



2025 MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT VOLLEYBALL RULES

MSCR is providing officials for all games of the tournament. Their judgment is final. MSCR expects all players, coaches and spectators to respect the officials and to cheer for players. Please adhere to these expectations:

- Recognize and acknowledge good performances made by both teams.
- Be humble and not boastful in victory. Be gracious and not bitter in defeat.

NET HEIGHT

Nets are set to Women's Height - 7'4 1/8"

TOURNAMENT STYLE: Two-game guarantee

Teams that lose their first game are moved into a separate consolation bracket to play a second game. The winner of the consolation bracket plays the winner of the winner's bracket for the championship.

ROSTER SIZE

This is an all-gender program. Six players will constitute a full team on the court. A team may start with 5 players, if a 6th player arrives they must enter the game at the first legal opportunity. Only players listed on the team roster will be allowed to play.

MATCH LENGTH

A match will consist of a best of three sets. If a team wins the first two sets the 3rd set will not be played.

SCORING

- "Rally Scoring" will be used for all play. Rally scoring means a point is awarded following each serve. The point is awarded to the team that "won" the point.
- The first two sets will play to 25 points with a cap of 30 points. *This means you must win by 2 points up to 30, after that you may win by 1 point.*
- The third set will play to 15 points with no cap. *You must win this game by 2 points*

SUBSTITUTIONS

- A "bench" will be provided for all players not currently on the court. All players should be seated until they rotate in. Teams should rotate all players into and out of the game so all players play 25% of the match.
- Teams may rotate into only one position at one time. No substitutions are allowed (except to replace an injured player who may not re-enter during that game once they leave for an injury; substitute someone waiting to rotate in.)
- Teams are asked to help keep track of their own substitutions and compliance with the 5-serve rule (see *Service Rules*).

SERVICE RULES

- All serves must be from the baseline. The server must remain behind the end line until after they have struck the ball.
- A 5-serve maximum rule per player will be used but in keeping with the true spirit of rally scoring we will not penalize a team with a side-out. If a player serves 5 consecutive times, the serving team will keep the serve but be required to rotate to the next server.
- Either an overhand or underhand serving will be allowed.
 - If an underhand serve is used, only one attempt will be allowed.
 - Re-Serve: If an overhand serve is used, one reserve, or “do-over” will be allowed if:
 - o the ball is thrown in the air and the server catches or drops it or
 - o the ball does not clear the net or
 - o the ball does not go between the antennae
 - o the ball goes between the antennae and then out of bounds on the sideline or hitting the ceiling.The re-serve may be either overhand or underhand. NOTE: the re-serve is only allowed on the first point served.
- 8-1.6: A re-serve shall be called when the server releases the ball for service, then catches it or it drops to the floor. The referee shall cancel the serve and direct a second and last attempt at the serve.

OTHER RULES REGARDING PLAY

- **Defensive Specialist or “Libero”** – It is the belief of MSCR that at our level, participating student athletes should have the chance to play all positions, and we will not institute the use of a Libero or Defensive Specialist.
- Players must play a minimum of 25% of each match.
- Each team may be asked to supply a line judge at the opposite end of the court.
- No hats or watches. Small, secured stud jewelry above the chin is permitted. No hoop or dangling earrings.
- Each team is allowed one time out per set.
- Teams will switch sides every set. If there is a third set, a coin flip will be used to determine side and serve.
- Players and coaches should shake hands at the end of the match.

High School (NFHS) rules are the basis for our playing rules.

- **Let Serve** is allowed. *A Let Serve is when the ball hits the net, continues over and is to be played by the receiving team.*
- **NFHS Rule 9-5.7:** A player may touch the floor across the center line with one or both feet/hands provided a part of the foot/feet or hand(s) remains on or above the center line. Contacting the floor across the center line with any other part of the body is illegal.
- **NFHS Rule 9-6.7a:** A net fault occurs while the ball is in play and A player contacts any part of the net including net cables or antennas. It is not a fault when a player’s loose hair touches the net, or the force of a ball hit by an appointment pushes the net or net cables into a player.
- **NFHS Rule 9-4.8c (NEW):** Multiple contacts are more than one contact by a player during one attempt to play the ball. Multiple contacts are permitted only: on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate. Rationale: This eliminates the judgment call of a multiple contact fault and allows for play to continue when multiple contacts on the second contact does not create an advantage for the offending team.

Questions? Please contact Michelle Borkovec at mborkovec@madison.k12.wi.us or (608) 204-3019