



September 17, 2021

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 independent school volleyball a tremendously successful sport. Each year, the competition is strong with quality teams vying for three divisional titles; and this season is off to a great start.

The first step for each volleyball program is to register for participation in 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 three 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 149. Division II schools have 80 to 149 girls, while Division III schools have fewer than 80 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, September 28, the volleyball committee will publish their weekly poll of the top teams in each of the three 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 will 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 7 with the tournament pairings. In selecting tournament teams, the committee will consider a school’s appearance in the top 8 (top 12 for Division III) 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 Divisions I and II will consist of eight teams playing four quarterfinal matches at the top seeds on Tuesday, November 9. Division III will include twelve teams with the top 4 seeds receiving a bye into the quarterfinals. Division III first round games will be played at seeds #5-#8 hosting seeds #9-#12 on Tuesday, November 9. Winners from Tuesday’s first round games will play in quarterfinals at the top seeds on Wednesday, November 10. All quarterfinal winners will play at Steward School on Friday, November 12 with winners advancing to the finals on Saturday, November 13.

The schedule for the semifinals and finals at Steward School 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.

	Division I	Division II	Division III
Semifinal 1: #2 vs #3	10:00 am	2:00 pm	6:00 pm
Semifinal 2: #1 vs #4	12:00 noon	4:00 pm	8:00 pm
Final	10:00 am	12:30 pm	3:00 pm

Host schools are responsible for covering the expenses of first and quarterfinal matches. Please be aware that charging admission is NOT an option. All spectators must pay admission. Tickets may be purchased on-line through Ticket Spicket at www.ticketspicket.com. In a letter closer to the championships the form for reporting income will be sent to schools. The financial statement must be submitted to the VISAA office within 7 days of the event. There is a fine for not submitting the for and income.

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.

Lastly, schools must follow the Covid protocols set by VISAA. All fans, coaches, and players must be wearing a mask, regardless of vaccinated or unvaccinated. Players on the floor playing can have their mask off but must put them on when they come to the bench. Schools that fail to follow these protocols can possibly jeopardize their postseason play. Your school's athletic director has a copy of the Return to Play Guidelines.

Please feel free to email me if you have questions. I will do my best to answer them.

Respectfully,

Tommy Thomas

Chairman, VISAA Volleyball Committee

Peninsula Catholic High School

600 Harpersville Road

Newport News, VA 23601

Ph: 757-596-7247

Cell: 804-854-3219

Email: Visaavolleyball@gmail.com