always seated.
- Line Judges:
 - Each team is responsible for providing a trained line judge for all games.
 - If one of the teams is not able to provide one, the opposing team has the discretion to choose a line judge
 - Line changes will switch after every set and should not interact with teams, fans, or coaches
 - Be engaged with proper footwear (athletic shoes)
 - No cell phone use during play
 - Officials have the authority to remove any line judge who is not meeting the expectations and that said team must replace them in timely manner.
 - Failure to meet the requirement will result in an unnecessary delay penalty (yellow card)
 - HCAL will provide the official line judges for all playoff/championship games
 - Officials:
 - Officials will be assigned/provided by HCAL for all district & playoff games only
 - Two HCAL certified officials will be used for both HS & MS
 - HCAL is responsible for official payments for district & any playoff games
 - Each school is responsible for referee payments for any additional Non-District Games.
 - Serving
 - **Varsity Level Only- To increase the competitive level, under handing serving will not be allowed at the varsity level.**
 - **You will be allowed to re-serve on the first underhand serve and will be redirected to serve overhand on the next attempt by the official.**



- **Serving underhand on the second attempt will be an automatic side out.**
- Jewelry
 - You can wear small, secured studs or post jewelry **above the chin**. No dangling jewelry including loops or chains.
 - Bracelets and necklaces are prohibited.
- Official Ball
 - Any NFHS Certified ball will be used for district play (colored ball is acceptable)
 - Home Team is responsible for providing the official game ball.
 - Both teams are responsible for bringing their own warm-up balls.
- Official Scorekeeper & Clock Operator
 - Must be trained student managers or adults – provided by the home team for all district games.
 - Game Personnel should always be professional – refrain from cheering during game play.
 - Game Personnel are part of the Officiating Crew & should act accordingly
 - Officials can remove game personnel who are not meeting expectations.
 - The home team will be responsible for providing an adequate replacement or the game could potentially be a forfeit.
 - Only the Official Scorekeeper & Clock Operator are allowed at the scores table – unless mutually agreed upon by both teams and officials
 - If a suitable scorekeeper/clock operator is not provided – this could lead to a potential forfeit
 - [Bookkeeping Training](#)
 - However – if both teams agreed to start regardless of the official personnel at the table – then the game will not be allowed to be protested
 - HCAL will provide the official scorekeeper & clock managers for all playoff & championship games
- Game Scores and Protests
 - The home team is responsible for entering the official scores into the HCAL website by noon of the next business day
 - Failure to do so will incur in an infraction
 - Protests and/or disagreements should be brought to the attention of both the Regional Liaison & Executive Director
 - Only Eligibility or Compliance will be considered for protests – Officials' calls/rulings are not allowed to be protested.

Game Day Operations:

- Admission Prices/Concessions
 - Host School will receive the admissions/concessions revenue for home games during district play
 - HCAL will receive the revenue from playoffs/championship games
- Expenses
 - The home team is responsible for the payment of athletic trainer/facility costs/security for home games during district play – highly recommended for all league games if possible
 - HCAL will provide these vendors for all Regional Championship Games Only
 - Facilities – for teams without a home facility – games will be scheduled to be played away with approval for opposing team



- Said Team will be still be designated as the home team and most coordinate with opposing team in regards to admin on duty and game management personnel.
- If the opponent does not have a home facility – it will be the responsibility of the scheduled home team to secure a facility
- HCAL will provide the venues for all Championship Events

Playoff Format:

- The First Round of the playoffs
 - Will be hosted by the winner of each district
 - Host School is responsible for providing Athletic Trainers/Security
 - HCAL will provide the officials, line judges, and official book/clock personnel
 - First Round Revenue is received by the host school (entry/concessions)
- The Second Round/Regional Championship
 - Will be played at a Neutral Site
- The State Championship Games
 - Will be held at Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX.
- HS Varsity Girls (Houston Region), HS Boys (Austin Region)
 - Top 2- Teams from each district according to the district record
 - Cross-District Format – Ex: (D1 vs. D3) (D2 vs. D4)
 - Single Elimination
 - Winner of the Regional Championship will play in the State Championship
- HS Varsity Girls (Austin Region), HS Varsity Boys (Houston)
 - Top 3 - Teams from each district according to the district record
 - District Champs – receive 1st Round Bye of the playoffs
 - Cross-District Format – Ex: (D1 vs. D2)
 - Single Elimination
 - Winner of the Regional Championship will play in the State Championship.
- HS JV Girls – **No Playoffs**
- MS Girls/MS Boys (Regional Championship Only – Houston & Austin)
 - Top 2- Teams from each district according to the district record
 - Cross-District Format – Ex: (D1 vs. D3) (D2 vs. D4)
 - Single Elimination
- Tiebreaker Policy – Playoff Qualifiers
 - Head – to – Head Results
 - Forfeitures
 - Set Differentials
 - Point Differentials
 - Coin Flip – Live Recording

HCAL Honors & Awards:

- *Team Honors*
 - District Champions
 - Regional Champions



- State Champions (HS Varsity Division Only)
- *Individual Player (All-District)*
 - District Champs – Receive 3 Nominations
 - 2nd Place – Receive 2 nominations
 - All other Teams – Receive 1 nomination
- *Individual Player (All-Region)*
 - Regional Champs – Receives 3 Nominations
 - Runner – Up Team – Receives 2 nominations
 - All other Playoff Teams – Receive 1 nomination
- *Individual Player (All-State)*
 - State Champs – Receives 3 Nominations
 - Runner – Up Team – Receives 2 nominations
- *All-Academic Team*
 - Any athlete with a 3.75 GPA or higher during the season
- *Coach of the Year Award*
 - Awarded to the Head Coach of the State Championship Team

Professional Dress – Coaches/Administrators:

- Business casual – school polos and nice khakis shorts
- Jeans, t-shirts, cargo pants/shorts, tights, or athletic shorts are **NOT Acceptable**
- Thank you all for always representing your school and the HCAL brand in a positive manner.

