



Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association

Adam Brick, Executive Director

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Sports Committees

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Dear Athletic Directors and Volleyball Coaches,

On behalf of the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association's (VISAA) Volleyball Committee, thank you for helping to make Virginia private school volleyball a tremendously successful sport. Each year, the competition is strong with quality teams vying for four divisional titles; and this season is off to a great start.

The first step for each volleyball program is to register for participation in the VISAA competition. By doing so, you guarantee that your team and student-athletes will be eligible for consideration for weekly polls, for post-season tournament action, and for individual All-State honors. Needless to say, not everyone registered will be included in post-season play or have players selected to an All-State team; but without registration with the VISAA, there is no chance.

Membership in VISAA is open to all accredited, in-state, independent schools recognized by the Virginia Council for Private Education. Your school should have received a membership form which needs to be returned to the VISAA central office along with the appropriate annual and sport-specific fees. These membership fees are used to help offset the cost of the tournaments and awards.

Registered volleyball programs are divided into four divisions based on the number of girls enrolled at the school in grades nine through twelve. Division I consists of schools with female enrollment numbers above 161. Division II schools have 76 to 160 girls, Division III schools have 47 to 75 girls, and Division IV schools have fewer than 46 girls in the designated grades. The VISAA Official Rules and Guidelines further explain the division breakdown, the election of playing up a division, and the two-year cycles used for divisional realignment. Please verify through MaxPreps that your team is being shown in the proper conference rankings and state divisional rankings.

Throughout the season, beginning on Tuesday, October 4, the volleyball committee will publish their weekly poll of the top teams in each of the four divisions. To remain eligible for

consideration for weekly polls, teams must maintain their schedules and results on the MaxPreps website (www.maxpreps.com). Should a team fail to report scores for two consecutive weeks, they will be notified of their delinquency and removed from contention for continued ranking and for postseason play. Each athletic director and/or coach should have access through MaxPreps to update their match results and statistics. These statistics are required after every match. This is helpful to the committee members when All-State nominations are being considered. A player may not be considered for All- State if Statistics are not loaded for every match during the season. Also, if teams could upload an accurate roster to their MaxPreps site, it would be a tremendous help to the committee when compiling information for the tournament programs.

The schedule and results on MaxPreps need to be a complete picture of each team's games. Include all competitive matches in which there was a decisive winner. Preseason, tournament and non-conference matches should be included whether 3-out-of-5 or 2-out-of-3. Committee votes for polling will be due on Monday, so please try to have your updated scores posted by each weekend. The criteria the committee may use when making their weekly poll selections will include but are not limited to:

- Win-Loss record,
- Head to head results,
- Record against common opponents,
- Strength of schedule,
- Results with divisional ranked teams, and
- Weekly reports by committee members on teams they have been assigned to watch.

The final poll of the season will be issued on Sunday, November 6 with the tournament pairings. In selecting tournament teams, the committee will consider a school's appearance in the top 8 of weekly polls during the season, a school's conference tournament result, the strength of a team's schedule, and the team's record versus ranked opponents during the season. In determining the seeding of the tournament teams, additional consideration will be given to minimize team travel and to avoid conference match-ups in the first round.

Tournament play for all Divisions will consist of eight teams playing four quarterfinal matches at the top seeds on Tuesday, November 8. The winners will advance to play on Thursday November 10 in the Semi-finals round. All Semi-finals matches will be at the higher seed venue. The winners advanced to the finals on Saturday, November 12 at Benedictine College Preparatory.

The schedule for the finals at Benedictine College Preparatory is included below. The committee suggests that first round and quarterfinal games should be played at 5:00 or 6:00 pm. Ultimately, this decision is up to the athletic departments at the participating schools, but we strongly urge each school to respect reasonable requests, keeping in mind that some teams may have to travel a number of hours to reach their opponent.

Finals:

Division IV - 9:00 AM

Division III - 11:30 AM

Division II - 2:00 PM

Division I - 4:30 PM

If you have any questions, refer to the Sports Guidelines located on the VISAA website in the members only section. Host schools should pay particular attention to the hosting procedures found here, including the admission charges and reporting procedure. Please be aware that charging admission is NOT an option; and a financial statement must be submitted within 7 days of the event.

Please feel free to email me if you have questions. I will do my best to answer them. In the coming weeks, you should receive additional information about the state tournament host site including recommended lodging options. For postseason play, the VISAA uses Wilson i-Cor High Performance balls (WTH7700XRWB) if you want to use the same ball during your regular season play.

Respectfully,

Tommy Thomas

Chairman, VISAA Volleyball Committee

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