

2025 IESA VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

April 10, 2025

Virtual Meeting

The following members were present for the meeting: Jackie Litwiller (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Doug Daniels, IHSA Official; Kim Splechter, Coach, Altamont GS; Jordan Williams, Coach, Morton JHS; Kristie Rettke, Coach, Manteno; Brett Ward, Administrator, Downs Tri-Valley; Lynda Kasik, Coach, Peru Parkside; Holly Boehs, Coach, Williamsville. Macy McDowell, Coach, Mazon-Verona-Kinsman; Stacey Lambert (IHSA Assistant Executive Director)

The IESA Volleyball Advisory Committee, in its meeting on April 10, 2025, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors in its April meeting:

Recommendation 1: Move the sectional match time to 6pm.

Current: *VIII. Hosts – Regional, Sectional and State Finals.*
C. Sectional Match
2. Sectional Contest will begin at 6:30pm.

Proposed: Move the sectional match time to 6:00pm.

Rationale: The sectional match creates a must later night for student athletes. The 7th grade sectional poses the most difficulty since the 8th grade regionals are typically competing the day after the sectional. A 6pm start time, teams can still possibly practice before leaving for a match, it also bridges that gap between a typical match starting at 4:30pm.

IESA By-Law
Admin Vote 4-0
Board Action **Approved**

Recommendation 2: IESA Creates an Exception to the Libero Jersey.

Current: Libero Jersey must be highly contrasting.

Proposed: Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the libero jersey worn for IESA play must be solid white or solid safety yellow with a black number of at least 4 inches tall on the center front and 6 inches tall on the back of the uniform top. The school's name may be above or below the number on the back of the jersey.

Rationale: Highly contrasting while descript is also left to interpretation. Having a consistent solid white or safety yellow libero jersey at the IESA level will be helpful for schools, officials and possibly giving the NFHS the data needed to move in that direction as well.

IESA By-Law
Admin Vote 4-0
Board Action **Approved**

D. Additional Discussion Topics

- 1) More ball handling warm-up time in the post season. **The committee recommends working on non-ball activities, i.e. active stretching, passing/blocking footwork, visualization.**
- 2) Host sites predetermining home and away benches. – **Keep current wording, consistent with host site predetermining benches/fan seating/locker rooms.**
- 3) Raising the net height to HS height of 7'4 1/8". **Discussion on potentially creating an exception for 8th grade level tournaments only.**
- 4) Requiring line judges in the post season. The host site has the option to hire line judges. **The committee highly recommends using line judges beginning at the regional level and at the sectional.**
- 5) Players/Bench – screaming during the opposing team's service. – **Point of Emphasis**
- 6) Fan Seating – not allowing student sections to sit on the endline. – **Committee recommends if there is an advantage to use the rule already in place to ask for a change of side during the match.**
- 7) Home team serves to start the first set, visitors serve 2nd set and coin toss determines 3rd set – exception to NFHS Rule 1 Section 2 Art 4a. – **Committee recommends that coaches have line-ups ready for both serving and not serving in the first set.**
- 8) NFHS 2025-26 Volleyball Rule Updates

E. Points of Emphasis

- 1) Benches and Fans respectful during the opposing teams serve.
- 2) Keeping a book for both home and away matches is critical in keeping accurate records.
- 3) IESA will continue to send weekly updates.

F. Recognizing Advisory Service

Thank you, Doug Daniels, Kristie Rettke and Lynda Kasik, for your service on the IESA Volleyball Advisory Committee.

G. State Final Pairings 2025-26

	7-1A	7-2A	7-3A	7-4A
Match 1	5 vs. 2	7 vs. 4	3 vs. 5	6 vs. 4
Match 2	1 vs. 3	8 vs. 2	2 vs. 8	8 vs. 7
Match 3	7 vs. 6	6 vs. 1	7 vs. 6	2 vs. 5
Match 4	4 vs. 8	5 vs. 3	1 vs. 4	3 vs. 1

	8-1A	8-2A	8-3A	8-4A
Match 1	3 vs. 2	1 vs. 7	4 vs. 1	1 vs. 4
Match 2	7 vs. 1	5 vs. 6	2 vs. 6	2 vs. 6
Match 3	4 vs. 8	2 vs. 4	7 vs. 8	7 vs. 5
Match 4	6 vs. 5	3 vs. 8	3 vs. 5	3 vs. 8

H. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 9th, 2026 – In Person.