

2026 IESA VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

April 9, 2026

In Person 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; Nicole Trumble, Coach, Cissna Park; Brent 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); Bailey Beals, (IESA Volleyball Assistant)

The IESA Volleyball Advisory Committee, in its meeting on April 9, 2026, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors in its April meeting:

Recommendation 1: Host school will predetermine team benches / spectator seating.

Current: *This is currently stated in the hosting manual but not in the IESA Volleyball Terms & Conditions*

Proposed: In the regional, sectional and the state finals, the host school will predetermine the team benches and the spectator seating.

It is recommended that the fans be positioned directly behind or across from their own team bench.

Rationale: This will clear up any confusion regarding the post-season seating arrangements. It will be added to VI. Rules of Play and IESA Policies B. Facilities and Bench Personnel

IESA By-Law NA

Admin Vote

Board Action **Approved**

D. Additional Discussion Topics

1. Adoption of the textured ball. – **discussed - no motion**
2. Post Season Gym Requirements – **discussed the current questions in the member center and host selection – no motion.**
3. Ball shaggers in the post season – **discussed the option to use opposite team members when dressed appropriately. IESA will clear up that wording in communication to the officials.**
4. Sportsmanship Pin Winners – **discussed the coaches are part of the selection process. Be clearer with the wording, add to weekly update.**
5. Eliminate the new libero jersey exception rule. – **no motion, Rule as written will go into effect in the 26-27 school year.**
6. The R2 keeping a lineup card – **discussed that the clinicians can add this to their topics.**
7. Brackets posted sooner – **discussed that they can be posted sooner then will be taken down the week of seeding/ranking, then will be reposted.**

8. 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. As well as using the post season warm-up during the regular season.**
9. Raising the net height to HS height of 7'4 1/8 – **discussed – no motion – IESA will see what other states are doing at the middle school/junior high level.**
10. 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. The committee also reviewed the financial impact on the hosts if this was mandated.**
11. 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. – **discussed – no motion.**
12. Alternate State Final Schedule – **reviewed the proposed schedule, discussed – no motion.**
13. NFHS 2026-27 Volleyball Rule Updates – **adopt all as presented.**

E. Points of Emphasis

1. Permanent Jewelry is not allowed – NFHS Rule 4-2-7 and Taping over jewelry is not allowed.
2. NFHS 4-1-8 – Glitter is not allowed
3. Keeping a book for both home and away matches is critical in keeping accurate records.
4. Host schools are not to practice with balls prior to hosting a regional, sectional or state contest in their facility. Gyms must be set up and cleared 45 minutes prior to the start of the first match.
5. IESA will continue to send weekly updates.

F. Recognizing Advisory Service

Thank you, Brent Ward, for your service on the IESA Volleyball Advisory Committee.

G. State Final Pairings 2026-27

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

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

H. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 8th, 2027 – Virtual.