

**Lutheran Sports Association of Wisconsin  
Lutheran Grade School  
State Volleyball Championship  
Rules**

## **1. FORMAT**

- 1.1 There shall be one division of girls' competition as further defined herein.
- 1.2 Each division field shall consist of no less than four teams and no more than thirty-two teams, depending upon the number of entries received.
- 1.3 The state tournament shall be conducted on a "pool" basis with a championship bracket, in which a team may continue to play after qualification by means of "pool" play. Pools will consist of a maximum of 5 teams. The state tournament may also have a consolation bracket as the LSA Board of Directors sees fit in each division.
- 1.4 After pool play, each team will be guaranteed to play a minimum of two matches in bracket play; the final round will be played on Sunday. Teams submitting entry applications must be prepared to play on Friday, possibly as early as 3:00 PM.
- 1.5 The state tournament shall be conducted annually the last full weekend of October.

## **2. TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA**

- 2.1 The Lutheran Sports Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (LSAW) Board of Directors authorizes the LSAW State Volleyball Committee to select, in their opinion, the most representative teams in the state (also see Rule 2.3) for participation in the state tournament.
- 2.2 The LSAW State Volleyball Committee reserves the right to require preliminary playoffs in circumstances where, in the sole opinion of the State Volleyball Committee, more entry applications are received than can be accepted for participation.
- 2.3 Team selection preference will generally be given in the following order in determining which entry applications are to be accepted:
  - League Tournament Champions
  - League Champions
  - League Sectional Champions
  - Invitational Tournament Champions
  - Other Champions
- 2.4 Teams that have not won championships, especially tournament or league runners-up, are encouraged to submit entry applications for consideration and possible acceptance in order to round out the state tournament field.

## **3. TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

- 3.1 Teams must be an established squad which has represented a Lutheran grade school in an established league or tournament during the current volleyball season.

- 3.2 Each team is allowed a maximum of four (4) staff persons, such as coaches, managers, statisticians, athletic trainers or athletic directors. Each team must have at least one (1) staff person who must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age to function in one of the above capacities. Only persons listed on the team roster and coaching staff are permitted to be on the bench.
- 3.3 A team must have played a minimum of seven (7) official league, tournament and/or non-conference matches in order to be eligible for participation in the state tournament. This means that the champion of a tournament or league in which the entering team played less than seven games must also have played a sufficient number of other official games. Certification and approval of the entry application by the chairperson of the tournament or league represented may be required as provided in Rules 6.3 through 6.5.
- 3.4 Teams found to have played a non-roster player shall forfeit all points earned during sets said player participated in.

## 4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 Players must be students of the sponsoring grade school and have complied with the eligibility rules of their league(s) and/or tournament(s). A student is defined as a full-time student of the participating school. To participate in the State Volleyball Tournament, players must have been full-time students before September 10 of the given tournament year. *Any other student must be approved by the LSA Wisconsin Volleyball Committee prior to application deadline.* All players must have participated in at least fifty percent (50%) of the entering team's total scheduled games. Evidence of such participation must be available in the form of scorebooks, sign-in sheets, etc., if requested by the Board of Directors. In order to qualify under this rule, a player will be considered to have played in a game if he/she dressed for the game. Exceptions may be permitted in case of injury, illness, or late entry into the sponsoring school or similar circumstances, providing that advance approval is obtained from the Board of Directors prior to the entry deadline date. *All combined teams (teams of more than one Lutheran School) will need to be approved by the LSA Wisconsin Volleyball Committee prior to the application deadline.*
- 4.2 All students shall be in grades three (3) through eight (8) and shall not have passed eighth grade standing. Students who have met or completed the requirements for the eighth grade are not eligible.
- 4.3 Each player, coach, manager, and statistician must be listed on the official roster certified by the principal of the sponsoring school and submitted no later than the entry deadline date.
- 4.4 A player must not have reached the age of fifteen (15) prior to the first day of September. If a player turns fifteen (15) years old prior to the first day of State competition, the principal must send a letter using the school letterhead that verifies that the player has been a student for the entire school year. The letter should be sent to the event chairperson for Board of Directors approval prior to the application deadline.
- 4.5 Identification, if needed, must be proven at least sixty minutes prior to an individual's first State Volleyball match.
- 4.6 Any individual unable to comply with Rules 4.1 through 4.4, as applicable, will not be permitted to participate in the State Championship.

## **5. TEAM ENTRY APPLICATION**

- 5.1 Each team is required to submit an application by the entry deadline date, which shall be three weeks prior to the first playing date of the state tournament, an entry application and the tournament entry fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the Lutheran Sports Association of Wisconsin. Entry fees will not be processed until participating school accepts invitation.
- 5.2 Mail receipt of application (sent to your Principal via email) along with entry fee to: Lutheran Sports Association % Dwayne Rose W170 N8736 Edgewood Pl., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.
- 5.3 All entry applications must be approved by the principal or pastor of the sponsoring school. Entries must include a school principal/pastor confirmation email along with the mailed entry fee.
- 5.4 In the case of all applications (League/Tournament Champions or Independent teams), the Board of Directors may require the approval of the league or tournament chairperson and/or additional information in the form of certified copies of the complete league schedule, score results of all games played by the applying team, the league roster, complete league rules, constitution, by-laws, and any other information that the Board of Directors deems appropriate
- 5.5 The official application and roster must contain the following information for each player:  
Player's full name  
Age as of the beginning of the tournament  
Position (Setter, Middle OH, RH, DS, L)  
Height  
Uniform numbers (Libero may have two uniform numbers)  
Certification by the team's principal  
T-Shirt Size
- 5.6 Scores of all games played must be included on the Season Summary to be considered for selection.
- 5.7 Any application received or not completed until after the entry deadline date MAY be considered as having been received from an independent team (see Rule 2.03) and MAY be accepted only if a Tournament of Champions berth is available.
- IMPORTANT...ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN BY DEADLINE EVEN IF SEASON IS NOT COMPLETED**
- 5.8 Acceptance of invitation shall be final and entry fees accompanying approved applications shall not be refundable. If application is denied, entry fees will be mailed back to the school.

## **6. EQUIPMENT**

- 6.1 Each team is required to supply its own practice volleyballs and other match and locker room equipment.
- 6.2 Each team is required to have one set of numbered shirts, both front and back, all which must be of the same basic colors per WIAA rules. Teams may use the uniforms of one of their local area teams that are not participating in the state tournament in order to fulfill this requirement. Libero must wear a contrasting color shirt, according to WIAA rules. Libero jersey may not be from another school team or club team.

- 6.3 Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to participate in a match without a numbered team shirt, conventional shorts, knee pads and conventional indoor gym shoes.

## 7. PLAYING RULES

- 7.1 WIAA (Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association) volleyball rules shall govern play, except where specifically superseded by these rules. Rule books may be purchased from the WIAA website – [wiaawi.org](http://wiaawi.org).
- 7.2 The net height used in the girls' and boys' competition shall be 7'4-5/8".
- 7.3 All pool play matches will have one registered official and one scorekeeper. All matches after pool play will have two registered officials and one scorekeeper. Each team may be required to furnish a line judge (coach/assistant coach) during down periods of pool play. Officials shall be members of state volleyball officials' associations selected by the LSA state volleyball committee.
- 7.4 Any player, coach, manager, statistician or cheerleader ejected from a game shall automatically be ineligible to participate in the team's next game. Before such next game, the LSA state volleyball committee shall review the event of ejection and gather or require any other information that the committee deems necessary to determine if a further penalty should be assessed. Such further penalty, if any, shall be assessed before the team's next game and may not be appealed.
- 7.5 Any protest must be submitted to the match officials in accordance with WIAA volleyball rules immediately following the incident being protested. The officials shall immediately deliver the protest to the LSA state volleyball committee and play shall be suspended while the directors adjudicate the protest. The judgment rendered by the directors may not be appealed and play shall resume upon such judgment.
- 7.6 Volleyball warm-up periods shall be 2-4-4 during the first two rounds of pool play and bracket play and 3-3 for all following rounds. During warm-ups, the off court team may ball handle off the court behind the team currently using the court.
- 7.7 Rally scoring shall be used in tournament play with a point being awarded on each serve.
- 7.8 Matches in pool play shall be two sets to 21 points (cap at 21). Matches in bracket play shall be best two-out-of-three sets to 25. In bracket play a team must win by two points, no cap. The third set shall not be played unless it is necessary to determine the winner of the match. Third set will be played to 15. A team must win by two points, no cap.
- 7.9 After pool play, if teams are tied, the tie-breaker procedures will be:
- First - head to head sets.
  - Second - head to head points.
  - Third - total points scored within the pool.
  - Fourth - coin flip or one set played by tied teams to 15 points at the end of the pool play night.
- 7.10 Let serves, a serve that hits the net and falls in bounds, will be in play.
- 7.11 Each team may use one libero. Libero must wear a contrasting color shirt, according to WIAA rules.
- 7.12 No ball handling until captains meeting with the referee.

## **8. AWARDS**

- 8.1** In each division, one team award shall be awarded to each participating team. Awards are also presented to all placing finishers. (First, second, and third place) One Tournament of champions banner will be presented to the champion in each division.
- 8.2** In each division, one award shall be presented to the team, whose school and all of its representatives, that best exemplifies the true spirit of Christian fellowship and sportsmanship both on and off the playing court.
- 8.3** In each division, one individual metal shall be presented to each player, coach, manager, statistician, principal and athletic director on the Championship, second and third place teams.

## **9. GENERAL**

- 9.1** The Principal, and the Principal's designees, shall be responsible to the LSAW and STATE hosts for matters pertaining to all athletic and non-athletic activities of their school at the STATE tournament. In addition, they shall be responsible to ensure that their school is properly represented at all STATE events and shall be responsible for the conduct of their participants and other persons from their school, including spectators. Coaches, managers and team captains shall also be responsible for team conduct both on and off the playing court.
- 9.2** It is the clear obligation of students, school staff, boards of education and all other official representatives of participating schools to practice and promote the highest principles of Christian behavior, sportsmanship and ethics of competition. It is also their obligation to maintain proper crowd control at all STATE activities. The LSAW, its directors, volunteers, host schools, tournament sites and tournament officials shall have no responsibility for crowd control nor of the actions of school representatives, including spectators. The Board of Directors shall have full authority over all schools, their representatives and spectators and shall have full authority, at its sole discretion, to penalize any school, any of whose representatives or spectators may be adjudged upon competent evidence to have violated these obligations.

As this experience unfolds each year, many wonderful memories are made. The kids share their many talents with God as they follow His word from I Corinthians 10:31 "Whatever you do...do it all for the glory of God." This is truly evident by the way they play and conduct themselves throughout the weekend. In an effort to incorporate this philosophy into all aspects of the weekend's activities, we ask that all parents, friends, family members, school personnel, coaches and student athletes be true models of Christian sportsmanship on and off the court. You can do this by:

- Cheering positively for your team and not against the other team.
- Not yelling at referees or opposing team members/coaches.
- Applauding good play, regardless of who made it.
- Being respectful of fans around you.
- Letting the love of Jesus shine in your words and actions
- Acting as if HE was sitting right next to you in the stands

If there happens to be a situation that requires attention, associated team(s) will be subject to warnings and subsequent yellow and/or red cards. In addition, a member of the LSAW staff will approach the individual or group that is causing the disturbance. This communication may result in the party being asked to leave the game or possibly the entire tournament weekend, depending upon the severity of the actions. Together, we can make this an unforgettable experience for our teams that will honor God. It will take all participants and every fan to do this but with His help, it can be a truly special weekend. Thanks for your help and let's do it all for Him.

- 9.3 Housing accommodations, transportation and meals and incidental expenses shall be the responsibility of participating teams. If a team does not decide to commute from their hometown, we encourage them to stay in a LSAW approved lodging facility.
- 9.4 Match schedules for the State Championship will be posted on the website approximately seven (7) days prior to the first playing date.
- 9.5 Players and teams must comply with the eligibility rules of their own league(s) and/or tournament(s) and the State Championship.
- 9.6 All players and coaching staff will be required to wear participant passes at any Tournament of Champions site when not participating in a game.
- 9.7 Requests for granting of exceptions to published rules must be submitted in writing to the Tournament of Champions Tournament Director no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date by which a ruling on such request is required. Rulings by the Tournament Director and his/her committee are final.
- 9.8 These rules and all other information can be found on the official website of the Lutheran Sports Association of WI at [www.lsawi.org](http://www.lsawi.org)
- 9.9 No carry-ins will be allowed, excluding water and other sports drinks. Any team found to have carry-ins will be penalized 5 points at the beginning of their next match.

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