

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE  
30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, Connecticut 06410  
Telephone (203) 250-1111 / Fax (203) 250-1345  
[www.ciacsports.com](http://www.ciacsports.com)

25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 2026 CIAC BOYS VOLLEYBALL INFORMATION

**CIAC Boys Volleyball Committee Chair**

Ed Lavoie  
Teachers Memorial Middle School  
[elavoie@norwichpublicschools.org](mailto:elavoie@norwichpublicschools.org)

**CIAC Boys Volleyball Tournament Director**

Matt Martorelli  
(860) 335-7846  
Email – [martorellim@fpsct.org](mailto:martorellim@fpsct.org)

**Boys Volleyball Officials Coordinator**

**Tournament Assignor**

Heather Kursman  
Cell – (860) 558-9966  
Email – [hkcbvo@hotmail.com](mailto:hkcbvo@hotmail.com)

**State Rules Interpreter**

Jim Borbas  
[jamborjr@gmail.com](mailto:jamborjr@gmail.com)

**CIAC Liaison for Volleyball**

Joe Velardi  
(203) 250-1111 Ext. 3903  
[jvelardi@casciac.org](mailto:jvelardi@casciac.org)

Important Dates	2
Alerts	2
2025-26 National Federation Volleyball Rules Revisions	3
1.0 Scheduling	4
2.0 Divisions	4
3.0 Regular Season Guidelines	4
4.0 Tournament Dates / Sites / Meet Directors	5
5.0 Tournament Entry Procedure	6
6.0 Expenses / Tickets	7
7.0 Forfeits	7
8.0 Officials	8
9.0 Protests	8
10.0 Qualifying for the Tournament	9
11.0 Ranking and Seeding	9
12.0 Supervision / Sportsmanship During Tournament	10
13.0 Time of Tournament Games	12
14.0 Tournament Rules / Procedures	12
15.0 Coaches Manual for Volleyball Contests	13
Certifications / Coaching Certifications	18

## IMPORTANT DATES

Change of Division Request Due		Friday, March 20, 2026
Date of First Practice		Saturday, March 21, 2026
Date of First Contest		Saturday, April 4, 2026
Last Date to Add Games		Friday, April 3, 2026
Team Roster Due		Saturday, April 4, 2026
Officials Selection Forms Due		Thursday, May 21, 2026
Last Date to Count		Thursday, May 28, 2026
Rankings and Pairings Available on CIAC Site		Friday, May 29, 2026
School Conflict with any tournament dates are due to Tournament Director by		Friday, May 29, 2026 (4:00 p.m.)
First Round	Class S & L	Monday, June 1, 2026
	Class M	Tuesday, June 2, 2026
Second Round	Class S & L	Wednesday, June 3, 2026
	Class M	Thursday, June 4, 2026
Quarter-finals	Class S & L	Friday, June 5, 2026
	Class M	Saturday, June 6, 2026
Semi-finals		Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Finals		Thursday, June 11, 2026; Friday, June 12, 2026 (Saturday, June 13 if needed)

## ALERTS

1. **New! Three Divisions** – Beginning with the 2026 season there will be three (3) divisions for boys' volleyball.
2. **New! Regular Season Scores** – All regular season meet scores MUST be entered online on the day of the game as soon as possible following the game's completion.
  - **Scores must be entered on the new CIAC website at <https://ciac.fpsports.org/>.**
  - Click the menu icon on the upper left of the page to show the menu.
  - In the left hand column select "Schedules – High School".
  - At the top of the page select the school and "Boys Volleyball Varsity" as the sport, then the team's schedule will be displayed.
  - Click on the green score entry button to make the entries.
  - Only logged in users with security permission to enter scores for this sport will see the score entry button for their school's meets.
  - The system will display a score entry screen that is specific for boys' volleyball.
  - Enter the team scores.
3. School conflicts with any tournament date must be reported to the Tournament Director by Friday, May 29, 2026 (by 4:00 p.m.).

See information on changing match dates and times (Section 4.8) **\*Notices of conflict will be considered but are not necessarily granted. Teams in quarter-final games must inform the tournament director of any conflicts for semi-final games. Notice must be received no later than the date specified under "Important Dates". If no conflict is given to the tournament director, semi-final games will be assigned and no alterations to the semi-final contests will be made.**

4. No line judges for regular season matches will be assigned by the officials' assigner. Teams can request line judges but will only be assigned if they are available. Line judges will be assigned for quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final tournament games.
5. High school students are not permitted to serve as line judges for any CIAC match at any level. Schools may elect to use no line judges. Trained adults or CIAC volleyball officials may be hired by the school for matches. Line judges cannot be parents of players.
6. **New!** Scorebooks must be NFHS compliant. Electronic scorebooks are permissible as long as they are NFHS compliant.
7. **New! Tournament Game Balls** – The home team will be required to furnish two (2) Spalding VB5 multi-colored balls per NFHS regulations. These must be leather balls. Textured balls are not permitted. No other ball may be used for tournament play. If the home team cannot provide the proper ball the visiting team can provide the game ball. Officials will check the ball prior to the start of the game.
8. **New! Game Balls** – Only leather game balls are permitted for regular season games. Textured or synthetic balls are not allowed.

### **2025-26 NATIONAL FEDERATION VOLLEYBALL RULE REVISIONS**

**3-2-1 Note (New)** – Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, state associations may adopt the use of a non-smooth or textured volleyball.

**Rationale** – Allows either boys or girls to adopt a textured volleyball with no restrictions on color or shape of panels to be inclusive of all current textured volleyballs on the market.

**4-2-1h(3), 4-2-1i(2)** – Team members may wear black, white or gray undergarments in addition to undergarments that match the predominant color of the uniform top/bottom under the uniform top and/or bottom. All team members, other than the libero, wearing an undergarment must wear the same color.

**Rationale** – Aligns with other NFHS rules codes allowing athletes to wear more commonly found colors of undergarments.

**4-2-4d, f** – Beginning July 1, 2029, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top eliminating the measurement requirements from the shoulder seam and neckline.

**Rationale** – Removes officials from the position of measuring uniforms to verify the legal distance of the number from the shoulder or neckline, creates consistency in number placement, and allows for number placement variances due to player body types.

**5-3-2b, 5-5-3b(9)** – Eliminates the requirement for the second referee to carry and use a lineup card to check the starting lineups.

**Rationale** – Allows veteran officials to use each coach's submitted lineup sheet to check the starting lineup while allowing the use of the lineup card as a training tool for newer officials to assist with tracking rotations during the match.

**9-4-8c (New)** – Eliminates the judgment call of a multiple contact fault in a single attempt to play the ball on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

**Rationale** – Allows for play to continue when multiple contacts on the second contact does not create an advantage for the offending team.

**10-4 Penalties 1** -Changes the penalty administration for an illegal libero replacement to an unnecessary delay if identified before contact of serve and an illegal alignment if identified after contact for serve.

**Rationale** – Aligns the penalty for an illegal libero replacement with the definition of illegal alignment which occurs on contact of serve.

## **2025-26 VOLLEYBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES**

4-1 & 4-2 Penalties; 4-2-4c; 7-2a; 7-4; 7-1-4 Penalties 1 & 2; Signal 1

## **2025-26 VOLLEYBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. Lineup Card
2. Ball Handling
3. First Referee Assigning Line Judges
4. Uniforms – Contrasting Colors

### **1.0 SCHEDULING**

- 1.1 Only games played against CIAC member school VARSITY teams and eligible out-of-state schools are recognized for tournament qualification. Games scheduled with CLUB or NON-CIAC member school teams may not be counted toward tournament qualification but are counted toward CIAC season and weekly limitations.
- 1.2 Coaches who coach both CIAC girls and boys volleyball teams during the same year may not permit team players to practice / participate / compete in any way on both teams.
- 1.3 **Schedules** - Games cannot be added to the schedule after the date of the first contest.
- 1.4 **Scrimmages** - Teams must have a minimum of three (3) days of practice prior to scheduling a full team scrimmage. All sports teams and individual athletes must have a minimum of ten (10) physical/exertional practice days with their school before the date of the first scheduled competition. No team/athlete shall practice/compete with their school more than six (6) consecutive days to provide a day of rest. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays may be used unless prohibited by local board policy. Sunday practices may be counted to fulfill the ten (10) day requirement.

### **2.0 DIVISIONS**

- 2.1 Only institutional members of the Conference may enter this tournament. The tournament will be in three (3) divisions. Placement of schools has been based on the 2024-25 boy enrollment.

L Division – 697 and Over      M Division – 522-696      S Division – Up to 521

### **3.0 REGULAR SEASON GUIDELINES**

- 3.1 **Fan Behavior and Respect for the Game** – Good sporting conduct is an integral part of the interscholastic volleyball program. The rules of volleyball state that any type of cheering, yelling or other actions which are done in a manner to disconcert, be derogatory or taunting toward the opposing team or a specific player is considered inappropriate. Cheering and other support should

always be positive. Inappropriate behavior, if not addressed, allows for a loss of respect for the game and players. **Disruptive behavior may result in ejection from the event.**

- 3.2 **Track the Libero** – The home team provides the tracking of the libero for both teams, even if the home team does not use a libero.
- 3.3 **Flags** - Schools are required to have flags available for lines people.
- 3.4 **Outside Tournament or Events** – CIAC member school athletes in the sport of volleyball may not participate in any outside tournament or event during the CIAC season. This includes two on two, three on three, beach volleyball or other similar events/tournaments. Participation in such events will result in loss of eligibility for the athlete and possible forfeits of games played by the school in which the athlete played after participation in an outside event.
- 3.5 **Electronic devices** in any form may not be attached to any piece of volleyball equipment during CIAC volleyball contests.
- 3.6 **Disqualifications** - All coaches who are disqualified at any level will be suspended for the next two games (see page 96 in the CIAC Handbook), take two NFHS coaching courses (“Teaching and Modeling Behavior” and “Sportsmanship”) and the school will pay a \$50 fine. In addition to the two-game suspension and fine, the CIAC reserves the right to review any incident that results in a coach’s disqualification and may assess additional game suspensions up to and including a one-year ban. The fine and proof of taking the coaching courses must be submitted to the CIAC office before the coach can resume their coaching responsibilities.
- 3.7 **New!** – Scorebooks must be NFHS compliance. Electronic scorebooks are permissible as long as they are NFHS compliant.
- 3.8 **New! Game Balls** – Only leather game balls are permitted for regular season games. Textured or synthetic balls are not allowed.

#### 4.0 **TOURNAMENT DATES / SITES / MEET DIRECTORS**

- 4.1 **Sites** – For first round and quarter-final matches the higher ranked school will provide the site. If the higher ranked school does not have a site which conforms to National Federation Rules the tournament director will decide where the match will be played, in which event match expenses and officials fees will be paid by the CIAC.
- 4.2 **For semi-final and final games** – Site selection priority for semi-final matches will be at a neutral site. No consideration will be given to previous experience at the facility. The higher ranked team will be declared the home team in all situations. If a neutral site cannot be attained, the higher ranked team will provide the site.
- 4.3 **Athletic Trainers** – Home teams will provide athletic trainers through the quarter-finals. For semi-final and final games teams are responsible for providing their own trainer.
- 4.4 **Expenses** – CIAC established expenses beginning with the quarter-final round will be paid by CIAC.
- 4.5 **Date Conflicts** – Any potential school conflicts with any tournament dates must be given to the tournament director by the date listed under “Important Dates”! Conflicts reported after this date and time will not be honored.

**\*Notices of conflict will be considered but are not necessarily granted. Notice must be received no later than the date specified under “Important Dates”. If no conflict is given to the tournament director, games will be assigned and no alterations to contests will be made.**

## 5.0 **TOURNAMENT ENTRY PROCEDURE**

- 5.1 **Regular Season Scores** – All regular season meet scores MUST be entered online on the day of the game as soon as possible following the game’s completion
- Scores must be entered on the new CIAC website at <https://ciac.fpsports.org/>.
  - Click the menu icon on the upper left part of the page to show the menu.
  - In the left hand column select “Schedules – High School”.
  - At the top of the page select the school and “Boys Volleyball Varsity” as the sport, then the team’s schedule will be displayed.
  - Click on the green score entry button to make the entries.
  - Only logged in users with security permission to enter scores for this sport will see the score entry button for their school’s meets.
  - The system will display a score entry screen that is specific for boys’ volleyball.
  - Enter the team scores.

**Member schools must make every effort to complete their season as scheduled, including make-up games. Any effort to gain an advantage in tournament play by not playing a game is unacceptable and is subject to action by the CIAC Board of Control. Cancellation of any regular season contest/make-up to play in a league tournament will not be allowed.**

- 5.2 **Change of Division Request** – Optional, if filed must be submitted by the date listed under “Important Dates”. Schools electing to move up a division must remain in that division for a period of three (3) years. The boys volleyball committee has the authority to approve or deny all requests. Schools may only move up in division. No school may move down.

**\*Athletic directors wanting to change divisions must send a letter (email) to Joe Velardi at [jvelardi@casciac.org](mailto:jvelardi@casciac.org). It must be received by the date specified under “Important Dates”.**

- 5.3 **Team Roster Form** – Rosters must be submitted by the date listed under “Important Dates”. **Each school will be allowed eighteen (18) boys maximum on the team roster.**

Coaches need an access log in from your athletic director to complete the form. To complete the team roster form:

- Go to the CIAC website at [casciac.org](http://casciac.org)
- Click the menu icon on the upper left of the website
- In the left-hand column select “Eligibility Center”
- Select “Team Roster/Tournament Roster”
- Check off each player that is on your roster

- 5.4 **Entry Fee** – There is a \$100 entry fee per school. Checks are to be made payable to CIAC and must be mailed to the CIAC, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410. If a team does not qualify for the tournament, the entry fee will be returned.

### 5.5 **CIAC Late Entry Policy**

- No tournament entries will be accepted after the established deadline except those approved by the CIAC Board of Control.
- Corrections requested by a school to an entry form that was submitted by the established deadline but prior to seeding/pairing data being published on the web site, will be assessed a fee of \$50 per correction to a maximum of \$250.
- All requests for corrections must be submitted on a support ticket via the online eligibility center. No phone request will be considered.

### 6.0 **EXPENSES / TICKETS**

- 6.1 Expenses for all first round matches will be borne by the participating teams. The host team will pay all game expenses including officials and shall provide the site director who should be someone other than the coach. The visiting team will pay its own traveling expenses.
- 6.2 Quarter-final games will be played at the site of the higher ranked team. The site director fee and the game officials will be paid by CIAC. In addition, CIAC will reimburse each host school expenses for essential personnel (i.e. ticket seller, ticket taker, etc.) submitted on the game reporting form up to a maximum of \$160.
- 6.3 Schools will bear all traveling expenses.
- 6.4 The host school will pay all official and lines person fees for first round matches. CIAC will pay all official and lines person expenses for quarter-final, semi-final and final matches.
- 6.5 Charges for admission for quarter-final, semi-final and final games will be: \*(Subject to change)
- \$5.00 - Senior Citizens (Age 65 and older)
  - \$5.00 - Students (Grades 1-12)
  - \$10.00 – Adults (All others not in the above categories)
  - Free - Children five (5) and under
  - Free - Military in uniform or with I.D.
- 6.6 If in the first round games schools wish to charge admission they should notify the principal and/or athletic director of the visiting school in advance.
- 6.7 During the tournament, the following passes will be honored at all games where an admission is charged.
- a. CIAC Volleyball Pass (Head Varsity Boys Volleyball Coaches must request by email to Judy Sylvester at - [jsylvester@casciac.org](mailto:jsylvester@casciac.org))
  - b. Principal (or designee) and athletic director of participating schools
  - c. CIAC volleyball officials membership card
  - d. Press card

### 7.0 **FORFEITS**

The CIAC rules for forfeits have been changed and are included in the CIAC Handbook.

## 8.0 **OFFICIALS**

- 8.1 By the date listed as “Officials Form Due” under “Important Dates”, each varsity head coach, regardless of won or loss record is invited to submit a list of three (3) officials who are judged to be tournament caliber. In addition three officials may be listed who should not work tournament games.

In order to complete the officials selection process:

- Go to [casciac.org](http://casciac.org)
  - Click the menu icon on the upper left of the website
  - In the left-hand column click “Eligibility Center”
  - Click “Officials Voting”
  - At the top of the page select boys’ volleyball
- 8.2 The CIAC Officials Coordinator will hire game officials for tournament games including quarter-final, semi-final and final matches. The first round will be scheduled by the local official’s assigner. The CIAC Officials Coordinator will hire lines persons for the quarter-final, semi-final and final matches.
- 8.3 No line judges for regular season matches will be automatically assigned by the officials’ assigner. Teams can request line judges but will only be assigned if they are available. Line judges will be assigned for quarter-finals, semi-finals and final tournament games.
- 8.4 Each team must bring competent scorers for each match. Certified volleyball officials will be used as lines judges for all quarter-final, semi-final and final matches.
- 8.5 For the finals only, a libero tracker will be assigned by the CIAC.
- 8.6 High school students are not permitted to serve as line judges for any CIAC match at any level. Schools may elect to use no line judges. Trained adults or CIAC volleyball officials may be hired by the school for matches. Line judges cannot be parents of players.

## 9.0 **PROTESTS**

- 9.1 Each sport committee will establish a protest committee whose purpose will be to adjudicate all protests relating to the operation of the tournament, including the application and administration of tournament regulations. National Federation or CIAC game rule interpretations and judgments by the game officials cannot be protested. The protest committee for each sport shall consist of the Assistant Executive Director for CIAC, the Chairman of the tournament committee, an administrator member of the sport committee, the tournament director and the coaches’ chairman on the sport committee. All protest committee decisions are appealable to the CIAC Board of Control as provided in the CIAC by-laws.
- 9.2 On the eve of a tournament when there is not sufficient time for normal administrative procedures and Board of Control hearings, if a question on interpretation of tournament regulations or the operation of the tournament arises, the Chairman of the CIAC Board of Control, the Executive Director of CIAC, and the chairman of the tournament in question will make an appropriate ad hoc decision in consideration of the best interest of the tournament as a whole.

- 9.3 **Decisions by Game Officials** – Protests arising from the decisions, interpretations and misapplication of the National Federation or CIAC game rules by officials during the contest will not be considered. The decisions and interpretations of the rules by the officials are final.

The record of the official scorekeeper at the conclusion of the contest is final unless an error is discovered. Such error shall be corrected as covered by specific contest rules.

Any team leaving the contest area before the conclusion of the contest because of dissatisfaction with the officiating will render the school liable to disciplinary action by the CIAC.

## 10.0 **QUALIFYING FOR THE TOURNAMENT**

- 10.1 To be eligible for consideration in the tournament, a team must play a minimum of twelve (12) matches against CIAC member school VARSITY opponents or eligible out-of-state schools and have won 40% of its approved scheduled games played. Only the first two games played with any single opponent will count for tournament purposes.
- 10.2 Only matches played with Conference member schools, or Region I out-of-state schools who are members of their state athletic association shall be considered.
- 10.3 Matches played with non-member Connecticut secondary schools shall NOT be considered in the rating of teams.

## 11.0 **RANKING AND SEEDING**

- 11.1 Teams will be ranked in each division based on power rating divided by number of games played.
- Step 1 - determine the power rating for each school in the division.
  - Step 2 - determine the number of games played by each school.
  - Step 3 - divide the power rating by the number of games played.
  - Step 4 - rank schools by power rating/games played.

\*Power ratings will be carried out to three decimals.

**Example:** 17 wins and 1 loss with a power rating of 145. Games played = 18. Power rating/games played is 8.056 (8.0555 rounded up to 8.056).

- First tie break is head-to-head competition. (Based on match(s) won not score or sets.)
- Second tie break is win percentage.
- Third tie break is number of wins.
- Final tie break is by lot.

### Definitions / Clarifications:

- **Most Wins** – Example: A 10-10 team would secure the higher ranking over a 9-9 teams.
- **Power Rating** – Each school is assigned a power rating based on the records of the school(s) that they beat. Schools receive one point in their power rating for each win each of the opponents they have defeated has during the season. The total number of wins of all the opponents you defeat will be your power rating.

**For example:** If Team A wins 10 games during the season and those 10 opponents have 13, 12, 11, 10, 10, 7, 7, 7, 6 and 4 wins, Team A's power rating would be 87. The team with the higher power rating will secure the higher ranking.

- Notes:**
- If a school defeats a team twice, it will receive the number of wins that opponent has twice in its power rating.
  - The maximum number of power rating points a school can receive for a win is 19, which is the maximum number of victories a CIAC school can have in a season given that they lost to your school.
  - If a school defeats an out-of-state school, the school will receive 10 points in its power rating.
  - Power rankings will be carried out 3 decimal points.

- **By-lot Tiebreaker Number** – If a tie remains, the team securing the higher ranking will be determined electronically by lot using computer assigned random tiebreaker numbers to be set at the start of the season. The team with the greater tiebreaker number will secure the higher ranking.

11.2 A team maintains its initial percentage ranking throughout the tournament.

11.3 The tournament will be conducted in traditional single elimination format.

<u>First Round</u>	<u>Second Round</u>	<u>Quarter-finals</u>	<u>Semi-finals</u>	<u>Finals</u>
1 vs 32				
16 vs 17	1 vs 16			
		1 vs 8		
8 vs 25				
9 vs 24	8 vs 9		1 vs 4	
4 vs 29				
13 vs 20	4 vs 13			
		4 vs 5		
5 vs 28				
12 vs 21	5 vs 12			
2 vs 31				1 vs 2
15 vs 18	2 vs 15			
7 vs 26		2 vs 7		
10 vs 23	7 vs 10			
3 vs 30			2 vs 3	
14 vs 19	3 vs 14			
6 vs 27		3 vs 6		
11 vs 22	6 vs 11			

11.4 Ranking and pairings information will be distributed to coaches via the CIAC web site on the date listed under “Important Dates”.

12.0 **SUPERVISION / SPORTSMANSHIP DURING THE TOURNAMENT**

12.1 **Crowd Control and Supervision** – In the interest of crowd control and proper supervision the CIAC Board of Control has approved the tournament regulation requiring the principals of the participating schools or his/her designee to attend all tournament matches. The school administrator or designee MUST identify him/herself to the site director and follow the CIAC Tournament Handbook Guidelines concerning crowd control.

- 12.2 **Coach Ejection** – When a member school’s coach is ejected from a game for an infraction as prescribed by the rules, the game may not continue until the member school replaces the ejected coach with a certified coach. If this cannot be accomplished within 15 minutes after the ejection, the official in charge will declare a forfeit win for the opposing team.
- 12.3 Use of tobacco products or the possession of alcoholic beverages of any kind, including champagne, are not permitted at any of the sites. The principal or his/her designee at the match shall see that this rule is enforced and adhered to by the teams.
- 12.4 **Bench Conduct**
- Personnel** – Only coaches, players, and other team members, will be allowed in the bench area.
- Conduct** – Follow all applicable rules. In addition, no unnecessary items at the bench that can be a distraction or safety issue.
- 12.5 **Uniforms** – Team members in uniform as well as sub-varsity members identified by the coach will be admitted to the event. Coaches, managers and cheerleaders accompanying the team will be admitted free of charge to each game. Bands and other musical groups, noisemakers that might interfere with the performance of the match, and banners or streamers are prohibited and each school principal or his/her designee is responsible for compliance with this regulation.
- 12.6 **CIAC Tournament Site Media Policy** – The CIAC places tremendous value on the role the media plays in promoting and highlighting high school sports. To that purpose CIAC tournament venues and hosts should make every effort to provide a working environment conducive to all media (print, broadcast and internet based) covering our events. The following are **minimum standards**, developed in consultation with the CIAC Media Advisory Committee, which should be provided for working media at all CIAC tournament sites:
- 1) A minimum of one hour following the conclusion of post-game interviews to write in the press box, press area or a suitable facility in close proximity to the site of the event (i.e. office, classroom, etc.)
  - 2) Access to electric power (shared power strip, etc.)
  - 3) Access to wireless internet service
- Site directors should communicate these requirements to any staff person who may be responsible for the administration of the event. If for some reason a site will not be able to provide these items for a contest, a site representative should inform the CIAC in advance and work with the media on site before the game and work to provide a reasonable solution to the issue. Members of the media who will be covering events are directed to contact the appropriate site as far in advance as possible to inform them they will be at the event and discuss what arrangements will be made for working media at the site.
- 12.7 **Coaches Apparel** – All team coaches are expected to dress appropriately for tournament competition. T-shirts, sweat pants, blue jeans and caps/hats are among the items prohibited during tournament play. Dress shorts are acceptable.
- 12.8 **CIAC Sportsmanship** – Member schools are expected to conduct their relations with each other at all levels of competition in a spirit of good sportsmanship. Everyone involved has the obligation to see clearly his/her influence and act accordingly. The CIAC acknowledges that the school administration is responsible for the athletic program, including the making of broad and specific

policies and procedures relating to sportsmanship and the conduct of activities in the school. To that end, the CIAC urges each school principal to adopt the following sportsmanship procedures and standards for their school and to champion the “Class Act” sportsmanship program as these standards will be used in all CIAC post-season contests.

CIAC Sportsmanship Guidelines can be found at the [CIAC Class Act website](#).

### 13.0 **TIME OF TOURNAMENT GAMES**

- 13.1 All tournament matches until the semi-finals will be scheduled at 6:00 p.m. The starting times for semi-final and final matches will be announced. The time of the matches scheduled on Saturday or a holiday will be at the discretion of the tournament director.

Adjustments to second round and quarter-final starting times, dates or sites must be mutually agreed upon.

Athletic Directors should contact the Official’s Assigner and the Tournament Director before changing the start time of a tournament match.

- 13.2 All requests for date or time changes must be mutually agreed upon. Changes must be reported to the CIAC and to the Tournament Director.

### 14.0 **TOURNAMENT RULES / PROCEDURES**

- 14.1 All contests shall be governed by the National Federation volleyball rules. All matches will be the best three-out-of-five in duration – winners advance. Rally scoring will be in place for all matches.

- 14.2 The home team will be required to furnish two (2) Spalding VB5 multi-colored balls per NFHS regulations. These must be leather balls. Textured balls are not permitted. No other ball may be used for tournament play. If the home team cannot provide the proper ball the visiting team can provide the game ball. Officials will check the ball prior to the start of the game.

- 14.3 The decisions of the volleyball committee relative to the operation of the tournament shall be final.

- 14.4 Padding, as specified in the National Federation Rules, must be on the standards, and referee’s platform.

- 14.5 **Tournament Regulations Violations** – If a school fails to comply with tournament regulations and such requires the CIAC tournament sports committee, central office staff, or the CIAC Board of Control to redo any portion of the tournament pairings or such non-compliance adversely impacts the management of the tournament, an administrative violation fee of \$500 will be imposed upon the school before entry into the tournament will be allowed.

- 14.6 **Call in Tournament Scores** – All tournament game scores must be called into the tournament director immediately following the match by the winning coach.

- 14.7 **Athletic Trainers** - Home team provides trainers through the quarter-final games. For semi-final and finals teams are responsible for providing their own trainer.

- 14.8 **Students with Special Needs** – Coaches are reminded to inform contest officials prior to each competition of any student with special needs who could be competing in the contest when his/her disability could impact the individual’s performance or the conduct of the competition.

## 15.0 **COACHES MANUAL FOR CIAC VOLLEYBALL CONTESTS**

### 15.1 **Match Play - CIAC**

- 1) Follow NFHS Rules ( [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)) and CIAC Rules.
- 2) Varsity – Best three (3) out of five (5) sets. Four sets to 25 points, deciding set to 15 points.
- 3) Sub-varsity (JV, FR, MS): Best two (2) out of three (3) sets. All sets to 25 points.
- 4) All levels, all sets are win by two (2) points.
- 5) For JV/V or V/JV contests when visitor is late:
  - If visitor arrives late whereby the first match can start no later than 30 minutes after scheduled start time, then JV/V matches played as normal.
  - If visitor arrives late whereby the first match will start after the 30 minute extended deadline, then the JV match will be three sets of 15, 15, 15 points.
  - It doesn't matter if host school plays JV or V first, scenarios above apply either way
  - A courtesy call from visiting coach/school to the home coach/school is expected.
- 6) If one gym for FR, JV and V contests back-to-back:
  - FR and JV three sets are 25 points, 25 points and 15 points. (Varsity played as normal.)
  - If visitor is up to 30 minutes late, then all three FR sets are to 15 points.
  - If visitor is more than 30 minutes late, then coaches can choose one of two options:
    - (1) FR and JV matches all three sets to 15 points and Varsity played as normal; or
    - (2) Cancel FR match, play JV match 25 points, 25 points, 15 points, and Varsity as normal.
- 7) A courtesy call from late visiting coach/school to home coach/school is expected.

### 15.2 **Pre-Match**

- 1) Home team determines their team bench and side of court.
- 2) When a home team enters the gym to music and fanfare, they must do so from their side of the gym to avoid contact with the visitor's side of the court/gym. Teams are not allowed to enter gym from opponent's side and run around or through their court area. (This is to prevent intimidation, taunting or unsporting behavior from either team.) ALL levels.
- 3) Courts with center logos that do not have a clearly marked center line MUST be taped with 2" wide floor tape. (Court tape preferred.)
- 4) For the pre-match conference/coin toss: In the absence of the head coach, a designated assistant or administrator may serve in that capacity. Upon arrival, the head coach will inform the officials that they will take over all privileges granted to a head coach.
- 5) During the pre-match conference a clock operator, scorer & tracker should be present at the officials' table.

### 15.3 **Equipment / Net**

- 1) Properly assembled and safe.
- 2) Net standards and officials stand padded per NFHS rules, up to about six feet.
- 3) Stand padding on all structures up to six feet, the platform strong and as level as possible.
- 4) Net top and bottom should be secured tightly with as little give as possible.
- 5) Antennas should be easily adjustable – easily removed and easily attached.
- 6) Antennas line-up with the outer edge of the court side line. Any 2" strap/support goes on the inside to line-up with the 2" court sideline. (Any sharp or loose areas should be taped.)

#### 15.4 **Score Table**

- 1) The table should be centered with respect to the net/center line when possible and at least six (6) feet from the sideline. (Ten foot minimum preferred.)
- 2) The front of the table should be in line with the front of the team benches/chairs, when possible, to establish a clear straight line for determining playable and non-playable areas. (Adjustments may be made where electrical floor connections are made.)
- 3) The table must be long enough to accommodate chairs for: clock operator, home scorekeeper, announcer, visitor's scorekeeper, and home libero tracker. No other people should be at the table.
- 4) A clock operator must be present for all timed intervals during warm-ups.
- 5) A back-up, flip scoreboard immediately available in the vicinity of the score table.
- 6) Two leather game balls with NFHS approved logo. (Large gym please provide ball helpers)
- 7) Provide one large towel for the \$2 to administer moisture mitigation on the game ball and court surface.
- 8) Flags available and provided by host school.
- 9) No cell phones, earbuds, food or open liquid containers at the score table. A device for music is acceptable.

#### 15.5 **Score Books**

- 1) NFHS approved score books/sheets must be used for all contests.
- 2) Approved scorebooks are in order of preference: Cramer/NFHS, Big Red, or Scott's.
- 3) Electronic scorebooks are allowed as long as they are NFHS compliant.
- 4) The head referee can designate the visitor's scorebook as the official match record if necessary.
- 5) Coaches are responsible for training scorekeepers and libero trackers prior to the first contest using NFHS Rules Book, NFHS videos, and instruction page at the beginning of the scorebook.

#### 15.6 **Team Benches**

- 1) The bench starts from the attack line extended and may continue beyond the endline.
- 2) There should be enough seating for rostered players and coaching staff of each team. If not, host management must provide more seating prior to start of contest. Student managers with specific duties may sit on the bench if seating is available, otherwise they must move to the team's designated bleacher.
- 3) Players are not allowed to sit on the floor or stand at the end of bench, behind bench or during a rally.
- 4) Players/students are not allowed to sit on the floor, or stand on the floor at the end of benches nor in a playable area. They are not allowed to stand behind the bench during play.
- 5) During varsity contests, JV players should take seats in bleachers and vice versa. JV players keeping stats can do so from bleachers designated for visitor or home teams.
- 6) No cell phones, ear buds, posters, signs, noisemakers, hats or props of any kind are allowed at the team bench.
- 7) Proper decorum is expected at the bench throughout the match.

#### 15.7 **Standing Coaches**

- 1) Only the head coach may stand in the *coaching zone* during play as defined in the rules. (The coaching zone is the libero replacement zone extended beyond the endline with coaches at least 6 feet off the sideline.) Closer to the bench than the sideline when space is limited.
- 2) One assistant coach at a time may stand within the coaching zone to provide instruction during dead ball situations only. Rule 12-2-6.

- 3) If a head coach receives an unsporting conduct yellow card, it is a warning and the coach retains their standing privilege during play.
- 4) When line judges are used, coaches should avoid standing too close to them.
- 5) If a coach receives a red card, they must be seated during play for the remainder of the match. It is advised the coach takes the first seat on the bench for \$2 communication.

#### 15.8 **Safety**

- 1) **Footwear** - All students assisting during pre-match warm-ups, during match play, and at the bench must wear proper athletic footwear. (No flats, heels, boots, flip-flops, slippers, bare feet, etc.)
- 2) **Concussion Prevention** – It is advised that players/students during warm-ups are not put into situations where they can easily get hit in the head. It's suggested that ball handlers be completely off court during hitting and serving warm-ups. Please adjust your routines to minimize this potentially serious injury.
- 3) **Water** – It is advised that water bottles be kept behind the bench and out of harm's way.
- 4) **Gum / Candy** – It is strongly advised that players not compete with anything in their mouth to avoid possible choking or spitting out the matter on the court during play. Both cases could cause stoppage of play and a team delay penalty.
- 5) **Cell Phones** – And other personal devices are prohibited during pre-match warm-ups and match play by players and student helpers.

#### 15.9 **Warm-Ups / Playing Area**

- 1) During warm-ups, it is recommended that players have a visible uniform number for officials to check against the roster. (Warm-up gear with a uniform number visible is acceptable.)
- 2) During announcements, starting line-ups and national anthem, all players must be in proper uniform and not in warm-up gear.
- 3) The area behind the score table and benches is technically a non-playable and a restricted area. No ball warm-up activities in this area.
- 4) When a team has their six (6) minute unshared warm-up period, they are afforded the entire playable surface not just the outlined court area.
- 5) The off team should be at their bench area.

#### 15.10 **Uniforms**

- 1) Illegal uniforms found prior to or during match will be dealt with according to NFHS rules.
- 2) Visible undergarments may be the same color as the predominate color of the jersey or shorts/pants. **New 2025-2026** – There are three (3) other undergarment options available: black, white & gray. In all cases, all team members must wear the exact same color undergarments during the match.
- 3) Knee pads, elbow pads and neoprene pull-on sleeves do NOT have to be same color of the uniform.
- 4) Dig pink or similar event specific uniforms MUST meet NFHS rules compliance for front and back numbers including clearly contrasting colors.
- 5) Coaches, when ordering new uniforms, take advantage of your state rules interpreter for a pre-purchase design review. Also, make sure your vendor is fully aware of the NFHS uniform rules. Any questions best to check with your rules interpreter.

#### 15.11 **Hair Devices**

- 1) Soft stretch material up to 3" wide maximum are allowed.
- 2) Only secured small studs or posts above the chin are allowed.

- 3) Hair adornments are allowed provided they are securely fastened and do not present a safety hazard. Any such items that delay play may be subject to a delay penalty.

#### 15.12 **Jewelry**

- 1) Jewelry – not allowed. Rule 4-1-7.
- 2) Piercings – Only secured small studs or posts above the chin are allowed.
- 3) Any of the above taped or Band-Aid over – not allowed.
- 4) The above goes for all players and student helpers for safety reasons.

#### 15.13 **For Officials**

- 1) If available, please provide a changing or meeting room that officials can use pre- and post-match.
- 2) Please provide two chairs behind score table in the restricted area for the officials and their belongings.
- 3) Introduce officials to any host management or security personnel on site.

#### 15.14 **Line Judges for Regular Season** (If using line judges)

- 1) No line judges for regular season matches will be automatically assigned by the official's assigner. Teams can request line judges but will only be assigned if they are available. Line judges are not required for regular season contests.
- 2) Teams may train and pay adults to judge the lines at home matches during the regular season. Students are never allowed to be line judges for varsity matches. Parents/guardians of players are not allowed to be line judges. For conference championships, adults may be used. High school students may not serve as line judges.
- 3) Schools are required to provide video instruction and on-court training prior to the first contest.

#### 15.15 **Substitutions**

- 1) A substitution request may be signaled or verbalized. It is recommended that a hand signal be used to get the officials attention quickly especially in noisy gyms.
- 2) A substitution will be recognized when a head coach signals the request or when a legal bench player enters the sub-zone.
- 3) Only one request per dead ball and all subs must be up at the same time.
- 4) Officials prefer the substitute does their best to center themselves in the sub-zone.
- 5) Next sub(s) should be ready and waiting just outside the sub-zone.
- 6) A player on court standing or yelling sub across from the sub-zone will not be recognized as a substitution request.

#### 15.16 **Time-Outs**

- 1) A time out request may be signaled or verbalized. It is recommended that a hand signal be used to get the officials attention quickly especially in a noisy gym.
- 2) Only the head coach or playing captain can request a T-O.
- 3) During T-O, teams are limited to the area between the attack and end lines, in front of their bench or on their court within those limits above.
- 4) No water bottles on the court at any time. (Team delay sanction if water is spilled on court or in front of bench.)
- 5) Team must be on court by the end-horn. Please start moving to court after 15s warning whistle.

### 15.17 Electronic / Video Devices

- 1) Allowed in non-playable areas and at the discretion of the head referee.
- 2) Allowed at team benches for team purposes only.
- 3) Not allowed in restricted areas as deemed by host management or head referee.
- 4) Not allowed on any volleyball equipment as the equipment is considered a restricted area, a neutral area to both teams in which neither team should gain from it.

### 15.18 Post-Season Tournament

#### Coaches Dress Code

- 1) All coaches are expected to be properly dressed in a professional manner set forth by CIAC.
- 2) Dress pants or khakis, polos or button down shirts, skirts or dresses, proper footwear, and team warm-up pants/jacket are acceptable.
- 3) No jeans, shorts or cutoffs, sweat pants, hoodies, hats, T-shirts or gym type attire.

### 15.19 Roster / Line Up Sheet

- 1) Please use the approved NFHS combination roster and line-up sheet for all levels.
- 2) A customized version of this may be used as long as it meets the above format requirements.
- 3) All eligible players must be listed on the roster, all levels.
- 4) Changes to the roster can be made prior to the time limit for submission of first set line-up.
- 5) All coaches, paid or volunteer, should be listed on the roster if possible.
- 6) Coaches must fill out each set's line-up completely so there is a match record. (Coach can't just tell scorekeeper or R2 to "use same line-up as last set".)
- 7) Roster/line-up sheet is due at the pre-match conference and submitted to the R2. The R2 manages this sheet throughout the match.
- 8) Edits to the roster by the head coach can be made up until the 11:00 minute mark on the pre-match countdown clock. Any changes after that is a penalty: Loss of rally/point to the opponent.
- 9) Line-ups shall be submitted to the R2 by the 03:00 minute mark on the pre-match countdown clock, and by 01:00 minute mark on the set interval countdown clock.
- 10) Late line-up submissions are subject to an unnecessary delay penalty.

## 16.0 PRE-MATCH PROTOCOL

Officials are to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to match start time. Upon arrival, officials will identify the match host (home team coach) and introduce themselves. Inspect the court and equipment for safety issues. Determine facility playing rules to be addressed in the pre-match conference. The scoreboard clock is set to 20 minutes. (19 minutes is the warm-up period, followed by a 1 minute grace period.)

Approximately 25 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the R1 standing in front of the score table shall raise a coin in the air and double-whistle to summon the captains and head coaches for the pre-match conference. Coaches shall submit their roster/lineup sheet to the officials. After the coin toss result, the R1 requests the clock be started and tells the scorekeeper who will be serving first.

<u>Clock</u>	<u>Protocol</u> (7-6-6-1)
20:00	Court available for shared warm-up (7 minutes)
13:15	Warning – R2 double whistle
13:00	HORN – Serving team warm-up (6 minutes) *Roster changes deadline at 11:00 minutes
07:15	Warning – R2 double whistle
07:00	HORN – Receiving team warm-up (6 minutes) *Line-up deadline at 3:00 minutes
01:15	Warning – R2 double whistle
01:00	HORN – LAST team huddle/meeting prior to start
00:15	Warning – R2 double whistle
00:00	HORN – Starting teams to end lines OR:

- Announcements – starters (6 + libero) on or move to the endline.
- National Anthem – starters/team are on the endline.
- R1 signals starters only to enter their court via sideline to net
- Teams are required to take their starting positions without delay
- Officials move to their positions
- Line-up checks and start the match

- Note:
- 1) Teams are not allowed to take the full court until the Horn sounds at 13 and 7 minutes.
  - 2) Should the scoreboard clock malfunction or become unusable, then the \$2 will use a double whistle for both “Warning” and “Horn” above.

**COACHING CERTIFICATIONS** – For a list of all coaching certifications and links to forms go here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KnzXy81GK9x88bY1-5JBSuP-8SY34sdc/edit?usp=sharing&oid=104830910406558409235&rtpof=true&sd=true>

**Volunteer Coaches** – The state of Connecticut Department of Education does not distinguish between volunteer or paid coaches when considering certifications or responsibilities. All coaches who are responsible for, or instruct students in any way must follow Connecticut State Law for certifications and responsibilities. Therefore, volunteer coaches are required to obtain the same certifications as all other coaches.